

## Felch Township Board Minutes March 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mattson, all in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Present- G. Willie, M. Steinbrecher, K. Sundholm, R. Mattson, and D. Oman. All members present. Also attending the meeting, Fire Chief Brian Anderson, Custodian Jim Challancin and Mrs. Jaqueline Schemmel of Felch. Arriving at 6:10 pm. Ms. Betsy Bloom of Six Mile Lake area and the Managing Editor of The Daily News, also arriving at 6:25 Mrs. Rene Wickman of the Quarry Road.

Citizens Time was offered and Mrs. Schemmel addressed the board. Mrs. Schemmel expressed her willingness to serve on the Tri-Township Ambulance Authority as a representative for Felch Township.

D. Oman would like to note that Mrs. Schemmel is an Active Member of the Nordic Ambulance serving as an EMT and that each township is authorized to appoint two township board members and one member at large to the authority. K. Sundholm made a motion to appoint Mrs. Schemmel to the Tri-Township Ambulance Authority effective immediately. G. Willie supported the motion. The supervisor asked for further discussion, none being made, called for a vote. All voted Aye- Non one opposed. Mrs. Schemmel's appointment is confirmed and immediate. The board thanked for her wiliness to serve, and the Clerk was directed to provide notification of the appointment to the Tri-Twp. Authority Chairperson.

The supervisor set the agenda with additional items added as requested without objection.

On a motion by M. Steinbrecher, supported by G. Wille the minutes of the February 1, 2016 were approved. All in favor, no one opposed.

On a motion by G. Wille supported by K. Sundholm the Treasures report was received, reviewed and placed on file. All in favor, no one opposed.

Review and payment of bills: On a motion by M. Steinbrecher supported by G. Wille to pay the bills all voted in favor, opposed no one. The motion was approved.

Fire Department Report: Chief reports that they have been working towards developing specifications for a replacement pumper truck and early cost estimates are pretty high, somewhere around one hundred thousand dollars. They have been thinking about a tandem pumper truck to increase water capacity but most tandem trucks won't fit inside of our garage. He also reports the department responded to three calls this past month. One roll-over car accident on M69 on the East end of the straight stretch in the road, no injuries – Traffic control. A reportedly strong smell of propane in the Felch Mountain area- no cause was found. Last was a false alarm – Someone in Metropolitan was burning brush legally and someone else reported the fire to the fire department. No harm done. The chief suggested we post some links on the township web site about outdoor burning should include a curtesy call to him in the event of outdoor burning.

Custodians Report: The Country Clovers 4-H Club submitted a letter that they would like to rent the Felch Township Community Center for free to host a fund raising event for the club on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The custodian explained they already paid down ½ of the rent of \$50.00. The rate established by the board for Civic Organizations that are from outside of our township is \$50.00 to hold fundraisers. B. Mattson made a motion to allow them to rent the facility at half price or \$25.00, the motion was supported by K. Sundholm. All voted in favor, opposed no one. The reduced rental rate of \$25.00 is approved.

Dr. Jacobs office and exam room painting has been completed.

Cemetery Report: There is no report this month. Tom called and won't be attending the meeting. It is his birthday and he is going out with his family.

Road Commission was contacted by Supervisor Mattson to assess culverts and reconstruct of road way in front of Zion Lutheran Church for safety reasons. He has not heard back from the Road Commission. Informational only no action required.

Supervisor Mattson asked Road Commission about the status of getting Metropolitan Road status changed to make it eligible for federal funding. He has not heard back from the Road Commission. D. Oman questioned if they were still talking about removing the classification from the Leeman Road, and changing it to the Metropolitan Road. If they do that- when and how do they plan to finish the portions of the Leeman Road that are not completed in Felch and Sagola Townships? R. Mattson will check into it and advise the board. Informational only no action required.

Supervisor Mattson communicated with Bacco Construction for a quote on Blacktop at Felch Community Center and the Zion Church and has not heard back from them. Informational only, no action required.

Work between the Planning Commission and CUPAD is nearing completion. It is time to schedule a Public Hearing for the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Update. April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. is the date the Committee has planned. The updated manuals are being printed for review prior to the public hearing. The clerk will get the Public Hearing Posted as required.

CUPAD is also working on developing a regional recreational plan and the township is invited to participate. This will be passed along to the Park and Recreational Committee upon establishment of said committee.

Park Committee Update- The following have submitted letters of interest in serving the township on a Park and Recreational Committee. Randy Oman, Jeannie Johnson, Laurie Steel, Charlotte Briggs. We need to develop and adopt bylaws for the committee and appoint members. After discussion it was suggested we schedule a special meeting this month and invite all those who have expressed interest to attend said meeting.

Park Maintenance / Manager. We had two applicants. Charlotte Briggs and John Fuchs. Charlotte Briggs has since expressed interest in the Committee and Jim Collier of Felch submitted a letter of interest last week. The applicants should be asked to attend the special meeting and interviewed. We need to start preparing the park for opening, and a maintenance person should be involved in the

process of getting the water and water system approved for opening which requires charging, disinfecting, sampling filing paperwork prior to opening.

Status of a future meeting with Lindsay Peterson to develop a partnership with property owners and or volunteers to continue work on controlling invasive weeds in the lake. Again this should be addressed by a Park and Recreation Committee yet to be appointed.

Progress on Township Budget worksheets- including a wish list and estimates drafted by the Supervisor of costs to repair pavilion at the community center, drawings and estimates for a bath house at Norway Lake and drawings and estimates of extending the roof between the community center and the pavilion. Informational only, no action taken.

Supervisor Mattson updated the board on the status of a proposed contract for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with the Townships Assessor Mr. Henry DeGroot. Deficiencies in our townships assessing were identified by auditors during a recent visit. One of our deficiencies is our assessing process and another is in our records keeping. Based on the recommendation of the township assessor, the township will need to reassess all parcels within the township to correct the deficiencies. We submitted a plan to the state treasury which the assessor approved of. We agreed to have the deficiencies corrected over a two year period. The board agreed to hire additional help to complete the assessing field work for Mr. DeGroot to meet the two year deadline. The board asked the township assessor to provide cost estimates to complete said re-assessment and update the records. Mr. DeGroot recently provided a new proposed contract based on what needs to be done. It is the consensus of the township board that Mr. DeGroot needs to provide some clarifications and justifications for the increase he is requesting. The consensus of the board is that the amount of the contract increase he is requesting on initial examination seems to be high priced. We are not sure if this is for one summer or if this is the total price to have all deficiencies corrected. We need to correct the deficiencies identified in our recent audit of our assessing we have no choice. It is who we choose to hire to complete that work that is in question. The Supervisor will attempt to gain a better understanding of what he is proposing, and will check with other municipalities to determine what a fair rate to correct these problems would be.

The Supervisor Called a Special Meeting of the Board to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Felch Community Center for the following purposes: To Establish Park and Recreation Committee By-laws, To Appoint members to a Park and Recreation Committee, To address the Norway Lake Maintenance / Manger Position, Establish the meeting calendar for next fiscal year, to conduct a budget work session, to review the assessors proposed contract and act on if needed, and any other business that might come before the board. The clerk shall post the meeting.

Citizens Time was offered again. No one addressed the board.

Comments from The Supervisor: The Board of Review training that was attended down at the casino in Harris, MI was Excellent. All BOR members confirm this.

Comments from the Treasure: The taxes are done finishing the delinquent ones.

Comments from Trustee: G Wille- None. K. Sundholm reminder that the Twp. Association meeting will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Vulcan, and that Felch Township will be hosting the meeting in July.

Comments from the Clerk: The grant we applied for through the PAR Plan for CCTV Cameras at the community center and the township recycling / dump area has been approved in the amount of \$4,500.00 and we are on a timeline to get bids, award bids, get the work completed and payment made in order to participate. If the board desires to accept the grant then I need to sign and return the grant paperwork on behalf of the township board. K. Sundholm made a motion for D. Oman to accept the grant as project manager, and to go out and get bids for the project. The motion was supported by G. Wille. A vote was called. All voted in favor- no one opposed. The supervisor declared the motion approved.

With no further business being before the board the supervisor called for adjournment. D. Oman so moved, K. Sundholm supported all voted in favor; opposed no one. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Darrell J. Oman,  
Felch Township Clerk