

**OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES, JANUARY 17, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the Otsego Lake Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Wagar at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present, Baker, Brown, Wagar, Markovich and Constable Brown. Absent Whyte. Also present Township Attorney Mr. DuBois and seven audience members.

A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Brown to approve the minutes of last meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Deputy Treasurer Wohlfeil reported that there were receipts for the month of December for the General Fund in the amount of \$5,775.41, and disbursements of \$20,219.28. The Trash Fund had disbursements of \$13,965.53, and the Fire Fund had disbursements of \$27,769.36. Total balances for the General and Trash Funds is \$1,036,223.12 and the Fire Fund \$132,275.91. A motion was made by Brown to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Baker, motion carried.

The township has been working with Attorney DuBois to adopt guidelines for applicants requesting consideration for economic hardship as pertains to a poverty exemption policy for property taxes. The clerk read a resolution to adopt the guidelines for poverty exemption for Otsego Lake Township. A motion was made by Brown and seconded by Baker to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote: Brown, aye; Markovich, aye; Wagar, aye; and Baker, aye. All ayes motion to adopt the Guidelines for Poverty Exemption for Otsego Lake Township resolution is approved.

Mr. DuBois has checked into laws covering removal of elected officials. In Michigan the Governor can remove an elected official from office for malfeasance of office. At the present time Auditor Keskinie is still gathering information to turn over to the prosecutor's office and until such time as any charges are brought or a resignation is received we have no choice but to continue paying her wages.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Report presented by Chief Shelly. There were seven runs since the last meeting. Don't forget the After Holidays Party is January 26th at 6:00 p.m. All board members are invited to attend. Update on the Jaws of Life grant, the fire department is to get prices on the equipment and send them to the government. We have had two demonstrations on jaws on different makes, one make is Hurst and the other is Holmatro. The grant includes all equipment needed to operate the jaws and all training necessary to operate the equipment. The new pumper should be complete in 3 to 4 weeks. There are a few items of equipment that we feel should be added while vehicle is being assembled. As the truck sits high off the ground a step or nerf bar should be added. Also, a grill guard and wench that would protect headlights and add stabilization of vehicles at accident

scenes, inverter to brighten lights for accident scenes and extra emergency lights for the box. On the original bid a grill guard and wench was listed as being installed on the vehicle. Shelly will check with UpNorth Fire as to why it is not being installed as part of the original bid. A motion was made by Brown to add the running board and additional lights. Seconded by Baker, motion carried.

A motion to pay bills for the General Fund of \$31,715.47, Trash Fund \$15,286.30, Fire Fund \$20,410.83 and Constable \$200.83 was made by Brown and seconded by Baker. Motion carried.

PARK COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the park committee on January 23rd at 6:30 at the township hall.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The new sign has been installed at the cemetery. Wagar has spoken to Mr. Arndt about the proposed property behind the cemetery and has agreed to accept our offer of \$4,800 which includes closing costs, warranty deed and title insurance.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Report presented by planning member Baker. The planning commission elected officers for 2008 and the same officers were retained as served in 2007. Also adopted rules of operation, 2008 meeting dates, and the annual report to the township board. The township planning commission has extended invitations to Joseph Ferrigan, County Director of Land Services and Dorothy Barry, County enforcement Officer to attend the February planning commission meeting.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Brown reported that Mr. Goosen, owner of the Keg is planning to put on a fireworks display on February 23rd. This will have to be reported to our insurance carrier and we do need a copy of his liability insurance. The next meeting of the Thunder Over Waters committee is February 4th at 7 p.m. at the township hall. Also, the next fund raiser for the festival is a spaghetti dinner on February 9th from 5 – 8 p.m.

Baker has contacted Chuck's Electric to give us an estimate to fix the light pole, but we have not heard from him and he has been contacted more than once. Baker is now going to contact Mikes Electric about the light pole.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Backenstose reported on the citizens meeting concerning the county jail.

Baker and Wohlfeil attended a class at the Michigan Townships Educational Conference pertaining to Checks and Balances. Our township should research and adopt some policies for the township to prevent any future problems.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next regular meeting will be February 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.