

**BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MAY 8, 2017**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Brian Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry Grell

Approval of the Agenda: Add under New Business "Road Millage". Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, as submitted, Carl Malott 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 April 10, 2017, Carl Malott 2nd, all ayes, motion carried.

Approval of Bills to be Paid: Larry Nelson made a motion to approve bills to be paid, Carl Malott 2nd. Roll Call: all yeas, motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Report submitted to clerk but not included in tonight's meeting. Al Vincent reported advancing Jacob Sargent to Lieutenant, increase in pay from \$65 to \$100. Larry Grell made a motion to promote Mr. Sargent, Larry Nelson 2nd, all ayes, motion carried. Al is starting a "Fireman of the Year" recognition award and a plaque will be presented. Also working on grant for air packs of \$20,000 through USDA.

WWTP Report: Andy Gwizdala on vacation. Larry Grell gave the report on flow and gallons processed per day. No problems noted.

Roads – Ron Brabon: Wildwood bridge biggest project. We received \$400,000 from Midland County this year on exchange program. Equipment exchange between counties working fine. Larry Grell noted the work being done on Burling, particularly with the tube replacement. Road may be closed for a week. We will have work on other roads this summer.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Starting in July, trash pickup will be one day a week (Tuesday); Republic will send letters out. Also big bins for recycle will start. Cell tower contract still undecided, they don't want to agree to our terms, so we may have to leave it the way it is. Yard waste tire dumps at WWT Plant, call ahead to see if gate opened. Shed in back of hall almost completed except for outside metal and drywall which should be done this weekend. Parks & Rec Easter Egg Hunt had 37 people, down a little bit, but weather could account for that.

New Business: Contract for Commissioners' services for taxes, first they gave us 4 options. When we complained about pricing, they responded by giving us 2 options, either pay or we don't get any services! Larry Grell feels they are not serving the townships properly, have reduced essential personnel, and hired a director of equalization who doesn't know what she's doing per Larry Nelson. He also said, they are not giving us the services they put on their list. And this year they are going to charge us \$.40/parcel more for not doing what they are supposed to.

Larry Grell made a motion to raise the assessors pay \$1.00 per parcel which will make it \$11.00 per parcel instead of the current \$10.00 per parcel effective May 1, 2017. Larry Nelson 2nd, roll call; all ayes, motion carried. Weed and Grass Notices – put in the paper, if your grass needs cutting and we get a complaint on it, we will send you a notice, you will have a certain number of days to get it cut. If you don't we will issue a citation, cut it ourselves, and put service cost on property owner's taxes. Senior Lunch Program, Larry Grell will have a meeting with the boss of Gladwin County's Council on Aging manager, to see about getting the program back here. Road Millage – there may be an election this year, so Larry Grell is arranging to put the millage on whichever month the election is. We lose \$140,000+ per year for not voting in a road millage.

Public Comments: Commissioner Sandy Aultman, read from reports, established a revenue line for postage reimbursements; back-up generator installation approved; hire new police approved; training for 911 operator; replaced person in prosecutor's office (grant monies); renew food contract for jail, outlined personnel removal; upgrades in 911 department approved; approved airport budget (\$25,000/year); approved 2017 equalization report. Wilma Thurston, complaint on the people mud bogging on Jones Rd., making a mess of the pavement. Larry Grell advised to call the police because it does cause a road hazard. It's a residential property, shouldn't be mud bogging. Larry Grell will have to refer to township lawyer, since the resident told us to get out of his yard when we tried to stop his activities.

Board Comments: Larry Nelson welcomes back snowbirds; Carl Malott regarding Community Park, has more volunteers (Keith, Janine, Cindi & Rick, and Andy Gwizdala from WWTP), thanks so much. Helping on fishing tournament; will have a clean-up day; remove more insulation indoors. Keep back sections mowed. June fishing tournament, we have donations. We will be putting up a fence on both sides of the grass area at the Public Boat Launch to keep people from parking there. We will put a picnic table for people to use. We also have a donation box down there. Thank everyone for supporting the park. Property owner across the street from the park, using the lot as their own private parking area. It is not for that use! Larry Grell will help if they needs signs put up.

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

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk