BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:02 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 three items to agenda: Approval of new person for the Board Of Review and Parks & Recreation Committee (same person); Gary Hicks of Republic Services regarding garbage pickup services; Infrastructure contract for Waste Water Treatment Plant and garbage assessments written in error that we need to correct, (write resolution tomorrow). Larry Nelson made a motion to adopt the agenda with additions, Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Township Board Meeting of **January 6, 2017**; and the minutes of the Special Township Board Meeting on **January 19, 2017** Lydia Goschke 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills to be Paid: Larry Grell said one Consumers Energy bill, is split 3 ways for payment between the Fire Dept., Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Township Hall. He wants to make sure it is being properly divided. Lydia Goschke said there are two more bills that need to be added for approval, Aquionics for WWTP and First Bank Cards. Larry Grell questioned what we do with bills that are due to be paid before board meets on the second Monday of the month. Brian Johnson suggested to call and ask them to change billing date. Larry Grell said some companies will not change the due date and want to charge us late fees or interest. Larry Nelson said if there are only a few bills where this happens we should be able to pay them to avoid late charges and note it on the check register. Larry Nelson made a motion to approve bills to be paid, Brian Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: all in favor, motion carried.

Rural Development Report: Representative Jackie Morgan (West Branch office). They have first round of grant monies available; we need to start taking action now. There is a grant pooling in July/August that we can get into. The first opportunity will be a small grant for building type projects (requires matching funds); "equipment buys" grants for purchases $100,000 or less; usually their grants are $25,000 to $55,000. Mentioned small grants to Fire Departments, ours needs new MSA air packs, approximately $150,000 per Al Vincent. She will need a commitment from us for matching funds. Larry Grell and Ms. Morgan discussed logistics of getting grants from her as well as other resources. She did say (in case we need funds for fire truck purchase), they can issue loans, 15 year, fixed interest rates at 3.75%, no loan fees, payments every six months for interest, every year for principal. We just have to get our applications in now to be considered for any grant monies. Colleen Read our grant writer will meet with us on February 15, to gather information to write grant application for Fire Dept. Larry Grell made a motion to engage Colleen Read to write application for grant on the Fire Dept. air packs purchase; Larry Nelson 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner's Report: Larry Grell read from Sandra Aultman's report. She is still working with Commissioners Board Chair Terry Walters to finalize a budget. They are looking to trim where they can, may be cutting some positions. They are seeking new sources of revenue. Looking into a new auditing firm, have two interviews lined up.

Sheriff Department notified them Officer Coney will be leaving for another position. Road Commission report, increased activities in that department. County Treasurer's office has new software that the public can use to view their property taxes.

Fire Chief's Report: Al Vincent looking at two companies for bids on new fire truck. One company is from Gaylord (bid $438,00) the other from Freeland (bid $389,000). Freeland company seems to be the more professional of the two and Al is recommending we purchase truck from them. Chassis (is International) built in North Dakota, which will require 2 trips for initial inspection with final inspection in Freeland, 5 year warranty. We have 30 days to make the decision, have to pay the chassis in 3-4 months, don't have to start paying for the truck (box) for 1 year. Larry Nelson made a motion to go with Al Vincent's recommendation for company to purchase truck from, pay for the chassis up front and get a loan for the rest, perhaps from Rural Development or grant funding. Larry Grell 2nd. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

WWTP Report: Andy Gwizdala has report handouts. Reported on gallons processed and daily flow. No permit violations. First time plant got rid of solids (180,000 gallons). Some pump repairs. Consumers Energy still working on power spikes WWTP has been experiencing. Consumers collected recorder they put in place, they will get back to us on findings.

Roads: Ron Brabon not present. He may be coming later.

