

**OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the Otsego Lake Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Wagar at 7:00 p.m. on November 20, 2008 with the Pledge of Allegiance. All board members present and six audience members including Deputy Justin Holzschu, representing Otsego County Sheriffs Department. Deputy Holzschu attended the meeting per a new policy implemented by Sheriff McBride to have an officer present at all township meetings. The elected officers were sworn in by Notary Ed Doss, including the new treasurer, Christie Jacobs. A motion was made by Baker to approve the minutes of last meeting as presented. Seconded by Brown, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance	\$1,093,076.85
Receipts	1,167.26
Disbursements	24,528.22
Ending Balance	\$1,069,715.89

TAX FUND

Beginning Balance	\$90,391.22
Receipts	52,366.40
Disbursements	82,202.76
Ending Balance	\$60,573.55

FIRE FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 167,532.88
Receipts	74.10
Disbursements	33,408.76
Ending Balance	\$ 134,198.22

TRASH FUND

Beginning Balance	\$84,492.64
Receipts	200.84
Disbursements	15,286.30
Ending Balance	\$69,407.18

A motion was made by Brown to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Baker, motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Report presented by Chief Shelly. There were twenty-three runs since last month. Three new members have been added to the department. We lost two members as they moved out of the area. Pump testing was completed on units 514 and 504. Training this month was on safe handling of ORV's, also covered chimney fires and carbon monoxide detectors. The department would like to have a community holiday dinner on Saturday, December 13th at the fire hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The kitchen at the fire hall passed inspection by the health department last week. The township board gave the fire department permission to have a truck participate in the Gaylord Santa Parade on Saturday, December 6th. The Waters tree lighting ceremony will be at the fire hall at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th.

A motion was made by Brown to pay bills for the General Fund in the amount of \$17,714.19, Fire Fund \$11,753.55, and the Trash Fund \$15,286.30. Motion was

seconded by Baker and carried. We have received renewal insurance notice verification from Burnham and Flower, our insurance carrier for the township. Clerk will notify the company that we would like to raise the insured value of the township hall as the board feels it is not sufficient to cover the replacement of the building should anything happen. Also, would like to raise the bonding level for the treasurer, deputy treasurer and clerk from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Also will see if the company can send a representative to meet with the board before renewal in February.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

The cemetery committee met this month and discussed budget needs for the next fiscal year and looked into raising the fees for lots sold in the township cemetery. The next meeting of the cemetery committee will be December 11th at 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Report given by planning member Stults. Mr. Stults reported on the status of the Stuckman Tree Service variance request heard by the commission at last months meeting. The Otsego County Land Use Service Enforcement Officer stated in a letter sent to Mr. Stuckman, with a copy to Mr. Stults and Ms Corfis, that there is no basis for this business to be grandfathered, nor classified as recycling for stored materials. Planning members Stults, Baker, and Black attending an MTA training session on Michigan's Enabling Acts. They learned that the Planning Commission has the responsibility to review capital improvement plans for the township, i.e., the park and cemetery. Implementation will be determined at a later date.

Wagar discussed the proposed ORV ordinance that was discussed at the last Otsego County Township Officers Association meeting. The county is waiting to hear from the townships before taking steps to adopt an ordinance.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Baker gave the board copies of a Grant of Dry Well Utility Easement he received from Michaywe Owners Association. This is for the proposed dry well at Opal Lake. After discussion a motion was made by Markovich to approve the document subject to review by our attorney Mr. DuBois. Seconded by Brown, motion carried. Baker also presented the board with revisions to the By-Laws for the park and cemetery commissions. The change is in Article II, section two stating that only one member of the township board may serve on these committees. A motion was made by Baker to amend the by-laws as presented, seconded by Brown, motion carried. Baker stated that he has concerns about the new Zoning Enabling Act as it applies to townships that have only an advisory committee in place. Do they have the same authority to approve capital improvements as a full planning commission. Baker asked Chief Shelly about the class he attended in Traverse City. Shelly has now completed his training and is a probationary instructor. We also have another member Doug Fox who is an instructor. We need to support our Chief, so that in the future he can become accredited and teach our own members.

CONSTABLES REPORT

Constable Brown reported that all was found to be in order during the monthly inspections. Board reviewed the monthly reports.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Backenstose reported on happenings at the county level. There will be a meeting that is open to the public on Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. in room 100 at the County Building. Also discussed the type of landscaping that would be appropriate for the courthouse lawn in Gaylord.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 18, 2008.

Lorraine Markovich, Clerk
Otsego Lake Township