

**BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
APRIL 10, 2017**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Johnson, Lydia Goschke, Carl Malott, Larry Grell, Larry Nelson

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry Grell

Approval of the Agenda: Larry Grell added to the agenda the “refund of \$152.00” to be taken care of by the county drain commissioner or the county treasurer. It will have to be read into these meetings minutes. Larry Nelson made a motion to adopt the agenda with that change, Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Larry Nelson made a motion to adopt the minutes for the following meetings: Special Budget Meeting 3/13/2017; Township Board Meeting 3/13/2017; Budget Meeting Public Hearing 3/25/17 and Annual Board Meeting 3/25/17, with the following correction in the Annual Board Meeting, 4th paragraph, to clarify that Consumers Energy did not do the road patch themselves, Gladwin County did the patch for them. Township Clerk (Lydia Goschke) will clarify that in the minutes. Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills to be Paid: Larry Nelson made a motion to approve bills to be paid, Lydia Goschke 2nd. Roll Call: all ayes, motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Al Vincent said busy month, had 85 runs, 2 house fires, (1 suspicious). Two firemen went to South Dakota to see the work being done on the new fire truck box. Company doing the work pays travel costs. Larry Nelson asked him to keep us current on delivery date after they make their second trip to see the work being done. Chassis is going to be a little cheaper. Also, Al said they already have people interested in purchasing the old truck. Al Vincent wants to increase the firefighters pay by \$10.00 and \$25.00 for the officers. Larry Grell made a motion to approve the increases, Brian Johnson 2nd, roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

WWTP Report: Andy Gwizdala absent, Larry Grell read from Andy's written report.

Roads – Ron Brabon: Ron was not in attendance.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Larry Grell working with Gary Hicks of Republic on garbage pick-ups; Republic wants to change pick-up to Tuesday's only for everyone. Would start this service in July, after the contract renewal. Discussed recycling using the large containers instead of the bins we have now. Cost will be \$.65 per month per house, approximately \$7.80 per year increase. Larry Nelson would like us to find out if people would recycle more if they have the larger cart. Larry Nelson and Brian Johnson discussed pros and cons regarding this. Would weekenders recycle? Brian Johnson made a motion we approve getting a larger cart for recycle items at an increase of approximately \$.65 per month per household starting with the July 2017-2018 contract renewal. Larry Nelson 2nd. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Cell Tower Contract: Larry Grell said Tower people would like us to list our “demands” for the new contract. Our attorney, Peter Poznak, would like us to invite the tower representative to come here to talk with us about the contract. They want us to cover taxes, which we won’t do and we want an increase in rent. We will also need more money down the line if they want a 50 year contract. **Tire and Yard Waste:** Still at the sewer plant. No building materials or concrete, etc.

New Business: Laura Brandon-Maevel, Gladwin County Clerk – needs resolution as soon as possible regarding new voting equipment. Vendor is Dominion Voting. Resolution to ask the state of Michigan to use the HAVA (federal) funding for purchase of election equipment. Maintenance costs in years 1 – 5 of the 10 year contract will be covered by vendor . Years 6-10 townships are required to pay the maintenance costs (approximately \$615 per year). Vendor will take care of old equipment disposal. Equipment: new tabulator, bins, and an ICX “touch-screen” voting machine takes the place of the old “handicap” machine. Saves money since it prints ballot on 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of copy paper instead of buying ballot cards. Laura suggests the money we set aside in our budget for election equipment can be used to purchase another ICX machine. It is price locked at \$2,800 each for 10 years. Larry Grell made a motion that the board signs the resolution, Larry Nelson 2nd. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.

DPW - Larry Grell made a motion to raise DPW worker’s wages by \$100.00 per month. Brian Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Carl Malott – No (not until he sees a job description); Lydia Goschke – Yes; Larry Grell – Yes; Larry Nelson – Yes, Brian Johnson – Yes, the ayes carry, motion passed.

Wages for the **Deputy Clerk** and **Deputy Treasurer** wages are also going to increase since the hours here have increased. The Deputy Clerk will be paid \$300.00 per month (increased from \$25.00 per month), as long as they are here our two days of business each week. When the Deputy Treasurer, is here working in place of the Treasurer, they will get \$10.00 per hour up to \$300.00 plus regular \$25.00. They will get \$25.00 per month if they are not called in to work. Larry Nelson brought up the possibility of both deputies working more hours; Larry Grell said the additional hours will be paid out of Clerk’s or Treasurer’s own funds as needed. Larry Grell made a motion to increase the wages of the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer, Brian Johnson 2nd. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

New bid for shed. Larry Grell received another bid for a new shed from Harper Contracting. A 12x14x8, one story shed, tall walls, all metal sided and roof, wolmanized floor, build on site, for \$3325.00; plus an option to put 5/8” drywall and tape it inside for another \$445.00. Larry Grell made a motion to accept the shed bid from Harper Contracting, Brian Johnson 2nd, ask for discussion. None. Roll call taken: Carl Malott – No; Lydia Goschke – Yes; Larry Grell - Yes; Larry Nelson – Yes; Brian Johnson – Yes. The ayes carry, motion passed. Shed will be started within 2 weeks.

New Business Continued: **Township Audit:** Engagement letter received from Smith & Klaczkiewicz. We will be having an audit the end of July, 2017. Brian Johnson asked if this was the last year of their contract; Larry Grell will check. **County Equalization Services:** We received a renewal contract from the County Board of Commissioners for services, raising them from \$2.10/parcel to \$2.50/parcel. Larry Grell feels we did not receive all the services we paid for to begin with and he's not happy with the raise. Larry Nelson said we will need assurance from the county treasurer and equalization dept. we will receive the basic information and made a recommendation to support selecting option #3 at \$1.00/parcel (of Gladwin County's service contract) and use an outside source for mailing. Larry Grell 2nd. Discussion: Brian Johnson asked if we wanted to vote in case there were changes. Larry Nelson and Larry Grell said unless the County Commissioners issue changes beyond the contract they sent, and we get the services Larry Nelson is requesting, discussion won't be necessary and we should vote on it, or we can wait another month. Larry Nelson preferred we not wait until the last minute. Decision made to vote on it now and if something drastically changes we'll have to revisit this. Roll Call: Carl Malott – No; Lydia Goschke – Yes; Larry Grell – Yes; Larry Nelson – Yes; Brian Johnson – Yes. The ayes carry, motion passed. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 15th rain or shine at the community park. Larry Grell said it's a good thing for the township and appreciates Park & Recreation committee for putting on this and other events. **Refund for Weed Control:** Have a refund of \$152.00 for parcel 030-246-000-131-01, Larry Grell made a motion to pay owner, Brian Johnson 2nd.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments: Larry Nelson wishes everyone a Happy Easter

Adjournment: Motion made by Larry Nelson to adjourn the meeting, Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk