

WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 4, 2015

Supervisor Deming called the meeting to order at 7pm. Board members present were Supervisor Deming, Clerk Fritz, Treasurer Munn and Trustee Thole. Trustee Bennett was absent. 13 citizens were present as well as Chris Hamilton from SCMCCI.

Supervisor Deming made a motion to accept the agenda as listed. Treasurer Munn supported. Voice vote, passed.

Trustee Thole made a correction to the bill listing date from last month's board meeting. The date was listed as 4/30/15 and should be changed to 3/31/15.

Treasurer Munn made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Clerk Fritz supported. Voice vote, passed.

Treasurer's Report: Clerk Fritz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Trustee Thole supported. Voice vote, passed.

Citizens' Comments: It was asked what the board's thoughts were on the Fire Authority meeting at the PAC. Supervisor Deming explained how the tax increase works. The assessed amount would be determined by your property value. He explained that other departments apply for and receive grants to cover costs. South County Fire has never applied and received a grant on its own. It has only been able to get grants that other departments have applied for that included them such as radios and SCBA. For 15 years it has not been budgeted or run correctly. Wakeshma cannot run its own department as it is too costly for our tax base. We need to combine with others to get the coverage we need. When the contract was written for the Authority, it was written so that if you leave, you leave with nothing.

Supervisor Deming explained that the fire department isn't our only issue, roads are also an issue. A citizen commented that farmers from other townships use our roads and tear them up and are not held responsible for the damage.

It was also pointed out that Wakeshma has the lowest taxes and has the lowest income in the county.

Supervisor Deming stated that a special assessment is not paid by personal property taxes, only real property taxes. If we agree to the assessment, we are locked in but it isn't set up to keep the same percentage every year.

A citizen pointed out that it is hard to support something that doesn't function well. It was also stated that the assessment should be based on buildings/residential and farmland should be different.

Supervisor Deming stated this would be a "Band-Aid" for 4-5 years and then we would re-assess.

It was asked if we pull out of the Authority and went with Climax in an agreement, would we lose our equipment? Yes

Supervisor Deming also stated that Fulton/Wakeshma will always have a fire station while with SKCFA, it is in the agreement. He also said decisions on the assessment need to be made by the end of June 2015. Bill Adams (Vicksburg's supervisor) is working on fire grants. The members of the fire board were discussed and it was mentioned that the supervisors from each entity are members of the fire board, but that the township boards themselves make the decisions about fire purchases.

The amount of the millage was discussed. Our assessor, Ben Brousseau has figured it to be 1.7mils and that we need more than \$60,000 to cover our portion of the funds.

Supervisor Deming stated we will be discussing this again at the board meeting on the first Monday in June and we will also vote in June. We will have a public hearing in July for the emergency services assessment after the regular board meeting.

Board Comments: Supervisor Deming said we are forming a Road Committee consisting of 4 members and the members will inspect and report back to the board how the roads are. If they find issues, they are to call our county commissioner. His number will be added to our website. The commissioner is elected and should be held accountable to the townships for the condition of the roads. Ben Fritz has agree to do the northeast quadrant, Deb Brockway the southeast quadrant. Two more members are needed.

Correspondence: Elections are tomorrow.

Fire Authority update: Supervisor Deming informed the citizens that they fire board meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the EMS building. It is an open meeting.

Zoning Enforcement/Ordinance Report: Cleanup at 14288 S 42nd was started. Chris from SCMCCI said she will be back through the yard again. Fencing needs to be repaired. There are still oil tanks that may have to be removed.

Chris from SCMCCI said that Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) grants variances and that the Yant property needs to apply for special use and a variance for their dog kennels. There are costs for both the ZBA and the Planning Commission meetings for this variance and we need to set a fee schedule. Treasurer Munn made a motion to take a vote to adopt the fee schedule presented by Ms Hamilton. Clerk Fritz supported. Trustee Thole, Yes, Clerk Fritz, Yes, Supervisor Deming, Yes, Treasurer Munn, Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Deming made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Munn supported. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.