

Minutes of the Clay Township Board Meeting held on Monday, October 6, 2003 at 7:40 p.m. in the Clay Township Board Room, 4710 Pte. Tremble Road, Clay Township, Michigan 48001.

Delay in the start of the meeting due to a recording problem.

PRESENT: Supervisor Joseph McKoan IV, Clerk Michael Pellerito, Treasurer Connie Turner, Trustee Pat Sharrow, Trustee Cindy Kirkpatrick, Trustee Beth Engel, Trustee Dr. L. Kasperowicz.

ABSENT: None.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Moved by Turner, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to amend the agenda under New Business, Item #10. Proposal for Network Connections for front offices and Item #11. Harsens Island Fire Department Request to Purchase Motorola Software. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2003 BOARD MINS. & PUBLIC HEARING MINS. AND SPECIAL MINUTES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2003:

Moved by Sharrow, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the September 15, 2003 Board Meeting Minutes with spelling correction made to "phragmites" on page 4 & page 5 and the Synopsis, minutes of the September 22, 2003 Informal Public Hearing, Public Hearing and the Special Meeting. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

BILLS PAYABLE:

Moved by Turner, supported by Engel, to approve the Bills Payable in the amount of \$137,692.96.

Discussion:

Trustee Dr. Kasperowicz: Questioned bills for Plante Moran, Pitney Bowes, BMJ Eng..

VOTE ON THE MOTION: AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

PETITIONS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Public Hearing will be held 10-20-03 at 7:00 p.m., Clay Township Board Room re: confirmation of the roll for the Bruckner's Island, Harsens Island Special Assessment District.

9-25-03 Letter from Stephen R. Saph Jr. thanking the Board for the opportunity to offer a quotation for the Township's insurance needs.

9-07-03 Letter from Bob Lorenz, Harsens Island recognizing the work of Barb Schutt and her staff for their professionalism to the customers.

The Office of Emergency management would like to invite you to attend an informational workshop on October 23 at the East China Twp. Hall re: Overview of the Sarnia – Lambton Environmental Association Activities.

Clerk Pellerito read three thank you cards to the Harsens Island Fire Department for emergencies this past summer.

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Clerk Pellerito read a News Release from the International Lake Superior Board of Control has set the Lake Superior outflow to 2,606 cubic meters per second (72.7 tcfs) for the month of October, increase from the September outflow of 2,010 cubic meters per second by opening three (3) gates 10 inches each.

10-3-03 Letter from DRC Director Cindy Babisz re: Community Foundation A Day in the Life of St. Clair County exhibit will be displayed in the Township Board Room from October 17th and remove it on October 30th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Contract negotiation update:

Clerk Pellerito: Professional Office Contract received preliminary draft; anticipate bringing a final copy for signing at the next meeting.

Command Contract: Court proceedings re: Deputy Chief's position, unfair labor practice dismissed, agree to negotiate in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

ST. CLAIR COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH PRESENTATION:

County Commission Pamela Wall representing District No. 7
Troy Feltman, Administrator/Controller County of St. Clair
Jeff Friedland, St. Clair County Emergency Management

Presentation made by Mr. Feltman to the Township Board and citizens present how the Central Dispatch system would work within the County, cost to support the system, funding the system, advantages to our area. Currently there are three dispatch centers, combining them into one agency responsible for dispatching into the County, 800 mhz system is the top of the line, current system create critical life safety issues that focus around inoperability and the lack of in building portable radio coverage. Jeff Friedland complimented our dispatch center, explained why the Central Dispatch System should be given a careful consideration by the Township Board.

Discussion and questions following the presentation from the Township Board:

- Tell us why the Township's support will make it better for the Township?
- If Clay opts out, Clay residents would not be obligated to pay the millage or the surcharge on the phone bill.
- Question is not that we don't want the 800 mgh system, it is the loss of our personnel.
- 45 day signing agreement
- Option to be part of the millage process computerizing those funds for the upgrade of our equipment.
- loss of holding cell, lien terminal and Breathalyzer, manpower shortage to transport a prisoner to the County.
- Substation located down here.
- Concern expressed regarding the appointment of the people to the Authority Board.
- Clay taxpayers pay for the Sheriff Dept. through the County 5 mills for operating, do not use this service.
- Clay's taxable value is one of the County's highest, a good share going to the County and the Sheriff Dept.
- Local Dispatch service is a comfortable feeling, streets familiar to Dispatchers, response time is fast.

Patrick Pokorny, Clay Resident and Clay Dispatcher: Defended Clay Dispatching, updated equipment, quick response, communicating with the Sheriff Dept, not in favor of joining with the County.

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Police Chief Tom Eder: Thanked the County Administrator Troy Feltman and Emergency Management Director Jeff Friedland coming down to Clay and making their presentation and addressing the Township's concerns, personnel treated the same as they are now. Strongly feel representation from the Downriver area needs to be on the Central Dispatch Authority Board if it happens.

Ron Pinson, Clay Resident and DNR Conservation Officer: Use the 800 mgh system through the State, excellent system should be upgraded within Clay Township, at the same time want our Dispatch System to remain here.

Supervisor Joseph McKoan IV: Thank you to St. Clair County Representatives and County Commission Pamela Wall.

Supervisor Joseph McKoan IV called for a short recess at 8:55 p.m., meeting will reconvene at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Karla Orlando, President of the Chamber of Commerce introduced Keith Churill and Skip Gabler of the American Power Boat Association. Viewed a video of Offshore powerboat Racing in the surrounding area and the advantages such an event can bring to the community. The event would be named The North Channel Offshore Challenge put on by the American Power Boat Association on June 4, 5 & 6, 2004 in Clay/Algonac, MI. Asking for the support from the Township Board to put this event on for June 4, 5, & 6, 2004, we will need the support of Police and Fire along with any Township permits necessary.

Discussion by the Board: Traffic on the roads is a concern, Rotary looking into trolleys, buses from the school to transport the people back and forth.

Trustee Kirkpatrick: Two communities involved, would need the coordination of both Police Chiefs.

Clerk Pellerito: Early in the stages of this event being finalized, Police, Fire Departments, EMS, businesses, citizens, etc. all need to be contacted and met with before anything is finalized, need to know if they have the green light by this Board.

Motion by Pellerito, supported by Sharrow, **MOTION CARRIED**, the Township Board supports the offshore powerboat racing event in Clay/Algonac to proceed forward with the plans for The North Channel Offshore Challenge be held on June 4, 5 & 6, 2004 in Clay/Algonac, MI on the Algonac Riverfront.

AYES: Sharrow, Turner, Pellerito, Engel, Dr. Kasperowicz, McKoan IV. NAYS: Kirkpatrick. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Sharrow, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to set the Halloween "Trick or Treat" hours in Clay Township from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2003. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Sharrow, supported by Engel, to adopt Ordinance No. 123-1 Text Amendment, Article XXVIII Administration and Enforcement, effective date is date of publication October 15, 2003.

Discussion: Clerk Pellerito remarked the Building Department questioned the expiration of the building permits per the BOCA code, suggest a written opinion from the Township Planner regarding this issue be obtained.

R/C VOTE: AYES: Sharrow, Turner, Engel, Dr. Kasperowicz, Pellerito, McKoan IV. NAYS: Kirkpatrick. ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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Colony Drive Bridge Signs discussion: six signs are too many.

Moved by Kirkpatrick, supported by Turner, **MOTION CARRIED**, to place one (1) sign at the start of the Colony Drive roadway saying “No Fishing and No Swimming Off Bridges”, the message to be on one-side of the sign. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Sharrow, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the payment to SEMCOG in the amount of \$1,380.00 for the 2003-2004 Membership Dues. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Dr. Kasperowicz, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the purchase of the evidence tech. Equipment for Sgt. Rummel and Police Officer Kuligoski in the amount of \$329.50. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Turner, supported by Sharrow, **MOTION CARRIED**, to accept and file the Harsens Island Fire Department September Report as submitted. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Pellerito, supported by Engel, **MOTION CARRIED**, to adopt the Resolution Changing MERS Benefits for Police POAM 02 to allow the group to change from B-2 to B-4 with a F55/20 multiplier, FAC 3, effectively mandate that the Patrol employees contribute 6.8% of their gross wages towards the MERC Pension Benefit, effective date 07-01-03.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Network Connections, Inc. proposal for rewiring the Township Offices discussion:
Clerk Pellerito: Presently looking into a T1 system for the Township, in contact with other agencies for their quote to start sharing data, postpone decision, know more by the next Twp. Board Meeting.

Moved by Sharrow, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to postpone the decision regarding the bid from Network Connections, Inc. until the next Township Board Meeting. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Moved by Pellerito, supported by Kirkpatrick, **MOTION CARRIED**, to approve the purchase of Motorola Minitor Programming Software from Motorola, cost is \$300.27 per the request from the Harsens Island Fire Department. AYES: All. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Trustee Cindy Kirkpatrick: Suggestions for the new Building Department area: glass doors need to be replaced, fax/copier printer, would save time for personnel.

Trustee Dr. Kasperowicz: Current status of the FEMA situation.
Clerk Pellerito: Not enforcing until water levels are high again.

Clerk Pellerito: Clay Township Mainland Fire Department will have an Open House on October 12, 2003, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Clerk Pellerito: Update on the roads done in Clay Township, Phelps, Marsh, High, Benoit; ParMar will begin on the water pipe project on Harsens Island; Reliability Study has been completed ready to go to the DEQ; Township has applied through the County

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Match Money Fund an application for Morrow Road, looks pretty good we'll receive that grant.

Treasurer Connie Turner: Update Harsens Island Bike Path grant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Kirkpatrick, supported by Sharrow, **MOTION CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Michael P. Pellerito
Clay Township Clerk