

MINUTES FROM THE WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Supervisor Gatlin. Members present were Supervisor Gatlin, Clerk Fritz, Treasurer Munn, and Trustees Thole and Bennett. Six citizens were also present. Chris Hamilton from SCMCCI arrived late.

Treasurer Munn made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 1 meeting. Trustee Bennett supported. Voice vote; passed. Treasurer Munn made a motion to accept the monthly bills. Clerk Fritz supported. Voice vote; passed. Clerk Fritz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Trustee Bennett supported. Voice vote; passed.

Citizens' Comments: Deb Brockway is still having issues with her neighbor burning things and there is a dead smell now. She asked about easement permits because this neighbor is using her driveway without permission and says he has an easement. She is to call Ben Brousseau to ask about this. She was also advised to check the GIS system to see where property lines are and possible easements.

The recycling bin has been at the school for a month. The treasurer will call Republic to ask about this issue.

The supervisor was told X Ave was fixed, but a citizen said it has not been fixed yet. Supervisor Gatlin will look into this. The culvert is to be moved 20-30 feet to the west to line up with water flow.

The township is looking for a structural engineer to look at the township building. It has some major settling issues and needs to be looked at to see what can be done. The roof is leaking and the township is in the process of getting bids for a ridge vent. There has been one bid so far.

Board Comments: Supervisor Gatlin wanted a resolution for fire withholding insurance. If a house burns down and there is no plan for repair, the township would get a percentage of the insurance money (the amount is decided by the state of Michigan) to help with cleanup costs. If there is no insurance payout, then the township would receive no money. The structure must have utilities hooked

up to qualify. Roll call vote was taken: Bennett: Yes. Thole: Yes. Fritz: Yes. Munn: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Motion passed. Treasurer Munn said that with the passing of the millage, winter taxes fire portion would go from 1.85 mils to 1 mil because personal property can be taxed as well as real property. Trustee Bennett made a motion to rescind the special assessment by roll call. Treasurer Munn supported. Bennett: Yes. Thole: Yes. Fritz: Yes. Munn: Yes. Gatlin: Yes. Motion to rescind the special assessment passed.

There was no correspondence.

Chris from SCMCCI reported that the Cree house has residents living in a camper while they are cleaning the house. This is not allowed and SCMCCI can write tickets, gives warnings etc. But the township could end up paying for cleanup like with the Weeks property.

The mortgage company says it does not have claim on the Thompson house with no windows. They gave it back to the owner. No one knows who owns the house. It has not gone to Fannie Mae or Freddy Mac. The supervisor will look into this.

Yant's property is still an issue. Chris has taken pictures and is waiting for a response to correspondence. Animal Control will not ticket or respond any longer. It is believed they are running a puppy mill. They were turned down for a kennel permit because the property is too small. There are many animals on the property suffering. The Supervisor will look into this and contact Animal Control. Both the property owner and Yants need to be contacted. If Chris can get in there with a structural damage search warrant, she might be able to get Animal Control to go with her and check it out.

The Weeks came into the township to question their \$4200 bill and said they were exempt from taxes. It was explained that that was not a tax bill, but a bill for the cleanup of their property. DHS and Health Department say they can do no more. There is no running water or heat in the house aside from electric heaters. The house is not habitable. The government has housing available for them. Motion was made by Supervisor Gatlin to move forward with this issue. Trustee Bennett supported. Voice vote; passed.

V Ave east of 42nd street. Michael Andres house has been condemned for meth. They've removed the sticker and still frequent the property. It was advised to call the sheriff's department if you see anyone at this address.

44th St. Reichwald's old place has a camper on the property where someone is living.

Y Ave Bergeron's property is now owned by Dustin Swarthout. The house will be torn down.

Chris explained the difference between uninhabitable and condemned. Uninhabitable has no utilities (water, electric, heat, septic) whereas a condemned structure is not safe to live in.

Fire Authority: Nothing has changed as far as our contract other than residents will pay less with new millage. Captain Munn of the fire department spoke about the department. The Lieutenant spot in Wakeshma has been closed and he was made Captain. The chief spot has been posted. The budget is still being worked on. He stressed that when we see fire trucks leave the township the citizens do NOT pay; if fire apparatus come into township, THEN we pay.

The store will be opening on September 26th.

Trustee Bennett made a motion to adjourn, Treasurer Munn supported. Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.