

**BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 25, 2017**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:20 a.m.

Moderated By: Larry Grell, Supervisor

Issues for the Township Board to take under advisement and explain our vision for the Township:

Larry Grell would like to run the road millage again in 2018. Gladwin County is also going to run their road millage next year, and it is very important that theirs' passes. Without that millage will not be able to work on roads. He cited Bay County as having to grind up and return to gravel 80 miles of road because of lack of funds to maintain blacktop. Feels Billings Township is finally getting a little share of work because of the county millage. Ozark Trail, McGrath Rd., Happy Rd., and possibly one other is slated to get some gravel on them next year. Plus our overlays on roads (such as Brushaber and Whitney Beach Roads).

Asked for any other issues from the public in attendance. Mr. Monty Wiseman (resides on Pine St.), feels the township is doing well, hats off to board members and committees, thinks they are doing a great job. Would like to have the Board pass on to county; when people spend money on roads and then (i.e. Brushaber/Martin drain) the work starts to disintegrate and needs repair, they don't follow through.

He feels the Gladwin County Road Commission lets Consumers Energy "walk all over them". If Consumers Energy runs a line they don't repair the road damage up to the standard the county initially did; county snow plows set their blades too low, (and also plow when there's no snow on them); tearing up the road surfaces. They salt/sand when it's not needed, they push snow to only one side of the road and block driveways. People see all this happening and feel it's poor service for the money the millage is collecting. Mr. Wiseman said the county needs to be informed how the residents feel about their millage dollars and this is why they don't pass road millages.

Larry Grell asked Mr. Wiseman to call him when he sees this happening and Larry will take these issues up to the Road Commission meetings he attends. Larry Grell said the money the county is paid for sand/salt and plowing comes from the gas tax, not the millages. Larry Grell does not expect to see any real money from the new road tax that was imposed. The bad road patches by Consumers Energy (Martin Rd. being one), has been brought to the county's attention. The road patch on Martin Rd. was fixed by the county at the cost of \$22,000 (not Consumers Energy).

Also, Larry Grell said tube under Burling Drive will be replaced. Expects that road will be closed for approximately 2 weeks. They have to be careful because sewer line is under the tube.

The budget for Billings Township is \$419,760. That is \$53,00.00 over what we usually take in, so we may have to dip into the "piggy bank"; but it should work out because some of the monies in the budget will not be used, so it will balance out.

Five Year Plan for roads ends soon, Larry Grell said we can make suggestions on work to be done but they are going to address roads that need it the most. It's kind of hard to put another 5 year plan and predict which roads are going to need work. Will try to get the plan out next year.

Ditching: on Martin Rd., people paid for the culverts; we also need ditching around the park. That is a big project. Rose Malott asked about the ditching at the park. Talked about grate/drain at the park, where does it drain to? Larry Grell said it drains to the lake. He said if the ditch is dug deeper, we will have to also dig out the drain (which goes across the road), between properties. A big expense. We don't know who put it in.

Don: Question why we don't put out the check register anymore at the monthly township meetings. Larry Grell said we are trying to save money on paper and copy fees. The township does not have to automatically provide copies at the meetings, but it is available for viewing anytime a resident comes into the office and asks to see it. If a copy is requested, just bring in a signed letter requesting a copy. But we may be like other townships and start charging money for copies since these reports have a lot of pages and the copier company charges us for copies.

Larry Grell said we also have set hours the township hall is open for the residents; the other days even though someone is here they are working on other tasks that need to be done for the township. Would really like people to come to the monthly meetings and give more of their input. Come in during office hours.

Larry Grell made a motion at 9:46 a.m. to adjourn the meeting, Lydia Goschke 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk