

**Minutes of the Clay Township Regular Board Meeting Held Monday June 15, 2009 in the Clay Township Meeting Hall, 4710 Pointe Tremble Road, Clay Township, Michigan**

Supervisor Jay DeBoyer opened the meeting at 8:45 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jay DeBoyer, Clerk Lisa White, Treasurer Connie Turner, Trustee Thomas Krueger, Trustee John Makuch, Trustee John Horvath, Trustee Joanne Shirkey

ABSENT: None

Citizens: 15

**BILLS PAYABLE**

**Motion** by Turner, supported by Krueger, to pay the bills in the amount of \$161,941.30 Shirkey: Questioned Equipment rental, M.L.F.D. Tool supplies, and Uniform Allowance

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: Shirkey, White, Turner, Horvath, DeBoyer, Makuch, Krueger

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Turner, to approve the Consent Agenda with the reading of the notice and communication

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Supervisor DeBoyer read the notice of a Town Hall meeting June 29, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. and a note of appreciation to the Harsens Island Fire Department

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATING TO ANY NEW BUSINESS**

N. Rhodes, 3206 S. Channel Dr: Opposed to items #2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 &11

B. Moosekian, 182 Algonac, Russell Island: Move ahead with Fire Special Assessment District

B. Langlois, 7782 Farnsworth: Make out islands their own district. Vote no on items 8, 9, 10 & 11

C. Winters, 6242 Swartout Rd: Would like Board to show restraint

N. Sarzynski, 7482 Venice: Oppose same #2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 &11

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Burnham & Flower Presentation**

Jack Smith of Burnham & Flower made a presentation to the Board on their employee health insurance offer

DeBoyer: Health Insurance when we purchase from them as the agent, the cost to us will be identical as any other agent, that is the way it is structured. They make their money on a commission of the sale of that product to us. The competitive position is, what do they do for us better than the next guy. That is the decision we have to make. Another company presentation at next Board meeting

Krueger: Are we locked in in our union contracts as to type of insurance or the quantity of insurance?

DeBoyer: The contracts say essentially or equal, not locked into one particular plan, may say Blue Cross/Blue Shield or equal.

Krueger: Is our plan a PPO or straight coverage?

DeBoyer: PPO

Krueger: If we wanted to change over to say a HMO?

DeBoyer: That would be a change over.

Smith: The employee reimbursement on the HRA is where you could save money

**2. Resolution to Prepare Fire District Special Assessment Roll**

Shirkey: Do we have other options? Leave them out there and charge them a thousand bucks when we make a call?

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Horvath: If send a bill, hard to collect

DeBoyer: Currently receive about 25% of those billed. Generally collect a direct bill to an Insurance company.

Horvath: When we go out there for anything someone pays, now it's Harsens Island first then Mainland.

DeBoyer: Now have three special assessment districts, wonder about legality of going out of our Special Assessment Districts. When I live in a special assessment district and pay a fee the law is specific that those fees are only to be used in that district.

Horvath: If out there and call and we say you don't have any coverage; they sue, what will that cost us?

DeBoyer: So everyone understands this, it is a proposed \$553,000 total amount, which is a \$40,000 reduction. Currently of that amount the Mainland would pay \$381,000, Harsens Island would pay \$153,000, Russell Island would pay \$7,798 and the out islands, including Dickinson, the Sni, Doty, Baltimore, Fisher Highway, Muscamoot Bay, McDonald Island, they would pay \$9,720. It comes to an average of \$28.00 per parcel, some more, some less. Those of us on the Mainland, Harsens Island are paying for the calls out there. This is one Township; the North Channel does not divide our Township. It is not equitable.

Krueger: I think it is the fairest thing to do. Sure the people on McDonald who had water sprayed on their buildings would be happy to pay \$30 to \$40 per year to have the service or someone who had a medical emergency.

**Motion** by Krueger, supported by Shirkey, that the Clay Township Board approve Resolution #2 for the Clay Township Fire District Special Assessment and asked that the Supervisor and Assessor prepare the Special Assessment Roll containing the names of the respective owners and the assessment on each property

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Horvath, Shirkey, Turner, White, DeBoyer, Krueger, Makuch

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **3. Resolution to Set Public Hearing to Review the Roll**

**Motion** by Krueger, supported by Makuch, Approve Resolution #3 to set the Public Hearing for the Special Assessment Roll for Monday July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Turner, White, Horvath, Shirkey, Krueger, Makuch, DeBoyer

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **4. Resolution to Set Public Hearing for Bruckner's Island Special Assessment**

**Motion** by Horvath, supported by Shirkey, to set the Public Hearing for Bruckner's Island Special Assessment on July 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: DeBoyer, White, Horvath, Shirkey, Makuch, Turner, Krueger

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **5. Amendment to Harsens Island Fire Budget**

Turner: They had several emergencies with equipment; need to amend so not in red. Total of \$38,000; several line items that were under; Fire Chief's salary, Medical Supplies, Radio Maintenance, Communication Equipment, Transportation, Edison, Equipment Maintenance, Vehicle maintenance, AccuMed billing, Subscriptions, Dues and Membership, Education and Training, Blood Born Pathogen, Fire Fighting Equipment, Equipment/Grant, Personal Protection Equipment and Vehicle Payment. The reason it was over, Harsens Island received a Grant last year but due to some complications with getting the equipment it wasn't book until this fiscal year so approximately \$14,000 will be coming off of this budget.

**Motion** by Turner, supported by Makuch, to adjust Fund Balance and Revenue \$38,000

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. Resolution to Adopt 2009-2010 Budget**

**Motion** by Turner, supported by Krueger, to adopt the 2009-2010 Budget as follows:

General Fund	\$1,381,551.00
Colony Road Assessment	116,275.00
Drug Enforcement	6,000.00
Federal Forfeiture Funds	6,000.00
Mainland Fire Department	500,999.17
Clay Township Police Department	2,291,598.00
Downriver Recreation	127,787.00
Oaklawn Cemetery	34,700.00
Russell Island Fire	6,299.00
Harsens Island Fire Department	208,186.00
Garbage Fund	562,550.00
Downtown Development Authority	618,100.00
Sewer Fund	575,100.00
Water Fund	2,249,339.00
Employee Health Care	110,000.00
Road Maintenance	37,019.40
Special Lighting	1,259.00
Total	\$8,832,762.57

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Krueger, Makuch, DeBoyer, Horvath, Turner, Shirkey, White

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7. Resolution Setting Deputy Stipend**

**Motion** by Turner, supported by Shirkey, to freeze the Deputy Stipend at \$2,802.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: White, Horvath, Shirkey Turner, DeBoyer, Krueger, Makuch

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**8. Resolution Setting Trustees Salary**

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Turner, to freeze the Trustees Salary at \$2,500.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Makuch, Krueger, Shirkey, DeBoyer, White, Horvath, Turner

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9. Resolution Setting Treasurer's Salary**

**Motion** by Turner, Supported by Makuch, to freeze the Treasurer's Salary at \$54,414.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Turner, DeBoyer, Krueger, Horvath, White, Shirkey, Makuch

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. Resolution Setting Clerk's Salary**

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Shirkey, to keep the Township Clerk's salary at the current amount of \$57, 676.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: White, Horvath, Makuch, Turner, DeBoyer, Krueger, Shirkey

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. Resolution Setting Supervisor's Salary**

Krueger: Have an inequity here; don't know how to solve. In 1996 it was pretty much the same, now the Treasurer is at fifty-five thousand and change, the Clerk at fifty-seven thousand and change, the Supervisor at forty-one thousand and change. Know why this happened; the last 12 years the Supervisor didn't do anything. Would like to see the Supervisor's salary up to the others. It has been brought up it could be spread over several years, personally I'd like to see something of a positive nature to put our Supervisor's salary back up to where should be, believe now have a good one who makes maximum effort to perform the duties of a Supervisor. So open it to the Board, have to set some groundwork to build up the salary to a point that it is more reasonable in respect to what the others are making.

Horvath: Agree, need to be equitable, can't make the people happy because have to spend some money, but it has to happen. Talked about bringing it up over four years.

Krueger: If we took the difference between the highest and lowest and spread it over four years it would mean his salary would be \$45,319, which a substantial increase, but still doesn't get where others are.

Makuch: Another alternative; budgeted increases for Clerk and Treasurer, held both, if you add the two raises if they had gone through it would be \$2,827. If you round it to \$2,800 and add it to the \$41,200 you get \$44,000. Might be a fair start.

Shirkey: Budgeted a 2.5% increase for the Supervisor? We keep talking about what's coming and because we don't know if we just increased it the 2.5% and see how things are going and add more on the next year. Just a thought.

Makuch: That would give him \$1,030

Horvath: That is not enough. When you think about the time put in it is nothing. Tom, what was your recommendation?

