



**Solon Township**  
Kent County  
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Cedar Springs, MI  
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solon Township Board of Trustees  
March 13, 2012  
Solon Township Hall  
2305 19-Mile Road  
Cedar Springs MI 49319

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Robert Ellick at 7:30 P.M.

**Members present:** Fred Gunnell, Robert Ellick, Heather Zenker, Richard Straub & John Rideout

**Members absent:** none

**Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**

**Public comments on the agenda items:** Gerald Skelonc commented on the need to control pay increases this year.

**Approve agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Rideout to approve the agenda with additions of IRS Mileage rate and township office financing to discussion items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Straub the motion carried 5 to 0.

**Approve Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Zenker to approve consent agenda. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.

**Committee Reports**

Cedar Springs Public Library – written report submitted

Cedar Springs Parks & Rec – Stephanie Morris the senior luncheon and sponsorships for the Miranda Party. She stated the parks & rec committee would like some feed back from the township as to what the Board would like to see happen.

Fire Committee – nothing

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**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Reappointment to the Planning Commission**

Motion by Mr. Straub to reappoint Daune McIntyre to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**Appointment to the Zoning Board Appeals**

Motion by Mr. Straub to appoint Matt Blackburn to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunnell and carried 5 to 0.

**Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Motion by Mr. Gunnell to reappoint Brynadette Powell to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**Set / date for budget hearing**

Motion by Ms. Zenker to set March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM as date and time for annual budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunnell and carried 5 to 0.

**Staff pay increase**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to increase pay levels for office hourly and salaried employees by 3.6% effective April 1, 2012. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker. After discussion Mr. Rideout amended the motion to include fire fighters for run and station time pay. Ms. Zenker reaffirmed her second of the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4 to 1 with Mr. Ellick voting no.

**Supervisor's salary resolution**

Motion by Ms. Zenker approve a resolution setting supervisor's salary at \$29,500 with an offset for health benefits. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunnell. On a role call vote all members voted yes, the resolution carried.

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**Clerk's salary resolution**

Motion by Mr. Straub approve a resolution setting Clerk's salary at \$24,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker. On a role call vote all members voted yes, the resolution carried.

**Treasurer's salary resolution**

Motion by Mr. Rideout approve a resolution setting Treasurer's salary at \$24,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunnell. On a role call vote all members voted yes, the resolution carried.

**Trustee's salary resolution**

Motion by Mr. Rideout approve a resolution setting Trustee's salary at \$90.00 per Diem. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker. On a role call vote all members voted yes, the resolution carried.

**Motion to authorize renovations to horse barn and authorize supervisor to get bids on same.**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to authorize renovations to the horse barn consisting of removal of up to forty (40) feet of the east side of the building and enclose the remaining building using new / used material as appropriate and to authorize the supervisor to solicit bids for this work, with bids to be approved at the April Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gunnell and carried 5 to 0.

**Authorize the repair of roof on pole barn**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to authorize the supervisor to approve the repair of the horse barn roof limited to the replacing of damaged or missing shingles. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**Approve funding for repair of gas detector**

Motion by Mr. Ellick to approve funding for repair of gas detector. The motion was seconded by Mr. Straub and carried 5 to 0.

**Reduction in letter of credit**

Motion by Ms. Zenker to reduce the letter of credit for Prairie Place to \$85,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellick and carried 5 to 0.

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**Approval of township audit contract**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to approve contract with Siegfried Crandall in the amount of \$6,800.00 for audit of 2011 – 2012 financial records. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**Approval of township lawn care contract**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to approve lawn care contract with Ed Imbault in the amount of \$5,100.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**IRS mileage rate**

Motion by Mr. Rideout to increase the township mileage rate to 55.5 cents per mile beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by MS. Zenker and carried 5 to 0.

**Discussion Items**

Financing proposal for new township hall from Choice One bank.  
Ms. Zenker shared with the Board the proposal submitted from Choice One Bank. There were concerns about the ability to prepay the loan and penalties for doing so. Ms. Zenker will get clarification for the Board.

**Correspondence**

Mr. Gunnell – nothing

Mr. Straub – nothing

Treasurer – nothing

Clerk – handed out revised budget

Supervisor – Will be meeting with county and Community Block Grant authorities, Expects work on Marduk to begin next week.

**Public comments:**

- Vickie Babcock discussed starting date for farmers market.
- Gerald Skelonec discussed pay raises.
- John Bitley questioned why the Board differed from the recommendation of township engineer asked if the Board would reconsider amount after bids are received in spring. Mr. Ellick stated “yes”.

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**Adjourn** – Motion by Mr. Ellick to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Straub, motion carried  
5 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

John W. Rideout  
Solon Township Clerk