

Colfax Township Meeting
May 9, 2012
Colfax Township Hall

Meeting Called to Order at 1857 by Supervisor Evitts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Present: Supervisor Evitts, Trustee Skurski, Trustee Richter, Clerk Mosher, and Treasurer Draeger

Agenda: Accepted as presented.

Public Comment: Candidate running for County Sheriff, Blaire Moss introduces himself and provides background. John Mead and John Daugherty, both candidates running for Probate Judge for Benzie County introduce themselves and provide both personal and relevant work histories.

County Commissioner's Report: Written report provided and reviewed, discussion on multiple topics by Commissioner Kelley and Board.

Library Report: Written report mailed to Township.

Minutes: April 2012 regular meeting minutes: Motion to approve as presented by Skurski, 2nd by Evitts. No opposition, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve as presented by Mosher, 2nd by Richter. No opposition, motions carries.

Campground Report: 1 fire ring stolen, 21 tables repaired/painted, ready for use. Due to reassignment by the DNR, Grass Lake Campground is now listed a bit differently by the State of Michigan, requiring camping fees to be *decreased* to \$13.00 per night. Gravel for road within the campground will cost between \$1000-\$1200, with gravel to be graded, trees to be moved out of the way. DEQ reported failure of payment—Mosher investigated to find the check has cleared the bank. Richter notified the DEQ and a representative (Dana) was to further investigate. A copy of the check was offered, to be provided at DEQ request.

Clerk's Report: None.

Planning and Zoning: LIA contract expiring, they have provided suggested action moving forward. JPZ has its own insurance now, through Burnham & Flowers.

Unfinished Business:

Clean Up Day: May 12, 8am through 1pm. Schedule of workers discussed: Skurski to work 8a-11a with Evitts working 8a-noon, Richter to work 11-close, Mosher to work noon to close.

Hall Parking Lot: approximate 35x50 foot area to have gravel (22A or better) placed a minimum of 4" deep to maintain parking area. Motion by Evitts, second by Mosher to have Richter have his contact (performing work at Grass lake Campground) provide a bid and if less than \$2500, proceed with grading (with removal of necessary dirt), and gravel placement to prevent further erosion and rut formation. Discussion regarding necessity. No opposition, motion carries.

Brownfield Letter: Discussion; Evitts motions for Evitts to provide letter of support of Brownfield Redevelopment Authority establishment in Benzie County. Letter to be sent to the County Board of Commissioners. Skurski 2nds. No opposition, motion carries.

MTA Conference: May 16 at Crystal Mountain Resort. Evitts has signed up to attend.

New Business:

Pay Bills: Motion by Richter, 2nd by Skurski to pay as presented. No opposition, motion carries.

Supervisor's meeting: Road Commission meeting; winter snowfall of 67.5 inches. Whorl's Bridge is #2 on the Critical Bridge list.

Road Brining: to start May 14. Evitts states he discussed the possibility of brining only one pass on Reynold's Road to Dam Site Road (Campground entrance), and using the "left over" to brine Long Road to Bentley to Nessen, one pass. States this route is used more by locals. Mosher questions condition of this road surface, amount of traffic along this route and impact on wet areas along this routed. Evitts states road does not go through wet areas and gets more traffic than Reynold's Road, within the township. Further discussion. Evitts motions to brine one pass on Reynold's to Dam Site Road, one pass from Long Road to Bentley, to Nessen City Road, Skurski 2nds. No opposition, motion carries.

Blight: Evitts states he has been in contact with a gentleman in his neighborhood who is not happy with the situation of blight near his house. Discussion; Township Blight Officer had been notified of this complaint in the past, and did follow up with complaint. The Blight Officer had reported to the Board that the offending individual was making progress, albeit slow, therefore no further action was taken other than monitoring the situation, which continued to show progress up to the point when it was deemed our Blight Ordinance was obsolete as per the Township Attorney, as it reference the county's Zoning Ordinance, which was no longer in effect. At that time, the Board agreed that the Township Blight Ordinance was not enforceable according to the Township Attorney, and would therefore, not be enforced until such a time as the Township had adopted its own Zoning Ordinance to referenced. Discussion regarding action. Evitts states the blight is obvious, that the party never truly decreased blight, and has continued to collect more blight. Evitts states the complainant has secured an attorney and intends to sue the Township for failure to act on its Blight Ordinance. Mosher recommends the Board contact MTA for initial guidance, follow advice. Evitts agrees to contact MTA and proceed according to their recommendations. Evitts will bring suggestions and information to the next meeting.

Correspondence: Various written correspondence reviewed, no action taken.

Extended Public Input: Richter announces he is not running for re-election for the Township Trustee position this fall. Board members and meeting attendees express their disappointment.

Discussion regarding the possibility of hiring a sheriff's deputy to patrol the 3- entity area (Thompsonville village, Colfax and Weldon Townships) with a 3-way split of the cost. Sheriff states cost is \$45 per hour for the uniformed deputy and vehicle and related expenses. \$67.50 per hour for holidays. Cost for 30 hours would be \$1350, with each entity covering \$450 of this charge (as an example). This proposal will be brought up to the other two entities at their regular meetings to determine interest. It is noted that the Village of Thompsonville has done this for several years, but not recently, presumably due to the cost. Additional information/feedback from Weldon and Thompsonville to be shared at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2008.

Next meeting Wednesday **June 13, 2012** - 7:00pm

DRAFT