Krueger: \$45,319

Horvath: If we did that in four years it would be equal and know what is coming.

Shirkey: People are taking 10% cuts, having salaries frozen.

Krueger: I took a 40% pay cut but I still would like to see the Supervisor get closer to the others

Shirkey: Down the line we can give him something.

Horvath: Can give him a 2% and let him go on half time like the other Supervisors did. It's a problem because he's putting in too many hours.

Shirkey: The 2.5% was already budgeted.

DeBoyer: This is a very difficult topic for me because have to look at it from two angles; personal angle, also administrative angle. My suggestion is perhaps the right thing to do is give the budgeted amount. Allows another year to look at financial position of the Township. Look at it from administrative position, yes, there are three positions and we all know why the wages are what they are and how they got here, but also big thing to ask in these times.

Shirkey: Next year or the following year we can chunk off 5 or 6%

Horvath: Looking for balance. Know a year from now going to do the same thing.

**Motion** by Shirkey to go with the 2.5% pay increase for the Supervisor and look at it next year

DeBoyer: 2.5% goes from \$41,200 to \$42,230

**MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT**

Krueger: Take the budgeted 2.5% and throw it all to the Supervisor it comes to \$3,090

**Motion** by Krueger, supported by Makuch, to pass a resolution for the annual salary for the Township Supervisor to \$44,290 which is 7.5%, accumulating all of the percentages that would have gone to the Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor and move it all to the Supervisor.

Shirkey: What is the percent?

Krueger: 7.5%

Turner: He added the 2.5% that Lisa and I declined. The bottom line is still the same.

Shirkey: Not that I don't want to see his salary come up, just don't think it is a good time.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: Horvath, Krueger, Makuch, Turner

NAYES: Shirkey, White, DeBoyer

**MOTION CARRIED**

**12. Resolution to Adopt 2009-2010 Board Meeting Schedule**

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Horvath, to adopt resolution setting the 2009-2010 Township Board Meeting Schedule as presented

Makuch: Just to note September 8<sup>th</sup> is a Tuesday

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**ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: DeBoyer, White, Turner, Makuch, Krueger, Horvath, Shirkey

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**13. Mainland Fire Department Risk Control Policies**

White: Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Control Department came out to both Fire departments and reviewed them and came up with some policies they wanted to see put in place. Harsens Island was done, but with the Mainland Fire Department's Chief's injury it was overlooked is now being taken care of. Also Conservation Policy and Initial Response Policy.

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Shirkey, to approve the Mainland Fire Department Risk Control Policy

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**14. Clay Township Fire Department Request for Trainees**

Shirkey: Fire Chief will see have medical and drug testing, a Driver's license and vehicle with insurance?

Chief DuPage: Yes, will have driving record and criminal history. If Board approves as trainees will then send for drug test.

Horvath: Just need a drivers license?

Chief DuPage: Just a drivers license, get an emergency driving class, will cover them for 26,001 pound

White: One of them is already paramedic and one has all his training and waiting for his EMT test.

**Motion** by Shirkey, supported by Makuch, to approve the following as trainees to the Clay Township Fire Department: Arron Huber, Jessie Smith, and Daniel Gernand.

Krueger: Daniel Gernand, he works at EMS now? Notice in 2006 had disc injury on his lumbar spine. These are all subject to passing physical? Want to make sure to look at that injury.

White: He is working on the ambulance, must have been cleared by their doctor.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**15. Request for Millage Distribution from County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Turner: Everyone pays into County Parks and Rec and we get percentage of that back. Need to show what it is used for or have used it for. Contribute to Downriver Recreation, \$40,000 and the rest is to be used for construction of Township Park

**Motion** by Turner, supported by Makuch, to accept the 2009 request for our local millage distribution.

DeBoyer: This money when it comes back to us must be used for parks

Horvath: The amount coming back?

Turner: \$43,511.46. For your information, Mark Broucheu who is the head of County Parks and Rec said our figures were wrong. Paid us \$3,000 extra this fiscal year and don't know what happened.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**16. Local Road Improvements**

DeBoyer: Spent some with County Road Commission going through the roads. The things that are necessary are basic maintenance issues, things that annually we do. Second, there are two items. We took our total dollars including the match from the County and looked at the items and the dollars we have to spend and did the necessities and then looked at what was left and what our options were. Keeping in mind that we do keep a contingency fund in case we have a crossroad culvert or an emergency we have to fix, it's around \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Two items that are optional; catch basin on Field Road and Helene, which connects Taft Road to M-29. It is prepped already for asphalt, that road is in poor condition; it is a major crossroad.

