

Dafter Township Board

Supervisor: Bob Brown
Clerk: Jodi Hunter
Treasurer: Kareen Brown
Trustee: Robert "Bob" St. Peter
Trustee: Joyce Engelhardt

Meeting Minutes
for
March 9, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Dafter Township Hall
2926 W. 10 Mile Road
Dafter, MI 49724

- Call to order

Present: Joyce Engelhardt, Bob St. Peter, Bob Brown, Jodi Hunter

Absent: Kareen Brown (excused)

- Pledge of Allegiance

Given by all in attendance

- Approval of Minutes

-February 9, 2015 Minutes - Emailed with Agenda

Bob Brown asked for any comments on the minutes from the previous meeting. No one had comments or changes. Joyce made a motion to accept, Jodi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Citizen's Comments

Nancy McDermott was present to discuss the community garage sales that have been held in Dafter in the past. She discussed that she has had trouble receiving feedback as to whether she should continue coordinating the garage sale. In the past, her name had been left out of the newsletter and she requested that the Board put her name and information in the newsletter to let people know who to contact to be included. She would like to continue coordinating the community garage sales and would like help from the Township to ensure the successful continuation of this event. She discussed that she would put together a list or map of those who contact her so that people will know of all the sales in the area. The event is scheduled for June 27, 2015.

Discussion ensued about what a great event this has been and the Board certainly supports continuing the project. Nancy asked about whether people from far away would be able to set up a table in the parking lot. Bob Brown said that we would have to check into whether we could for liability purposes. Nancy indicated that maybe people could set up in her front yard as well, so it may not be necessary.

- Treasurer's Report

Kareen Brown was absent due to a family emergency. Jodi will obtain the report from Kareen at a later date and send the reports along when provided.

- Approval of Bills

- List of Bill Payments Attached – Including CC approved to be paid after meeting
The list of bill payments was presented. The only check written after the last meeting was for the credit card payment for charges approved at the last meeting. Jodi discussed that the payment to Kinross Township did not include any overages for ambulance service and that all the overage charges would be on the next bill per Renee from Kinross Township. We will be over at least 7 runs at this point which will result in a large bill to be paid in April. Joyce made a motion to pay checks #7427-7485 and the e-pay, Jodi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jodi discussed that several checks were voided due to an error in printing and were noted on the report.

-Approval of Credit Card Charges submitted to be paid before the next meeting
Jodi discussed that she purchased storage bins to organize and store the old township records that she received from Rachel are currently stacked in her house and need to be moved to the Town Hall basement. The other charge on the card is for the software subscription for the accounting and payroll software. Bob Brown purchased some ink for his printer. Jodi made a motion to approve the charges, Joyce supported. Motion passed unanimously.

- Supervisor's Report

- Ambulance Services – See Attached Report

Bob discussed the Jodi Hunter, himself, and Bob St. Peter met with Kinross Township to discuss the ambulance service. He discussed the current contract of \$40,000 for up to 55 runs annually. We are currently at 62 runs with each run over 55 costing the Township an additional \$700 per run. This is going to result in significant overages charges for the current year. For the upcoming year, the meeting resulted in a proposed contract of \$45,000 annually for two years with unlimited runs. Given our history of runs, we do not expect to have less than 55 runs in the future. The new contract would include a couple clinics at the Town Hall where the ambulance staff will be available for the residents of the Township to come and see the equipment, have blood pressure checks, and ask questions about the services. Bob discussed that the Township will be presenting a millage proposal on the August ballot to help cover the cost of continuing to provide ambulance service to the Township because without the millage, the Township may not be able to continue to provide this service given the constraints on resources. Dafter Township is one of the few Townships that currently do not have a millage for this

service. Most other Townships have a millage to provide this service. Bob discussed the cost of providing emergency services including the fire department services and how much it costs to replace and repair necessary equipment. He explained that the fire truck recently purchased at \$25,000 was a steal and that equipment is very expensive, but also very necessary to provide services. Bob discussed that the Township is not obligated to provide ambulance service, only fire department services, but that it is a service that we wish to continue for the Township.

Jodi made a motion to approve the ambulance contract for the next two years (2015-16 and 2016-17), Bob St. Peter supported. Motion passed unanimously.

-Cost Recovery Ordinance and Fire Department Ordinance – Draft Attached for Review and Feedback

Bob discussed that the cost recovery ordinance is attached for review only and that he wants everyone to take it home, read it, and put their comments on it for discussion at the next meeting. Once a final draft is completed, we will have an attorney review.

- Correspondence

Jodi presented a letter from the auditors of the Road Commission requesting verification of the balance due to the Road Commission. Jodi will follow up with this. Two other information letters were received from DEQ regarding approvals of various approvals they made in Dafter Township.

-Clerk's Report

-Budget to Actual Year YTD Report – See attached report

Jodi presented the budget to actual report as of year to date. She discussed that we were currently under budget on revenues, but we have at least one more property tax deposit and impact fees to come in. The expenditures year to date are less than budgeted for the General Fund, and that the Fire Fund is over budget on revenues and under budget on expenditures.

Bob St. Peter asked if all the Boards were approved for the year. Bob Brown indicated that the Planning Commission Board all assumed duties again but that they need to approved and swore in again. This should be done at the April meeting.

-Changes in Charter Services Completed

Jodi discussed that the Charter changes approved at the last meeting were in place. The bill for April will reflect all the changes.

-Inventory list updates

Jodi discussed that we still need to get the inventory lists updated so that we can have correct information for our financials.

