

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2018**

Supervisor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler, Treasurer Mooney and Trustees Cook, Nelson and O'Reilly

Absent: Trustee Scarcello

Others Present: Sandra LaJoie, Deputy Clerk

**Supervisor's Report**

Schmitt stated the Board of Review concluded on March 24<sup>th</sup> and everything went smoothly. Schmitt noted that the Township filed a Motion to Dismiss the Abyssinia Church lawsuit. Schmitt mentioned the Township hired a new landscaping company, Corey Services.

**Clerk's Report**

Tischler noted 687 dog licenses have been purchased compared to 710 last year and 33 cat licenses have been issued compared to 50 last year.

Tischler mentioned fourteen merchants of nineteen have submitted their merchant license information.

Tischler stated NEXT is sponsoring a Shredding Event on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Next parking lot. Shredding is intended for sensitive documents only with a three-box limit per person and you don't need to be a resident of a SOCRRA community to participate.

Tischler gave an overview of a meeting with several residents from Bingham Farms regarding voter registration.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mooney commented the State of Michigan currently has a law on the books eliminating property taxes for Disabled Veterans who have filed the proper paper work. While nobody objects to Disabled Veterans receiving this exemption, the mechanism used is at issue. Currently, the exemption is a direct reduction of tax dollars to the local units of government. The Township has lost approximately 2 million dollars in taxable value and this number is growing annually. In the Township alone, this translates to a loss of approximately \$82,000.00 in tax dollars

to our Schools, County, State, Villages and Township. It is the belief of many that this should be a tax credit and not a direct loss to municipalities. There is a bill pending that will change it to a tax credit. The Board will be kept updated on its progress.

Nelson asked Mooney if the Disabled Veterans are disabled because of war.

Mooney responded that is correct.

Tischler questioned if settlement with the County has been completed.

Mooney responded the Township, Beverly Hills and Bingham Farms have filed all the necessary paperwork to the County to complete the process. Franklin Village has not yet filed. The County will not complete settlement until all units in the Township have filed. It is problematic for a number of reasons. On the Township level it delays the Township from receiving their delinquent revolving fund payment and the fiscal year cannot be finalized until it is approved. The County also has a deadline where all units in the County must be settled. It has delayed their ability to move forward as well.

Schmitt asked about the filing deadline.

Mooney responded the deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> and is now late.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA:**

No one wished to be heard.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion** by O'Reilly, supported by Nelson, the agenda be approved as presented.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Mooney, supported by Nelson, the March 13, 2018 minutes be tabled.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING OF AMENDMENTS TO SIGN ORDINANCE NO. 209:**

Schmitt noted the Planning Commission has reviewed and tweaked the proposed Sign Ordinance amendment and recommend the Township Board adopt it. The Planning Commission has also conducted a Public Hearing. Schmitt added this is the First Reading and a Second Reading will be at our May meeting.

Cook reviewed a memo she prepared with suggested changes.

The Board discussed the following changes:

- Definitions
- Section 151.122
- All signs in Appendix C
- The use of “shall” in some sections and “must” in other sections.
- “Architectural” and “Engineering” scales.
- Political Signs
- Who in the Township is affected by the Ordinance.

After general discussion, it was the consensus of the Board, to have Cook make the agreed changes.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH AT&T AT&T:**

Schmitt commented Southfield Township has unknown subscribers and a cable agreement, but in all probability will not receive any franchise or PEG funds. Nonetheless, the AT&T's AT&T's proposed adhesion contract must be ratified. ~~Ratification requires a Board Resolution and the agreement offers a 5% franchise fee and 2% PEG Fee.~~ by Board Resolution.

Schmitt stated the ratification of the agreement must be done within 15 calendar days from March 28, 2018.

**Resolved** by Tischler, supported by O'Reilly, that Southfield Township approves the Video Service Local Franchise Agreement for ~~AT&T~~ AT&T of Michigan, and Township Officials are authorized to sign the agreement on its behalf.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Tischler, Mooney, Cook, Nelson, O'Reilly, Schmitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: Scarcello

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE TO THE SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD:**

Schmitt commented our current SOCWA representative, former Trustee Robert Walsh, has decided to retire at the end of his term, June 30, 2018. We will thank Bob at our June meeting. We need a volunteer to replace Walsh. Additionally, Trustee Nelson, our landscape superintendent, bill reviewer, and Alternate SOCWA Representative has agreed to remain as an Alternate Representative but only if another Trustee will take the Representative's position.

Schmitt asked ~~if there was anyone~~ if any Trustee is willing to be our SOCWA Representative? Schmitt stated that Chris Wilson, Beverly Hills Manager, has offered to accept the position. If necessary, Ellen Marshall, Beverly Hills Village Clerk, will become our Alternate.

Appointments of the Representative- and Alternate are for a one-year term-, no Trustee volunteered.

**Resolved** by Schmitt, supported by Nelson, to appoint Chris Wilson, as the Southfield Township Representative and Ellen Marshall, as Alternate to the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority, for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2018. The Clerk is directed to submit the appropriate certification.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Mooney, Cook, Nelson, O'Reilly, Schmitt, Tischler  
Nays: None  
Absent: Scarcello

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF MARCH EXPENDITURES:**

**Motion** by Nelson, supported by Cook, to approve the March expenditures as follows:

101 General Fund	\$ 89,751.48
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 354,431.15</u>
Total	\$ 444,182.63

Mooney answered all questions.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

No one wished to be heard.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:**

Nelson inquired why is the legal bill so high this month.

Mooney responded a majority of the charges involved the Abyssinia Church and some of the charges are a couple of tribunal issues.

Meeting adjourned 8:19 p.m.

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Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

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Sharon Tischler, Clerk