

WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Supervisor Gatlin. Members present were Supervisor Gatlin, Clerk Fritz, Treasurer Munn, Trustee Thole and Trustee Bennett. Also present were Chris Hamilton from SCMCCI and township attorney, Roxanne Seeber. 30 citizens were present including Brad and Philip Rhoades.

Treasurer Munn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Clerk Fritz supported. Voice vote; passed. The monthly bill total was \$13,932.60.

Clerk Fritz made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Trustee Thole supported. Voice vote; passed.

Supervisor Gatlin made a motion to move the new business concerning the Rhoades properties to before citizen comments. Treasurer Munn supported. Voice vote; passed.

Citizen Comments: Kip Bastien said for the 20 years he's lived here; the Rhoades are always picked on. If the house wasn't in the center of town this would not be an issue. Judy Struble commented that some attempt by the previous supervisor should have been made so they could fix their buildings. Janet Mendocha commented that the café is in bad shape and close to her store. If the café crumbles, the store could be damaged. Fulton used to be a nice town, but things aren't being done to maintain it. Phil Rhoades insists the café is structurally sound and will not fall. He stated they are just getting out of debt and will now be able to fix their buildings. Roxanne, Chris and Supervisor Gatlin all said they did not get the report from the structural engineer. Brad Rhoades left to get a copy for the board. Julie Burke said the properties could have been cleaned up at least. How many years has this been going on? Brad Rhoades said he only makes \$800 a month and no one is taking his properties. Paul Myers quoted Trump saying we should pull together as a community. Chris Hamilton stated that these are not the only buildings and properties that are on the list for review. She stated there is more to dangerous buildings than just being in the condition to fall down. Erma Brockway stated that for years, the bus drivers in Vicksburg had collections for the Rhoades family of toys and clothes. Phil Rhoades again stated they are just getting out of debt. It was stated that if maintenance had been done all along, the buildings wouldn't be in this shape. The hearings officer has ordered them to fix 14037 E W Ave by April 15, 2018. No plans or timeline has been submitted to the township. Supervisor Gatlin stated that the township does not get the properties if they go into tax sale.

The board had three choices when deciding on the properties: uphold, modify, or dismiss. In regards to property address 13984 E W Ave, (old café) the hearing notice was read by Supervisor Gatlin. The owner Phil Rhoades was present, Supervisor Gatlin made a motion to modify the hearing officers order to allow until March 5th 2018 for the property owner to acquire a buyer (possibly Janet Mendocha) for the property, if no buyer is acquired by March 5th 2018 the original hearing officers order will be voted on at the March 5th township board meeting. Roll call vote: Thole: Yes, Modify. Fritz: Yes, Modify. Gatlin: Yes, Modify. Munn: Yes, Modify. Bennett: Yes, modify. Motion approved to modify by delaying the vote on hearing officers order until March 5th 2018.

In regards to property address 13985 S 42nd St, the hotel, the hearing notice was read by Supervisor Gatlin. The owner was not present, the bank was not present. Trustee Bennett made a motion to uphold the hearing officer's order. Supported by Treasurer Munn. Roll call vote: Thole: Yes. Fritz: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Munn:

Yes, Bennett: Yes. Motion approved for the order to be upheld. The Rhoades have until February 25th to appeal in court or raze the building.

In regards to property address 14037 E W Ave, the hearing notice was read by Supervisor Gatlin. Supervisor Gatlin made a motion to uphold the hearing officers order. Clerk Fritz supported. Roll call vote: Thole: Yes. Fritz: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Munn: Yes. Bennett: Yes. Motion approved to uphold the hearing officers order. They have 20 days to appeal. Whatever the judge rules will stand. The township has to wait 60 days from February 25th 2018 to raze the buildings if the judge agrees.

OTHER CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Judy Struble wanted to know where the money for the marihuana permits goes—it goes into the general fund. There are 15 structural permits as of right now.

OLD BUSINESS: 100% of our par funds will be used this year by the township. The Indian reservation is going to help with a small portion of roads near their lands, but the funds could take a year because they are federal dollars.

Update on Yant. There was a court hearing. Mr. Yant did not show and was assessed fines that he is responsible for. There is a show cause hearing in front of a judge on February 26th.

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Gatlin made a motion to amend Ordinance 49, the medical marihuana ordinance from 5 to unlimited. (The amendment makes it Ordinance 50.) Treasurer Munn supported. Roll call vote: Thole: No. Fritz: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Munn: Yes. Bennett: Yes. The motion passed. 2018-2019 budget draft will be emailed to the board in the next couple weeks. The approved budget will be available at the April meeting.

Supervisor Gatlin made a motion to approve the waving of property transfer affidavit fees. Treasurer Munn supported. Roll call vote: Thole: Yes. Fritz: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Munn: Yes. Bennett: Yes. Motion passed. If property isn't transferred within 45 days of sale, a fee will no longer be assessed. The assessor sent the poverty guidelines for 2018 for our approval. The board approved 15% above the poverty level. Asset level is \$15,000.

Nick Loosier and Ethan Masse made a presentation about bringing a marihuana provision center into the township. Changes would have to be made to zoning for this to happen. The group was willing to pay all fees associated with this facility. Roll call vote to allow a provision center: Thole: No. Fritz: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Munn: No. Bennett: No. The motion does not pass.

CORRESPONDENCE: J&M Lawn Service will charge the same as last year for cemetery and park maintenance.

ZONING ENFORCEMENT: Chris Hamilton said a ZBA meeting needs to be set up ASAP. The windowless house is in foreclosure. The Weeks want to pay \$50 a month to the township for the cleanup of their property. This was put in front of the county treasurer. As of now, the proposal is not accepted. They are seeking help from Legal Aid. On March 1st the house goes into foreclosure. 12698 E U Ave owner is working to tear it down after a fire.

FIRE AUTHORITY UPDATE: Wakeshma is getting a pickup truck to add to their fleet. The jeep is up for sale. Insurance rates should fall if you live within 5 miles of the station because we are rated a 5. Run numbers are up.

BOARD COMMENTS: Planning commission is working on solar and wind farms. Is there a cost to do this? Roxanne will send out samples of ordinances to Deb and Chris. The owners of the tower on V Ave are working to resolve the flashing bright light.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52pm by Supervisor Gatlin.