

JAMESTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 20, 2015

**UNAPPROVED
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Bergwerff.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ken Bergwerff opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Gail Altman, Scott Brouwer, Ruth Pruis, Ken Bergwerff, Ben Miller, Janet Oskin and Tim Tacoma.

Motion by Tacoma seconded by Oskin to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

The minutes of the regular board meeting held May 18, 2015 were approved as presented.

Opportunity was given for public comment. Aaron Bodbyl Mast from the Ottawa County Planning Department introduced himself saying he was here to explain the Farmland Preservation Program.

Reports were given by Fire Chief Saladino and Deputy Flick regarding the last month activities of each department.

Motion by Tacoma seconded by Miller to approve the consent agenda. **CARRIED.**

No correspondence was received this month.

The cost of construction for the gravity sewer has increased dramatically. The estimated cost in 2012 was \$1.9 million but has risen to an estimated \$3 million for 2016. However, after careful study of the sewer budget and conservative projected increase in number of customers, the plan is to move forward with the construction. The present sewer capacity is not sufficient to handle new construction in businesses and homes. The Township is able to borrow up to \$2.5 million and plan for the rest to be covered by future hookups.

The Supervisor brought up the need to establish a plan for funding the new fire station. Various options were discussed. Bergwerff made a motion to move \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Building CIP fund - adding to the \$250,000 contributed by the fire department operational fund. He suggested that the both fire department and the General Fund might be able to contribute more in the future. The motion was seconded by Brouwer. **ROLL CALL VOTE: CARRIED.**

Saladino requested a special board meeting to discuss finances for the new fire station, estimates of costs, meeting of a special fire station committee and a timetable for planning/construction. Motion by Tacoma seconded by Brouwer to set the work session date for August 31, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. **CARRIED.**

The State Tax Commission has established an unfunded mandate requesting that all local units of government set up a five year cycle to visit each property. Because of the added load on the assessing

office, the assessor has requested permission for additional help to visit the properties. Copy of assessing update attached. We understand that our present situation will not meet state standards, so the assessor and the board are working on a plan to address this issue.

Aaron Bobdyl Mast explained the Farmland Preservation Program instituted by Ottawa County. In order to make it easier for a farmer to participate, the Township must be on board by adopting a resolution. People with farmland may choose to apply, but the decision rests with the owner. The Township board also gets to review the application. Motion by Oskin seconded by Altman to approve the resolution. **ROLL CALL VOTE: CARRIED.** Copy of resolution attached.

Oskin gave an update on the progress of the Fire Board. They are waiting on recommendations from Atty. Nettleton, who said he is in the process of writing the report. Fire Board members take turns attending fire meetings, getting acquainted with the members and communicating with them.

Oskin requested permission to be removed from the Parks and Recreation Committee because of the increased responsibilities of the Fire Board. Motion by Tacoma seconded by Altman to accept the resignation. **CARRIED.**

Upon request by the board, Ben Miller said he would be happy to be the board representative on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion by Tacoma seconded by Brouwer to appoint Miller to this position. **CARRIED.**

Motion by Bergwerff seconded by Oskin to approve the developer agreement for Action Sports. **CARRIED.**

Motion by Bergwerff seconded by Pruis to adopt the following revisions to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). **CARRIED.**

1. The township's FOIA procedures and guidelines (include a public inspection of records policy).
2. A written public summary of the procedures and guidelines.
3. A detailed FOIA cost itemized worksheet.

All FOIA forms are available on the Township Web Page under *Other Services*.

Motion by Pruis seconded by Altman to adopt Ordinance #15-004. This is an ordinance to Provide for the Licensing, Regulation, Inspection and Monitoring of all Soil and Mineral Removal, Excavation and Mining Operations and Matters Related thereto. The first reading was held in May 2015. **Carried.**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISOR:

Ottawa County Road Commission work in Jamestown:

1. Gravel Road Improvement: Mason St between 40th and 48th Ave.
2. Intersection Improvement: Byron Road (24th Ave to Kenowa).

Changes are being made to the Grandville Sewer Plant billing. Since we own capacity in this plant, we will need to rewrite some of our ordinances so we are in compliance with the other partial owners.

Information was given that the delay in the 24th Avenue pathway is a result of AT&T not moving pedestals. Since they have now been moved, the pathway should soon be completed.

Various road closure updates were given.

Motion by Tacoma seconded by Miller to present the bills. **CARRIED.**

Motion by Tacoma seconded by Miller to pay the bills. **ROLL CALL VOTE: CARRIED.**

Opportunity was given for public comment: Ron Koroleski referred to the sewer debt and stated that he doesn't wish to see the debt be the responsibility of people who are not using the sewer.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Ruth Pruis,

Jamestown Township Clerk