

**ASH TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

The Ash Township Regular Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Ready Road hall by Supervisor Robin Carmack.

Members present: Supervisor Robin Carmack, Clerk - Michele Geiermann, Treasurer - Rob Schock, Trustee - Jim Booth and Trustee - Larry Buckingham.

Others present: William Godfroy - Township Attorney, Jim Hollandsworth - Township Engineer, Jim Vaslo - Township Manager, Susie Forrest - Deputy Clerk and 18 citizens.

Motion #2497 Agenda Approval

Motion by Booth supported by Carmack to accept the amended agenda.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion #2498 Meeting Minute's Approval

Motion by Buckingham supported by Schock to approve the Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes of 8-19-15, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of 7-21-15, ZBA Meeting Minutes of 7-7-15 and ZBA Meeting Minutes of 6-2-15. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion #2499 Bills Approval

Motion by Booth supported by Geiermann to approve bills #1-92 in the amount of \$249,344.70, from General Ledger Fund, Building Fund, Fire Equipment Fund, Debt Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund. Roll Call: 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Biosolids in Ash Township

Supervisor Robin Carmack started the discussion with a quick explanation that the statutes do not allow the Township to control of the land application of biosolids or the weight restrictions on the roadways by the Township. Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy explained that approvals and oversight are handled by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). In the past the Ash Township Board approved an ordinance to prohibit this practice but that ordinance was quickly overturned by the Attorney General as control and oversight by law is given to the MDEQ. Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo explained the additional steps that the Ash Township Board authorized, taking water samples and soil samples for analysis in the area of Burns Rd. and Sigler Rd. Andy McCain from the Monroe County Health Department was present and shared with the Ash Township Board and the audience that the water samples did not show elevated levels of ecoli to exist. The Ash Township Board has yet to receive the analysis from the soil samples. State Representative Bill Lavoy and a representative from Senator Dale Zorn's office were present and offered little comment other than phone numbers and contact info for the MDEQ.

Complaint Letter For Parcel #5801-019-016-00 Burns Rd

Ash Township Board received a complaint letter signed by several area residents regarding vacant property on Burns Rd., parcel #5801-019-016-00. The complainants believe the property is strewn with blighted conditions and want it cleaned up. Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo who is also the Ash Township Blight Officer stated that the items on the property do not fit the definition of blight factors as defined by the ordinance. Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy and Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo explained to the best of their abilities that farming operations are protected by the Right to Farm Act and unfortunately Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo believes that all items in question are farm related and protected by the act. The Ash Township Board directed Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy to send a letter to the property owner asking that the property be cleaned up in some fashion or face the possibility of escalated enforcement.

Monroe Street Water Line Update

Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo explained the project is moving forward. Progress is being made, scheduling being met and the Township is staying in close contact with the Village of Carleton throughout the project. The project is scheduled to be substantially complete by mid to late October.

Motion #2500 Pay Request #2 to Lawrence M. Clarke, Inc.

Motion by Carmack supported by Buckingham to approve pay request #2 to Lawrence M. Clarke, Inc. in the amount of \$422,663.25 for Monroe Street water line to account for all work completed to date. Roll Call: 5-Yes 0-No. Motion Carried.

Briar Hill Improvement Update

There is no update at this time on Briar Hill Improvements.

Corkins Road Improvement Update

There is no update at this time on Corkins Road Improvements.

Newburg Road Update

The Ash Township Board discussed their options, the Monroe County Road Commission was contacted about the possibility of a late season paving project and was informed that base stabilization and chip seals need to be completed by August 1 to guarantee life expectancy. Newburg will be discussed along with other possible projects at the township's annual meeting with the Monroe County Road Commission.

Ash Township vs. Porter - Update

Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy updated the Ash Township Board on the porter case. It was decided to continue negotiations over the type of fencing to be installed. Supervisor Robin Carmack and Trustee Larry Buckingham are to visit the fence supplier and gage the acceptability of the two proposed fence materials and if deemed acceptable the Ash Township Board will allow Supervisor Robin Carmack to sign the consent agreement.

Jim Morris Letter

Ash Township Board reviewed the denial letter from their insurance carrier regarding Mr. Jim Morris's claim. No action was taken.

Managers Report

The Ash Township Board did not have any questions or comments on the September Manager's report.

US Silica Donation

Chris Coppens from US Silica presented the Ash Township Board with a check for \$2,000.00 to be put towards the recycling bin expense for the Ash Township residents.

Motion #2501 Monroe Conservation District

Motion by Buckingham supported by Carmack to enter into a service agreement with the Monroe Conservation District not to exceed \$750.00. Roll Call: 5- Yes, 0- No.
Motion carried.

Farm Lease - Sweitzer Road

Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy informed the Ash Township Board that the current lease for the Sweitzer Rd property was up in November. The Ash Township Board discussed the current lease on the land on Sweitzer Rd and they decided that Supervisor Robin Carmack will contact the current lease holders on the Sweitzer land lease to see if they would like to extend their current contract.

Tennis Courts on Airport School Property

Supervisor Robin Carmack brought the idea of entering into an agreement with Airport School District to use and maintain the tennis courts off Grafton Road. It was apparent after some investigation that the tennis courts in question could not be repaired. They would have to be removed and rebuilt at a cost of \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00. Though Ash Township Attorney Bill Godfroy thought there would be a way through the recreation and playground state

statue for Ash Township to enter into an agreement with the school district to operate and maintain the tennis courts as a joint venture, no action was taken by the Ash Township Board.

Motion #2502 Mausoleum Repairs at Ash Cemetery

Motion by Booth supported by Geiermann to approve the quote from MDW Construction Services Inc. to do the repairs on the columns at the Ash Cemetery, not to exceed \$1,000.00. Roll Call: 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Trash Pick-up

Ash Township Board briefly discussed the request from a citizen for township wide trash pick-up. No Board action was taken.

Motion #2503 Refund to Your New House Building Company

Motion by Buckingham supported by Geiermann to approve to refund Your New House Building Company in the amount of \$3,000.00 for over charge of sewer taps purchased for 653 Rabbit Run Rd, 716 Rabbit Run Rd and 721 Rabbit Run Rd. Roll Call: 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Safety Committee Meeting

Supervisor Robin Carmack notified the Ash Township Board that there is a Safety Committee meeting September 22, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Ash Township Hall on Ready Rd. Supervisor Robin Carmack explained that Deputy Smith from the Monroe County Sherriff's department will be present at the meeting.

Insurance Coverage for Terrorism

Ash Township Board briefly discussed the possibility of purchasing terrorism insurance. No action was taken.

Motion #2504 Meeting Adjourn

Motion by Booth supported by Carmack to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Vote voice taken. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Geiermann
Ash Township Clerk