

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

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

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

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, Brian Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Lydia Goschke made a motion to approve the minutes of the Township Board Meeting of June 12, 2017, Carl Malott 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Bills to be Paid:** Larry Nelson made a motion to approve bills to be paid, Brian Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: all yeas, motion carried.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Al Vincent discussed number of runs; also dive team worked in Midland. New air packs purchased with (\$20,000) grant monies coming. These are (2018 models), equipped with electronics/safety features. It will take care of half of the packs we need. Our current packs are 1997 models.

**WWTP Report:** Larry Grell: number of gallons processed increased due to heavy rains.

**Roads – Larry Grell:** Burling Drive is still waiting for a new tube, (another two weeks), supplier is back-logged, road is still closed. Brining and grading done now; it was too wet to do this before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Due to rain damage road commission has about \$320,000 in road damage. That cost will take away money from other projects.

**Correspondence:** Lydia Goschke had none; Carl Malott questioned lack of correspondence. Larry Grell said County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maevel announced there will be a county millage presented on the November ballot; Larry Grell announced Billings Township will also be putting a road millage on the ballot. It will cost approximately \$275 to put it on the ballot plus the cost of our election workers.

**Old Business:** Garbage pickup down to one day a week (Tuesday) for both sides of the lake. New recycle carts should be distributed by end of July. Dumpsters for yard waste and tires located at Sewer Plant. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July went well, Larry Grell has photos. It was nice to have the fire department out at the park that day.

**New Business:** Internet service – Larry Nelson said unreliable, doesn't work, fed up with EJournal and wants to have another service in, Brian Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Charter would be more dependable. Brian Johnson said \$69.00/month; Larry Grell would like more information on the costs. Brian Johnson has contacted the representative who handles municipalities. Larry Nelson made a motion to get Charter Internet Service, Brian Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Brian Johnson said computer in Trustee's office does not work anymore. Larry Nelson made a motion to purchase a new computer for the Trustee's office, Carl Malott 2<sup>nd</sup>, roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Cemetery Ordinance Amendment: Larry Grell said ordinance needs updated, make some changes regarding what is allowed or not (looking cluttered); raise prices. Will present at the Planning Committee this month. Carl Malott suggested a new sign at the cemetery entrance, old one looks bad. Larry Grell will check with sign company. Still waiting for the No Fishing signs for the cemetery property to come in.

Senior Lunches will be coming back in October per Larry Grell. We need to get recertified and inspected again.

Fishing at Estey Rd. Bridge: Carl Malott feels we should leave the spot by the water open for township residents parking for fishing instead of blocking it off. Makes it harder for disabled/older people to get to water. Larry Nelson feels it promotes fishing from cemetery property. Larry Grell said that road piece does not belong to us; he knows it was in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan as ours, but he found out it belongs to Gladwin County. Larry Grell mentioned the Township Board should have looked closer into that at the time the plan was made. He checked with the county, they will not give it up (because of the bridge), but we can maintain it and keep it looking nice. The main reason it was blocked is, the sewer had a "burp" valve pipe there, and someone broke it off. It's going to be difficult to repair. Brian Johnson suggested putting posts around it to protect it. Also area is filled with deep holes and ruts. Delisle Landscaping will be doing work at the cemetery and Larry Grell would like them to fill in ruts with dirt, put in grass seed, hopefully put in some picnic tables to make it nice. He said it's hard to justify spending money on county property. If we label it handicap accessible there are a lot of improvements we would need to make per State of Michigan laws. No money available to make it a handicap fishing sight. Carl Malott said it's a shame we don't have a spot for people to go down to the water. Larry Nelson feels it's a worthy cause to fix it for people without stepping on the county's toes. Brian Johnson would like to see a fishing platform there similar to what is in place at the Boyce Dam. Maybe make suggestion to county? Larry Nelson feels we need to be careful we don't commit ourselves to any financial obligations. Do more research on the project. The whole board feels we would like to have a nice area for the township residents.

Tax Statements went out June 30, 2017; Larry Nelson will be in his office Tuesdays and Thursdays to collect taxes.

Hazardous Waste Collection in August, in Gladwin. Will confirm date at August Board Meeting. We do contribute as a township to this, so take advantage of it.

Yearly Audit will begin July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Township Hall.

Public Comments: Citizen talked about hazard of kids on the Estey Road Bridge, Larry Grell said he submitted a proposal for a footbridge to be put in when the county was fixing the bridge, but it was voted down by the community because of costs. He would also like to see sidewalks and street lights, since foot traffic increased since the Dollar Store was moved in. Larry Nelson suggested talking to grant writer for possible money resources, especially for footbridge.

**Public Comments continued**): Larry Woodard, 5198 Paradise Dr., for information and assistance from board for neighborhood and as president of Wixom Lake Association, regarding what we can do regarding fireworks. People shooting off fireworks, big mortars, at 4:20 a.m. . These fireworks were so loud they were shaking dishes. Called Sheriff's department, dispatcher said township doesn't have noise ordinance, and state law enforcement is up to the county sheriff. Also, the neighborhood has 3 people who own cannons, and fire them anytime at will. Mr. Woodard wants to know if the board has considered a noise ordinance. Larry Nelson agrees, the sheriff has different priorities; but along with this ordinance comes expenses for equipment to measure the level (decibel) of the noises (at the time they are happening), and pay for training, as well as pay wages for a law enforcement officer to perform these duties. Larry Nelson does not see our community voting for money to get this done. Unfortunately that is the reality. Perhaps try to establish a neighborhood association with bylaws banning noise after a certain hour would help some. Very hard issue to prosecute.

Rose Malott – Parks & Recreation Chairperson: Thanks Larry & Ruth Grell for hot dogs donated. Thanks to Fire Dept. Thanks to Sheriff escort. It was a good day (note: paraders...do not throw candy from bridge to boats, a lot of wrapped candy lands in the lake.) Continue to use brushhogger donated for our use by Tony Sargent's and maintain mowing in back. Clean up days: fencing, building interior, trash around outside building. Clean out insulation remaining in north room and have bids coming in for blown-in insulation. Invite board to look at the kitchen stove, but pretty much rusted and needs to be scrapped. Next yard clean-up July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Events: Yard Sale & Vendor & Craft Show August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pancake all you can eat breakfast at the hall on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – noon. \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for kids. Adding scrambled eggs to menu. Memorial bench for Barb Johnston will be set under tree at the park next week. Larry Nelson question on fence between public launch and neighbor; Carl Malott measured it out and also planning a fence at the park parking lot separating gravel from grass in front.

**Board Comments**: Carl Malott said old fiber glass boat abandoned at public launch. DNR has MC#, looking for owner. Launch grass mowed. Park trash cans were filled with someone else's trash, glad they put them in bags. Found fireworks in trash barrels at launch and park. Public launch being heavily used. Also park. Also thanks for July 4<sup>th</sup> contribution from WWTP, Republic Waste Mgmt., thanks residents and volunteers. Also told about 9 year old boy on 4<sup>th</sup> who said we serve good food! Brian Johnson just emailed Angelica Lopez at Charter to get the internet service going; Larry Grell: ongoing roadwork, millage for roads up for vote this November. Thanks to fire dept. and police for showing up at 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Adjournment**: Motion made by Larry Nelson to adjourn the meeting, Brian Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, motion carried. Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk