

MINUTES OF CLAY TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF ALGONAC JOINT BOARD MEETING, HELD ON MAY 2, 2005 AT 7:40 P.M. AT THE CLAY TOWNSHIP MEETING HALL 4710 POINTE TREMBLE ROAD, CLAY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN.

Present: Supervisor Jon E. Manos, Clerk Michael P. Pellerito, Treasurer Connie S. Turner, Trustees; David Dare, Jay DeBoyer, John Makuch, Patricia Sharrow. Algonac Mayor Ray Martin, Mayor Pro-tem Irene Bird, Councilpersons; James Wisdom, William Jacobs, Gerald Tuzinowski, Helen Meldrum, Chuck Bayly.

Also in attendance were Chris Wilson, Algonac City Manager and Helen Hazuka, Algonac City Clerk.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Motion by Sharrow, supported by DeBoyer, to amend the agenda to include New Business #8, Municipal Clerk's Week Declaration.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Chris Wilson: Not a lot to talk about, running pretty good, doing some analytical studies.

Manos: Public should be aware the capacity has been upgraded, Ira Township also a joint member. Cost saving measures has been taken.

Martin: System has been changed from disk to trickling, been approximately 1 – 2 years and we're watching it.

Sharrow: Didn't the upgrade include increase of sludge storage?

Martin: Yes

2. Community Center

Martin: Hope everyone realizes a lot of worthwhile programs there, both communities benefit.

Manos: Director like to enlighten the residents as to programs?

Cindy Babisz: Thank you to both City and Township for providing a facility for Downriver Recreation. Brouchure with programs will be coming out soon.

Pellerito: Is there talk of turning the Community Center into a full-blown center; make it a full time Recreation Center with the DRC Board administering? In light of what is happening with third counterpart now may be the time to re-evaluate the Community Center.

Martin: Haven't discussed that, but not to say not interested. Would be a cooperative effort between Township and City because the School is changing. May discuss Administratively first.

Pellerito: DRC is a living organization, has changed in last decade. May be time to re-evaluate and take it to the next level. Years ago looked at other recreation commissions, they were expanded more than what we see today. May need to look at how DRC is run and this building could be a gem that comes out of it.

Wisdom: It has been upgrade from when we purchased.

Pellerito: Didn't mean bricks and mortar, meant programming. More people doing more things means more bang for the buck.

Tuzinowski: Talk of Director moving office there, it would be a live facility, people use all day.

Wilson: From the City standpoint can't take full advantage of the building because of manpower. Suggestion to DRC was not warmly received, but know we are not making the best use of it.

Pellerito: Recreation Commissions I toured were open all day. Most had Senior activities during the day, heavily used during the summer by the youth. Need to get together and move this to the next level. They do a great job.

Manos: Maybe we can find an avenue to move this along.

3. Algonac City Pool

Wilson: Busy this spring, had some issues with filtration system, did purchase and installed new filtration system. Had to decide no pool or make funds available, City stepped up, cost approximately \$20,000 – \$25,000. Should get many years from it. Also replaced decking and updated bathhouse; City has made a long-term investment. Township contributes \$8,000 to the pool, been notified the School cannot contribute; we have put in a grant application to St. Clair County Community Foundation for an \$8,000 grant.

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Pellerito: Chris has asked if the Township is going to put up the \$8,000 this year in light of our third partner not contributing. On agenda so we can think about it. A survey study was done as to the pool use, came back about 50/50 for City and Township.

Manos: Any negative Board comments on considering at next Board Meeting?

None

4. Downriver Recreation Commission

Turner: The DRC has been discussing several things, one concerns Community Center. Anyone in charge of maintenance?

Martin: Someone does come in to clean twice a week, maintenance handled by DPW.

Turner: Has been left dirty after functions, DRC Director has had to clean.

Wilson: Been made aware by Director, need to hash out with contractor. Some problems with cleaning deposit automatically being handed out, need to do inspections first.

Tuzinowski: Feel should have inspection after renting building.

Pellerito: If became DRC office would have someone to check building.

Wilson: City not opposed to that.

Turner: Would have to ante up the salary and possibly more help.

Cindy Babisz: Has been lot of concerns, everyone is over worked, try to coorindate. Suggest a checklist, people need to pay for cleaning rather than receiving refund.

Martin: What do we retain?

Wilson: I believe \$35.00.

Babisz: Appreciate all the positive comments, it is a diamond in the rough, would get a lot of use.

Makuch: What percentage of time is the building used?

Babisz: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Lions use on Wednesdays. Rentals not a lot, other programs off and on depending on season.

Wisdom: Mr. Mayor, what are your feelings about DRC moving office to the building?

Babisz: Office is not finished; need to bring it up to date. Also have to consider our intergovernmental agreement that has to be honored. Suggest a joint meeting with DRC, School, City and Township.

Wilson: Personally would you be okay with moving your office?

Babisz: We have to honor agreement; my office is provided as in-kind service through the school.

DeBoyer: Would it be less or more convenient for your?

Babisz: If fully functioning office, more.

DeBoyer: Any idea of cost to bring up to speed?

Wilson: Irrelevant, if willing to move City will pay for it.

Sharrow: Consider cost, need many things, thousands of dollars. She can't do it all will need help, youth programs need supervision. Senior citizens programs should not duplicate what Council on Aging does.

Martin: City stepped forward and bought field, pool and building. Have not increased manpower, tried to maintain and have building open. It is an evolving process.

Tuzinowski: Right about costs, but good to have a dream.

Pellerito: Township's commitment level is where it has been, we approved DRC's tentative budget. DRC cut budget by \$25,000.

Wisdom: City put in more money; need an increase in funding from Township.

Jacobs: Any signals from the school there be any in-kind services cuts?

Babisz: No

Manos: We have budgetary concerns, proposal to cut revenue sharing.

5. Algonac/Clay Library

Pellerito: Read letter from Angela Rochon and Board thanking both entities for contributions to the Library.

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6. Algonac Water Plant Status

Manos: Board would like to know where we are going with new plant and how upgrade is coming.

Wilson: Aware of the history of plant as to rating capacity. Hit five year mark and knew some upgrade needed. Additional technology came about to our benefit. Makes capacity uses moot. Issue was money; met with U.S. Filter, how much to replace to meet 2.75 mgd or cost to upgrade. Will greatly reduce backwash and save cost of what is sent to wastewater treatment plant, also utility savings and chemical savings. Evident low-pressure system even with added cost was the most cost effective way to go. Made arrangement to have it put in, look to be done by sometime in July. At that time ongoing issues should be resolved. Still some outstanding issues that will be addressed after the installation is complete.

Manos: Township agrees, provide water first, get upgraded capacity where it belongs, address other issue later.

Gary Trese: Issues should be put to rest with new system, going to save major money.

Pellerito: Production expenses, shows 18% decrease, however depreciation expense has been eliminated, assume part of GADSBY 34, paper transfer, actually 9% increase in budget. Two areas of concern: Actuary done on retiree Health Care?

Wilson: No, added retiree health care in last contract. Depreciation being backed out is a matter of some dispute with City Administration and City Council. Also, item #933.000 is a one-time fee to paint inside of tower at the Filtration plant, inspected last week going to be able to put that off for a few years and \$80,000 will be backed out of that line item.

Pellerito: Increase in professional services to get ultimate end of the situation?

Wilson: Some engineering, legal and water fees related to resolving our issues.

Pellerito: Retiree Health care need 30 years service?

Wilson: At thirty years service eligible to retire and City will pay 40% of Health Care premium.

Pellerito: Anyone close?

Wilson: Gary close, Charles Johnson of the Fire Department retiring this year.

Pellerito: Do have one that has met and a couple midways?

Wilson: One that might make 30 years.

Pellerito: For budget purposes, consider having actuary done? MERS putting on a seminar May 17th in Auburn Hills can ride with us if you like. Other question is line 716, how did you lower Health care?

Wilson: Take 2005 – 2005 project figure as an anomaly, go from 2003 – 2004 actual to the 2005 - 2006 more accurate.

Pellerito: Reasonable assumption that our increase for water billing should stay the same?

Wilson: Should stay pretty steady.

Manos: What is ACRF replacement?

Trese: Annual capital replacement fund for the Township and the City.

Manos: Why under production expenses a \$1,800 gas and oil expense?

Trese: For administrative; costs township bill reading, going out to check things etc.

Manos: Reason for step change in salary levels that brought up levels to a 6.7 in this budget?

Wilson: Salary for everyone at the Water Plant set by Union contract, an average.

Wisdom: Filters takes care of chlorine problems, chlorine resistant, couldn't chlorinate for Zebra mussels before.

Makuch: Under Clay Township meter calibrations and City meter calibrations have zero for City and \$4,500 for Clay. Why?

Trese: We do calibrate city meters, don't know why a zero figure, an oversight.

7. Cable Franchise

Pellerito: Approximately 10 years ago both community entered into the cable franchise agreement. City procured channel 6 and equipment. Rather than negotiate individually go in as a team and negotiate for 13,000 citizens rather than 4,000 and 9,000, get more bang for our buck. Sharrow: Perhaps bring the school in too. Marysville has a wonderful program because Comcast money for the studio went all to the school and they run it.

Pellerito: What we did 10 years ago, they bought all the cameras. If we go in as a team we can fix up Channel 6. Our residents interested in doing some programming too.

Martin: I would agree with that, a stronger effort.

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Manos: Perhaps we can sit down with our Comcast Rep and see what they can do for us.

Pellerito: A time will be coming up when we will have to send a letter saying we have to open negotiations or it will just renew, about 18 months away.

8. Declaration of Municipal Clerks Week

Manos: In behalf of the Township I declare May 1 through May 7, 2005 as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Clerk Michael Pellerito and all municipal Clerks for all the vital services they perform.

Martin: As Mayor of the City of Algonac I declare May 1 through 7, 2005 as Clerks Week and extend appreciation to Helen Hazuka as Clerk and thank her for what she has done for us.

Pellerito: Have been approached by residents on the township side of fruit road; now that phase III of the subdivision on Fruit Road has begun, that perhaps the City would sell them sewer services. They would be willing to form their own special assessment district, run the lines across their frontage and do a single bore under the road. Would the City consider becoming a municipal sewer system and they would become your customers.

Wilson: City could do so, problem would be doing at same rate, have to find way to incorporate charge that they're not paying in their property taxes. If it would work out for the City and Townships interest I would recommend that, rather see them on city sewer than septic. The city would have to propose a different rate structure.

Pellerito: School election tomorrow, polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. in Algonac, at the High School and at the Lions Club on Harsens Island.

Martin: It was nice to get together as two Boards and you will be invited to be a guest at our Chambers.

Tuzinowski/Pellerito: The Algonac/Clay Community Foundation dinner this Friday, a huge announcement will be made that night.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cindy Kirkpatrick, 9641 Wright Drive: Comments on Wastewater Treatment Plant, has there been a savings on maintenance. Look at Senior discounts on the Cable franchise. Township budget for the Pool. Think DRC and Community Center is a good idea.

Dr. Leonard Kasperowicz, 6603 Dyke Road: Questioned if water plant can take out toxic chemicals, why hammered by DEQ?

Richard Baker, 9212 Stone Road: Comments on Comcast Cable franchise, should service whole community.

Marianne Diss, 9999 Lee Street: Questioned if tree removal contract includes stump removal.

Gary Trese: River contamination is a concern; we are trying to get river monitoring. Looked at a system in Pittsburgh, going to be some money released and divided between Macomb and St. Clair County. We are progressing.

Krystal Sobanski: Comments on Channel 6, hope we can get studio like Marysville. Need to upgrade, looking forward to working with all of you.

Supervisor thanked both communities and Boards for coming to this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Makuch, supported by Wisdom, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED

Michael P. Pellerito
Clay Township Clerk