-Newsletter to go out later this month – need information from all.

Jodi discussed that everyone needed to get her information that they wanted in the newsletter so she can prepare the newsletter to be mailed early in April. Jodi discussed that she will send out a proof prior to mailing. Jodi also discussed that the website is coming along and that she will provide a link to the new website in the upcoming weeks and that she still needs to get pictures to use.

- Fire Commissioners Report

Henry discussed that they had a structure fire the day before the meeting that consumed much of the last 24 hours. It was a large fire and resulted in several call backs for the department. Henry indicated that he is working with the insurance on the cause of the fire. Henry has not received a bid yet for the lettering of the new fire truck and will start contacting other vendors for prices. He discussed training that the firefighters would be attending related to propane and natural gas emergencies. The fire department completed some in-house fire training last month to train the remaining fire fighters on how to use the cascade system and a refresher on using the rescue jacks with additional training to be done this summer with actual vehicles.

Henry discussed that maybe we could do a fundraiser on the same day as the community garage sale day. He thought we could do a cookout or some other activities while people were out and about for the garage sale.

Henry asked about the house on 10 mile, wondering about using it for a fire training house. He thought the house would make a good training house. Bob indicated that he would discuss this property later in the meeting.

Henry asked about the Lions Club money and whether they should plan on making a purchase. Discussion ensued about what the department should use the funds to purchase. Bob St. Peter told Henry to obtain pricing on the light bar and the

lettering. Another option that recently came up is the possibility to purchase some rescue equipment from another department for a very good price. This would be a complete set of rescue tools that Dafter Township currently does not have, such as the jaws of life and other life saving rescue equipment. Henry put in a bid for this five piece set of tools and if the department could get these, he would request that the Lions money be used to purchase this set. Currently, Dafter Township has to call in another department and wait when the jaws of life and other tools are needed for extraction and obtaining these tools would result in quicker action on accident scenes. Henry will keep the Board posted on the status of the bid submitted.

Henry indicated that he has been in discussions about insurance payments when specialized equipment is needed, such as an excavator to put out fires where homes collapse. He indicated that the insurance company will not pay for any additional and that if the Township calls in an excavator, we are not able to bill additional the insurance company and the Township would currently bear the cost, and that we may want to consider this in our cost recovery ordinance. Many of these fires will burn for days even with foaming and water and that the department will often get paged out several times. As of right now, the Board does not intend to bill citizens, but the cost recovery ordinance will at least allow us to bill the insurance for services and offset some of these costs.

Henry brought a copy of the St. Ignace News to share with the Board regarding the article on the front page about Jodi's farm. Henry congratulated Jodi on her accomplishment of achieving Farmer of the Year and shared the article with the Board.

Joyce asked how the new fire truck was doing, and Henry replied that the truck was working excellent. Henry thanked Dan for repairing the garage doors on the fire halls. Bob Brown discussed that there were a couple car accidents on one of the coldest days of the year and that the trucks were used as a windbreak and the rescue truck was extremely useful in this situation.

- Zoning Administrators Report – See Report Below

Bob Brown discussed that a property on 11 mile near the Interstate has a billboard that is in violation of current law that requires that properties will billboards have a commercial building in order to have the billboard. The property owner is looking at ways to keep the billboard by putting up a commercial storage building. He is

looking into the smallest property size he can have to accomplish this purpose. The property owner is working with Jay Predmore currently on building codes and specs and Bob Brown provided information about setbacks required. Bob will keep us informed as to the status of this situation.

A property owner is applying for a special exception to be able to have a towing business and propane fill station on the corner of 6 mile and Mackinac Trail. The property owner has been sent the application and we are currently waiting for paperwork to be returned so that Jodi can notify nearby property owners of the proposed use and meeting date and time. Discussion ensued about the previous use this particular property and Bob Brown indicated that the use has changed enough that it requires a special exception meeting. This meeting will be set for an April date.

- Parks & Recreation Committee

Parks and Recreation will be meeting in April. Bob will provide information for the newsletter regarding this meeting. Bob St. Peter will send a reminder card to all. Bob St. Peter discussed asking Sault Tribe for some of the 2% monies to pay for the pavilion at the park. Bob will be following up on this with Jeff from Sault Tribe to ask for these funds and will keep the Board informed of the status of this request. The cost of building this pavilion would be \$23,000. The playground project is on hold at this time as we would not likely get all funds and the playground equipment is far more expensive.

- Old Business

- Millage Proposal for Emergency Services – Proposed Ballot Language Attached
Bob Brown discussed the millage proposal wording for the ballot. It has been reviewed by the Township attorney and also was reviewed by Sharon Kennedy. Bob St. Peter made a motion to approve the ballot language, Joyce seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

-House on Mackinac Trail and 10 Mile

Bob recapped that the house was being donated along with \$10,000 to the Township. He is currently working on getting the closing done on this house. It should be closed within a few weeks. The Board will decide what will be done with the house once the closing is completed. He discussed that one potential use would be to use it for a fire training house and then have the house demolished

after. Bob Brown encouraged all Board members to look at the house prior to deciding what will be done with the house.

-New Business

-Dafter Township Spring Clean Up dates were set for May 15-16 and May 29-30. These are the weekends before and after Memorial Weekend. The coupon will be included in the newsletter that will go out in April.

Bob discussed the May State Election proposal. He indicated that if Proposal 1 passes, it will result in approximately \$11,000 more in funds for Revenue Sharing for the Township.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, Jodi seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Hunter
Clerk