

Alpena County Chapter Meeting

Wilson Township

April 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7pm and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of all the townships was taken (Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wellington and Wilson were all present . No one was in attendance from Green Township).

Stan mentioned the minutes from the February 20, 2012 meeting were not in his possession. He will get them from Lisa Timm for the next meeting. Tammy Bates was not present for this meeting to take minutes; therefore, Wendy Johnson volunteered to take minutes for tonight's meeting in Tammy's absence.

Financial Report: Ken Lobert reviewed the financial report which showed all township dues have been paid resulting in a current balance of \$1,900.42. Howard Lumsden made a motion to accept the financial report with Wayne Liske second. Motion passed. Dennis Liske made a motion to pay the \$31.64 bill to send out meeting notices for this meeting and Dale Himes seconded it. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Road Commission: Larry Orcutt explained the road commission is close to last year's total as far as expenses go; however, costs are going up just like everything else. Projects for the year include paving French (US-23) to Hamilton Road, 1 mile long. Bids are 20% over estimated cost (approx. 100K). The road commission would have to pay 100K at their own expense. Larry is working with MDOT to rebid the project which will cause a delay. He also stated there will be seal coating done on the pavement on Beaver Lake, Werth and Long Lake Road since these sections haven't been touched in more than 10 years. Larry announced that there was 466K local work done last year which was funded jointly with townships putting 335K of this money in. This has a huge impact on the system and the road commission appreciates the townships help. There will be some Huron Pines funded river/stream crossing projects on Evans Road, Carney and Bean Creek. Fish and Wildlife will provide some funding (approx. 10K) toward culvert replacement in Ossineke Township. He also discussed Senate Bill 351 which is a proposal to shift some sale tax that isn't guaranteed (18% of 4% tax fund) which means about 136 million out of state fund would go to MDOT. Of course the road commission feels the money should get distributed amongst all entities. On a typical local road in Alpena the road commission would get about 2K a mile in revenue which isn't enough since it takes more than that to maintain the road. The new salt building project is getting under way with dirt being moved tomorrow for it. Larry reiterated again how much the road commission appreciates townships' help and couldn't do what they do without their support.

County Commissioners: Ken Hubbard was present but has nothing to report.

911 County Dispatch: Stan mentioned there was a meeting on 3/15/12; however, he could not attend. There is another meeting this Thursday and Stan will give that report at the next meeting.

MTA: Ken stated there are some revised books available titled *Policy Matters* and *Townships Guide to Zoning & Planning*. You can purchase these by calling MTA or going online. MTA on the Road meetings are coming up so watch for them. June 6, 2012 in Lansing is Tote Your Township from 12-4:30 pm where you can set appointments with legislatures. Ken stated he would like to see a large number of people attend. The mini MTA Convention in Harris which is a good one to go to will be on July 25th and 26th.

He discussed PILT legislation 1021 & 1022 which would restore \$2 per acre for swamp tax. MTA wants to gather information from us as far as the amount in revenue we didn't receive in PILT. You can send this information to Tom@Mltownships.org. Ken stated we will be hearing a lot more about personal property taxes soon. Commercial and industrial under 40K would be exempt and it looks as though they are keeping wind mills as taxable. Ken had a meeting today on assessment and tax committee in which they discussed the fact that the assessment language is outdated and needs revision. The state wanted them to go through the laws that apply to townships and review them. They found that on the chief assessment officer section, it states the assessor shall be secretary to the board of review which is difficult to do if have 3 different board of review. There is a push to change this from shall be to the words "can be". This will be in a bill proposal. Ken also announced that farmers can register with the state. The Governor was cleaning up old bills and eliminated this one that stated they can't.

Target: Marie Twite was the liaison for Target; however, she stated the Alpena Township Board opted not to pay to participate; therefore, she will not be attending Target meetings any more. And no one else here is a member; therefore we will not have a report on Target for future meetings.

Peter Pettalia was unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted Stan to mention Bill 4756 which has to do with the transferring of property to arms length relatives. Peter is still working on this and will have a sample resolution in two weeks and will send to all townships clerks so it can be discussed at the township boards.

May clean up day will be on Saturday, May 19th from 8-1pm on M-32 at the resource facility. Marie reported the supervisors met last month and will be performing the same duties they usually do on this day. Everyone's help would be appreciated in getting homes cleaned up around the area. Alpena News and Star will advertise this day. Marie stated there will be a roll out for box springs and mattresses and these will be recycled vs going to the landfill. There is a 10 tire limit. Latex paints will be mixed with kitty litter and be taken to the regular landfill. Mercury and pesticides will be taken for free. They are still tossing around the idea of taking glass at the facility. They don't ever want to take glass at the dumpster because it smashes when dumped. There is a use for glass in asphalt. Howard mentioned recycling of water bottles is being arranged with three county parks. We pick up the bottles and hopefully save the parks some money in their trash bills.

Mike Szor, Alpena County 911 Director – Mike mentioned he is retiring on 6/8/12. He thanked everyone for being so welcoming when he came here from downstate. He has been in public service for 32 years all of which were 24/7 services so he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. He

commented that 911 is fully staffed right now and they received money to update the 911 county maps which is great for the current 911 system and for the next generation. Emergency medical dispatching training has been completed by staff. Emergency management is coming back to all townships in the near future. They received a grant and will be coming to townships to discuss soon. Narrow banding will start in September of this year; will go to township halls and state to re-band. They are leasing the tower on Scott Road for fire frequency and installing repeaters before September so no issue of paging out our firefighters. Mike discussed the sirens failing in Oklahoma and assured us ours are fine. If we lost power our back up would go off of Bear Point Road. The local planning team has stated they will keep pushing for one siren a year (they are about 20K each) but understand that money is hard to come by these days. He ended his report by thanking everyone again for their support throughout his career.

Beverly Bodem was here representing Senator John Moolenaar and she stated it would be possible to get Mr. Moolenaar here for our next meeting on June 18th.

Ken Hubbard reported he is running for State Rep and one reason he is running is because our right to taxis being taken away. He feels we need a voice otherwise state revenue will be gone and therefore is asking for everyone's vote.

A motion to adjourn was made at approximately 8:45 pm by Ken Gauthier and seconded by John Male. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7pm at the Green Township Hall.