

**BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry Grell.

Approval of the Agenda: Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, Carl Malott 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Carl Malott made a motion to approve the minutes of the township board meeting of October 10, 2016. Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills to be Paid: Larry Nelson made a note that two firemen received their October monthly pay with checks dated in November. Larry Nelson made a motion to approve bills to be paid in November, Brian Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: all yeas, motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Al Vincent requested a check for \$150.00 for "Shop with a hero", a program sponsored by Crime Stoppers where a policeman or fireman takes children Christmas Shopping. We took 4 kids from our township last year. Our dive time recovered the body of the 18 year old boy that drowned. They also searched last week for a two-year old boy that was missing. The truck needs to be lettered. Contract renewal with Tobacco Twp., partial coverage; brings in about \$3,000 a year for us. Larry Nelson made a motion that we issue a check for \$150.00 for Crime Stoppers, Larry Grell 2nd. Larry Grell made a motion we accept the contract renewal for Fire Department coverage of part of Tobacco Twp. Brian Johnson 2nd. Fire Department still needs more people.

WWTP Report: Larry Grell read the report. Andy Gwizdala, our new manager, could not make the meeting tonight. According to the report, everything is running normally.

Commissioner's Report: No report, Sandy Aultman is in Florida.

Old Business: Dumpsters at Sewer Plant for tires and yard waste were filled. Left yard waste there for fall clean-ups, but will remove for the winter months. Election was very busy, lots of voters, Lydia Goschke thanks Hay and Grout townships for lending us chairperson and closers to help us since we were short-handed. At the community park, new roof being put on building and canopies on outside doors. We have volunteers out mowing back acres and brush hogging and using their own equipment, the township thanks them. Two lots cleared of "blight" houses. The DNR wants to inspect before we move forward with them. We have 2 more that need to be done. Larry Nelson has removed REU's from these lots #030-070-000-081-00 and #030-070-000-096-00. Larry Nelson made a motion to start billing Dollar General for their REU when he has their store opening date. Larry Grell 2nd. All ayes, motion carried. Larry Grell said we will need to remove the REU's from the 2 on Estey Rd. and 1 at the cemetery as soon as paperwork is put together.

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New Business:

Road Work: Larry Grell needs to have money for road work to be done. Working with Gladwin County, they will pay for chip and seal on Wixom Dr. from trailer park to Estey Rd.; also work on first mile of Jones Rd. south with same material they put down for Brushaber Rd. For our share they will do Anderson and Pinconning Rds., at a cost of \$20,000 each. Larry Grell made a motion to put money aside for these road projects, Brian Johnson 2nd, roll call, all ayes, motion carried.

Larry Grell said we need a new vacuum for the hall, (old one died); and leaf blower for DPW, he will be making the purchases next week.

Larry Grell talked about the lot near the cemetery. As soon as it is cleared we will need to buy that lot to expand the cemetery. He thought he could use the shed on the property, but it's in bad shape. We will need to buy a shed for the hall to store materials, have it dry-walled inside to make it more fireproof, and placed in back of the hall. Larry Nelson inquired about the storage shed on the side; Larry Grell said to cut into blacktop so we can free shed and pry door open to find out the condition of the contents and if we can keep using it. We need to clear the furnace room and store the materials in a different place. Larry Nelson feels we need to check to see how long we need to keep some materials, and have a third party come in to shred the materials we can throw out now.

Larry Grell made a motion to "fireproof" the room behind the copy room, change door to fire-proof door. We have documents that require storage in a "fire-proof" area. Also, we need to put a wall in the furnace room. Larry Nelson 2nd, roll call, all yeas, motion carried.

Larry Grell said we need to have electricity run to the pole barn at the WWTP, so they can put in a shop to work on pumps, and also they need some lights installed in there. If not before winter, then next spring.

Larry Grell made a motion to approve the purchase of the lot next to the cemetery for expansion. Figures cost between \$7,400-\$14,000. Brian Johnson 2nd. All ayes, motion carried.

Larry Grell addressed present cemetery fees for opening/closing. Larry Grell and Larry Nelson felt the township portion of the fee should be raised by \$150.00 for full burial and \$50.00 for cremation across all the rates (summer/winter). Larry Nelson made a motion to increase full burial rates by \$150.00 for the township portion and \$50.00 for township portion of cremations rates. Brian Johnson 2nd. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried. Lydia Goschke to notify local funeral homes of the change as soon as possible.

Carl Malott asked for the status of getting a credit card for the Parks & Recreation. Larry Nelson said it takes some time, but it is in the works.

Order KCI now? Mike Houserman said that can wait until the January. (See paperwork.)

Public Comments: Rose Malott (Parks & Rec); said WWTP can come over to the park when roof is being done and pick up as much metal as they need because she is going to take the rest of it and scrap it. Larry Grell said to let the WWTP take all of it, and what they don't use they will either store it or scrap it. Rose said volunteers have about 10 acres mowed and brush hogged. Plans to move the fences back as each area is cleared. Resident Anthony Strong letting us use brush hogger and other equipment at no cost. At Trunk 'n' Treat had over 200 people.

Laura Branden-Maevel, Gladwin County Clerk, kudos to election workers, did very nice job. On report card canvassers said need better "remarks" next time and duplication process a little weak, but Laura said a very nearly perfect report card. She thanked everyone for everyone who supported her. Sorry to hear Larry Grell is leaving.

Board Comments: Larry Nelson, wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving; he will be closed week of Thanksgiving and week of Christmas. Thank Larry Grell for all the hard work he has done. He's done a lot for the township and saved it lots of money. Carl Malott wants to thank everyone that put so much work into the community park, especially Rosemary Malott, and hopes everyone appreciates what the park does for the community. Thank you for your votes. Larry Grell, thank the board for working with him to move the township forward. Linda McSweyn will stay on as deputy clerk and continue to organize this office. Stressed that the Supervisor's position is very important, and duties have to be performed on time with the government.

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

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk