

MONTHLY MEETING
August 6, 2009

Meeting called to order by Bill Robinson at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Jim Webber, Harlan Reichle, Pamela Radabaugh, Bill Robinson and Anna Grobe.

Minutes of July 2, 2009, approved.

Treasurer's Reports for the General Fund and Fire Fund were presented by Pamela Radabaugh. Motion by Harlan Reichle with a second by Jim Webber to accept the Reports. **Roll call vote: Ayes; Bill Robinson, Jim Webber, Anna Grobe, Harlan Reichle, and Pam Radabaugh. Nays; none.**

Additional Agenda items: One more incoming correspondence.

Thelma Rider-Novak spoke about a survey petition that she is circulating among the 120 elected officials in Benzie County. The petition asks how the undersigned would vote in the booth if the issue of the elimination of the County Administrator Office were on the ballot or the removal of Chuck Clarke were on the ballot. She will compile the information and let the elected officials know what the outcome was and then we would have the option of removing our names before she takes the data to the County Commissioners for their October vote on the issues. If the public would like more information they may contact her and she will be outside of the post offices with the petitions if they would like one.

Correspondence:

INCOMING:

1. Newsletter from the League of Women Voters.
2. Newsletter from the Benzie Shores District Library.
3. Letter from the Benzie County Road Commission regarding the funding of the Buttercup Shores road project. We had asked that we be able to pay over a 2 year time period. That will not be possible. We have contacted our attorney for a contract with the Buttercup Shores residents that we will not contribute more than \$35,000.00. The Road Commission will only contract with the Township so we will ask that the money that the residents will contribute be forwarded to the Township to be put into an escrow account and we will then contact the Road Commission and enter into a contract to have the work done.

- The Township is responsible for 75% of the cost of the project. The residents will be responsible any amount above the \$35,000.00 to pay the required 75%.
4. Permit package from the Benzie County Road Commission from the MDNR for the proposed boat launch at Lake Michigan Road. The Clerk will contact Nancy Rosma and request that she attend our September meeting to discuss the proposed plans.
 5. Announcement of the annual meeting of the Citizens for Access to the Lakeshore. Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 5, at the Empire Township Hall at 7 pm. Dan DeGood, representative of the group reported that there were representatives from Sen. Levin's office and Representative Hokstra office. There is a draft proposal going through the process to look at the language for wilderness areas here. The prediction is that it may go through sometime in early 2010.
 6. Memo from Treasurer regarding the shredding of Summer Tax Money Market checks due to the closing of the account.
 7. Letter from the Mayor of Frankfort about the ongoing Fire Dept. issues. We do not currently have a contract although we do still have protection. We have gotten several options for contracts. They are looking at hiring 2 full time people due to the volunteers not being able to leave their regulars jobs. The City is concerned about how the extra personnel will be funded 5 years from now. There is also a question of the 1st. Responders and ALS are being used.
 8. Letter from the Olsen Foundation in response to a request for grant money for the Township Park. We have been fortunate to have gotten money in the past for replacement items for the park. We will resubmit our request early next year.
 9. Letter from Speednet LLC requesting a letter of support to be included with an application for Federal money for broadband service in our area.
 10. NWMCOG Geographic Information Systems/Science workshop app.

OUTGOING:

1. Letter sent to Dave Wilson, CPA informing him of our decision to contract with him for our audits for the next three years.
2. Letter sent to the Benzie County Road Commission informing them of our intent to contribute no more than \$35,000.00 for the repair of the road to Buttercup Shores.
3. Invoice sent to the Frankfort/Elberta School District for the collection of Summer Taxes. Payment received.

New Business:

1. Jim Webber reported on a Wind Energy Resource Workshop that was attended by 2 Board members and 1 Planning Commission member
2. Millage rate. We are currently collecting .3693 for our fire millage. At this time we are not going to collect any reduced amount due to the current contract issues with the Frankfort Fire Dept. The millage will be up for renewal in 2010. **Motion by Bill Robinson with a second by Pam Radabaugh to continue with the collection of the current rate of the millage. Roll call vote: Ayes; Harlan Reichle, Anna Grobe, Jim Webber, Pam Radabaugh and Bill Robinson.**

Old Business: 1. None

County updates: Mary Pitcher-County Commissioner- She will not comment on Ms. Rider-Novak's remarks, but she is available if anyone would like to contact her. She has looked into the boat launch project and suggests that we contact the Road Commission for more information. She asks for a letter of support for the County to enter into a contract with Cherry Capital Connections for an initiative to provide broadband coverage for the entire County. The cost is to be \$38.00 per month for high speed internet service. There were several questions about how the lines will be run, how much space will be between the towers, and what speed we would have. Any towers will be no higher than the tree line and she will contact the Clerk with responses to the other issues.

Committee Reports:

Nancy Simmons, Zoning Administrator- Land Use Permits are down for this year. Still getting calls about land divisions and splits. She is now returning calls on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Bob Blank, Planning Commission- Absent. Harlan Reichle, Planning Commission member reported on the work being done on the Master Plan. The consultant who we have contracted with would like more public input of the plan. Copies are available and there is a comment page on the back. As soon as the Master Plan is available for distribution to surrounding entities for comment, work will begin on the Zoning Ordinance.

Public input and general discussion: 3 minute time limit. It was suggested that the Board send a letter of support to the County regarding the Broadband Initiative. **Motion by Anna Grobe with a second by Harlan Reichle to send a letter of support to the County for the Broadband Initiative. Roll call vote: Ayes; Bill Robinson, Pam Radabaugh, Anna Grobe, Jim Webber and Harlan Reichle. Nays; none.**

Payment of Township Accounts:

Motion by Pam Radabaugh with a second from Jim Webber to approve GF check # 3910, Park Fund check #1004 and Fire Fund check # 1072, all for electric in the total amount of \$272.48. Also GF MM check #553 (registration for attendance for wind energy program) for 1 Planning Commission Member and 2 Board Members in the amount of \$180.00 which were paid in July. To approve check #3911 thru check #3955 to pay the Township accounts in the amount of \$21,427.92. **Roll call vote: Ayes; Anna Grobe, Pam Radabaugh, Jim Webber, Harlan Reichle, and Bill Robinson. Nays; none.**

Meeting adjourned: 8:18 pm

In Attendance: 14

Respectfully submitted

Anna Grobe, Clerk