Shirkey: We wouldn't have anything left.

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DeBoyer: Have the contingency fun.

Makuch: I still want to see Anchor Bay Drive done

Turner: If we do all will come to \$109,000.00

DeBoyer: Reconstruction on a mile of road; about four hundred thousand a mile. On the cutting; we own the mower to do the cutting we just pay them to do the cutting. The \$7,700.00 will give us two cuttings, one now and one in the fall. It is the belief of our Water Department that they can do it for less. Can move forwarding with approving the County, doesn't mean we have to execute it. We can spend a little more time breaking it down. If can do it for less, will do it for less and not execute this contract. We used to do it.

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Krueger, to approve \$6,800.00 for limestone haul on local roads on Harsens Island, consider the County to pay for the 5' cut once a year in the amount of \$7,700.00 with the option to have our Water Department look at it and if calculated for less then not execute this contract, 2 applications of calcium chloride on approximately 10 miles of roads for \$25,500.00, shoulder patching in subdivisions and hard top road shoulders for \$5,500.00, seal patching on Swartout from Marsh to McKinley, Harcus Court and Pointe Tremble Lane, Holland from Phelps to Folkert and Island streets for \$20,000.00, rubber crack repair on Island drive, Manavel Court, Phelps, Flamingo bridge, Bluebill, Audubon and Park Lane for \$19,700.00, storm basing installation at 9261 field road for \$5,500.00, and asphalt resurfacing of Helene from Taft to M-29 for \$18,530.00, with a total amount of \$109,230.00 if all contracts executed.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**17. Discussion of Waste Water Treatment Plant Sewer Line Camera**

DeBoyer: Met with Ira, City of Algonac and County, in the budget we have a line item for equipment and we all contribute to that. There is a balance around \$550,000; the reason for that balance is because equipment at the Sewer Treatment plant can be costly. However, have done an update and it is in good condition. Chuck Hines said that through routine maintenance we can reduce the balance to perhaps \$450,000 which would give us about \$100,000 that can be used to improve the sewer lines. There is a camera used to inspect sewer lines, looks for leaks, illegal taps. Have received three bids, the low is about \$92,000 to buy this system. Ira Township has rented it but it is expensive to rent. Discussion to use the fund to purchase a camera to be used by all three municipalities.

Shirkey: In three or four years have to buy a new one?

DeBoyer: This is pretty hardy equipment. Ira Township found a crack in main that was essentially draining a ditch. Has saved them a significant amount when it came to pay for sewage being treated out of Ira Township. This would come out of a fund that already exists.

Horvath: Is the \$92,000 coming all out of us?

DeBoyer: It would be divided three ways. If a resident calls and says my sewer is backed up, checked and not in my house. We go out and start digging, try to find, may have to dig up their yard. That can get pretty costly. This has two cameras; one that does sewer main inspections and another that goes up into a lead. It is expensive but it comes very rapidly back to you. Some talk of the County sharing. Would like to send a letter saying we are in support.

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Horvath, to allow Supervisor to send a letter to relevant parties emphasizing Clay Township Boards approval of such purchase

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Informational packet received from Algonac-Clay Historical Society**

N. Rhodes, 3206 S. Channel: Questioned if letters received about Fire district

DeBoyer: Yes, 22

B. Moosekian, 182 Algonac: Want to acknowledge what this Board has done tonight, correcting what should be an embarrassment to this Township and that is by increasing the Supervisor's salary. I am unemployed but don't resent someone who puts in the hours this man does and deserves to be paid for it.

Jeff Harris, Bluebill: Loaning of camera to the County: If hold us at bay over Anchor Bay Drive paving tag them for a similar expense bill by hour or day

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**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Shirkey: Received favorable response on cleanup on the island. Asked if could have barrel to bring oil.

DeBoyer: People in our community that will take antifreeze, oil, etc. Will look at for next cleanup

Horvath: Requests to have culvert on Golf Course repaired. Patched but not perfect.

DeBoyer: There is water flow but has really sunk.

Horvath: Send letter to Algonac? Any response?

DeBoyer: Sent, no response. Read letter sent to Algonac City Manager. Letter of Agreement in packet with Water Department, had to make modifications for four 10-hour days. We had request for flags for cemetery, checked law, is allowable so contributed \$333.50

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Makuch, supported by Shirkey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Lisa M. White  
Clay Township Clerk

Prepared By  
Dorothy DeBoyer  
Clay Township Deputy Clerk