Correspondence: None

Republic Waste Management: Gary Hicks attending tonight to get input as to how everything is going. Complaints? Larry Grell mentioned some complaints because collection trucks did not go down icy roads. Gary said ice on dirt roads very hazardous. Republic had fatalities due to icy roads in other areas, their policy is employee safety first, will come down when road is safe. Republic would like to make a change and asking the Township Board for a Resolution to do so. Would like to put everyone in the township on the same day for trash pickup, which will be a Tuesday (instead of 2 days currently). Larry Nelson's concern is that the level of service we've been given may be reduced; if it is maintained he will be satisfied. Gary Hicks assures him it will be the same, if not more efficient because they would be able to streamline the routing. They can prepare better if bad weather is coming by hitting the traditionally bad roads first for pick-up. He suggests trash be put out the night before. Lydia Goschke brought up recycling, since it will be a heavy wet mass in an open bin if it rains during the night, he said fine. She also asked about larger bins for the recycling. Brian Johnson said he thought Republic/Gary was going to give us numbers on those. Gary apologized, said he would have them at next month's Board Meeting, but he did say if we have larger recycle bins, then pick-up for recycle would go to monthly instead of every other week. Gary said with the larger carts, if we grow to about 68% recycling then it may go from a monthly pick-up to every other week. Gary wants to know how to notify residents that collection will be one day a week; mailer would cost about $1.00/address, but doesn't know how well it will work. Brian Johnson offered to post on the Township Sign for a fee for two months (big laugh follows). Carl Malott asked

Gary if Republic would like to sponsor our Parks & Recreation Ice Fishing Contest. Carl Malott asked Rosemary Malott chairman of the committee to talk to Gary about that. Larry Grell mentioned we could put the information in the Township Newsletter. Larry Nelson made a motion to go to one day a week garbage collection, Brian Johnson 2nd. All in favor, motion carried. Gary would like to come to the next Board Meeting in March to discuss how to get the information out to residents. The only way we could fit recycle carts into the program now to make them cost effective, would be to extend the contract which is at 2-1/2 years now, to 5 years.

Rose Malott notified Gary that the dumpster at the Community Park has bottom rotting out. Gary said they will cut the bottom out and put a new insert in it. Brian Johnson asked about costs for recycle carts, perhaps raise the assessment for 1 year to cover the costs? Republic's cost to put the carts out is approximately $152,000. Even if we paid, he would still own the carts. Larry Nelson said the main concern with the garbage assessment is that you can't build a surplus that is not out-of-line.

Old Business: Larry Grell asked Carl Malott if he was able to get a bid for us for a new shed. Carl said he has not heard back from the people he requested the bid from. Larry Grell – last call for budgets, he will have them done by the end of the month (February).

New Business: Larry Grell said there are parcels that need to be removed from the garbage roll and sewer usage charges. He has two presently, and received an email for four more from the assessor. We will have to do these at a later time. Lydia Goschke will write a resolution for the two Larry Grell has new for garbage roll removal.

Parks & Recreation has an Ice Fishing Contest this weekend. Larry Grell had road-side signs made up but will need someone to do the posters for them. Announcement, Republic just donated $250 towards the contest.

Linda McSweyn up for appointments on the Board Of Review and the Parks & Rec Committee. Larry Grell made a motion to consider her for both appointments. Lydia Goschke 2nd, all ayes in favor, motion passed.

Cell tower: Larry Grell asked for a contract, we should receive it in a week or so; when we get it will make copies so we all can look it over. Brian Johnson thinks we should ask for more money, it should be on our terms, not theirs. Larry Grell wants to get an idea of what we should ask from them for monthly rent, Brian Johnson would like to see $950/month from them. He feels they will be getting a lot for putting Verizon on that tower. He would like to see this benefit the township. Larry Grell reminded him that the monthly rent goes up 12% every five years per the present contract.

Larry Grell asked Rose Malott if the building at the community park is being heated? It has no insulation inside and Consumers Energy bill was almost $800 this time. Larry Grell said if we're not using the building should we be heating it? Carl Malott disagrees since if he's going to be working in there he can't work in the cold. Larry Grell feels that if we do have an event, warm up the building a few days before for that, but otherwise do not run the heat in an uninsulated building. Carl Malott disagrees. Discussion followed.

Announcement made – February 28 is the last day for taxes to be paid. Larry Nelson will be in until 5:00 p.m. that day.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments: Carl Malott said Happy Valentine's Day to the ladies.

Adjournment: Motion made by Larry Grell to adjourn the meeting, Larry Nelson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Adjourned 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk