



Solon Township Hall
15185 Algoma Avenue NE
Cedar Springs MI 49319
616-696-1718

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solon Township Board of Trustees
January 12, 2016 @ 7:30p.m.**

Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Ellick at 7:30 pm.

Members Present: Robert Ellick, Fred Gunnell, Arthur Gerhardt, Mark Hoskins, Mary Lou Poulsen

Members Absent: none

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Public Comment on Agenda Items - none

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Gunnell to approve agenda, seconded by Mr. Hoskins. The motion carried 5-0.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Hoskins to approve consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Gerhardt. The motion carried 5-0.

- a. Approve minutes from Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 2015.
- b. Approve minutes from staff meeting of January 6, 2016.
- c. Approve Bill List
- d. Clerk's Rev/Exp Report & Balance Sheets
- e. Treasurer's Report
- f. Fire Chief's Statistics Report
- g. Building Inspector's Report

6. Committee Reports

- * **Cedar Springs Public Library** – Donna Clark
- * **Cedar Springs Area Parks and Rec.** – no report
- * **Solon Market** – have met to plan events for summer.
- * **Solon Park Planning Committee** – 5 year Rec Plan has been submitted to DNR so are on track for grant application deadline of April 1. Fund raiser planned for February 12. next meeting January 19 @ 4:30. Market and Park committees will work closely together for coming year with some joint efforts.
- * **Fire Committee** – next meeting schedules for February 2 at 7:00pm.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

- * **2016 Community Development Block Grant public hearing**

Supervisor opened public hearing: Comments from V. Babcock asking if funds approved for Park plans were all used last year or can still be used. Comments from M. Barrett concerning using grant funds for: road repair and improvements, clean-up of junk cars, traffic safety issues, hail damage to individuals' houses not covered by insurance.

Supervisor said all grant money that the township was allowed to use for the Park has been spent. The target areas for Solon Township changed in the middle of the 2014 process disqualifying the area in which the Park will be built, but permission was given by HUD to use the balance of that year's funds on other qualified uses.

Supervisor also explained the limitations for using the funds - the area of our township that qualifies as low income, making it eligible to apply for the grant, is a very small area. He also advised that individuals can apply for grants individually with Kent County Community Development.

Supervisor closed public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellick to apply for grant for repair of 21 Mile Road at Albrecht, seconded by Mr. Gunnell. The motion carried 5 - 0

* **Resolution authorizing purchase of land adjacent to cemetery**

A motion was made by Mr. Hoskins to approve a resolution to purchase the real estate adjacent to the cemetery, seconded by Mr. Ellick. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Ellick - Y; Mr. Gerhardt - Y; Mr. Gunnell - Y; Mr. Hoskins - Y; Ms. Poulsen - Y. Motion carried 5 - 0.

* **Fire Department request for increase in wages of daytime firefighter as of Jan 1**

A motion was made by Mr. Ellick to approve \$.30 per hour raise for daytime firefighter. Motion died for lack of support.

A motion was made to postpone consideration of this request until March when other salary, wage & budget issues are dealt with, seconded by Mr. Gunnell. The motion carried 5 - 0.

* **Resolution to amend and restate Non-ERISA Retirement Plan per IRS requirement and Pension Protection Act of 2006 compliance**

A motion was made by Mr. Ellick to authorize clerk to sign resolution amending and restating Non-ERISA retirement plan, seconded by Ms. Poulsen. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Ms. Poulsen - Y; Mr. Gunnell - Y; Mr. Hoskins - Y; Mr. Gerhardt - Y; Mr. Ellick - Y. Motion carried 5 - 0.

* **Park Planning Committee recommendation for name of park**

A motion was made by Ms. Poulsen to approve Park Committee recommendation to name the park behind the Township Hall "Velzy Park", seconded by R. Ellick. The motion carried 5 - 0.

* **Transfer of \$195,000 budgeted for Street Fund from General Fund**

A motion was made by Mr. Ellick to transfer \$195,000 budgeted to Street Fund from the General Fund, seconded by Mr. Gunnell. The motion carried 5 - 0.

* **Approval for Supervisor to sign Work Order for Albrecht construction**

A motion was made by Mr. Gunnell to authorize Supervisor to sign work order with Kent County Road Commission for \$505,505 construction on Albrecht Avenue, seconded by Mr. Hoskins. The motion carried 5 - 0.

9. **Discussion Items** – started discussion on purchasing laptops or tablets to replace paper documents in Trustee’s board meeting packets. Received suggestion to seek donation from area business for the necessary equipment.

10. **Correspondence**

Trustees:

Mr. Gunnell: Will miss the next MTA executive meeting, which will be held at the conference in Detroit.

Mr. Hoskins: Will be out of the country during the fire committee meeting, but suggests looking into changing the daytime firefighter’s hours to coincide with the highest occurrence of calls as Fire Chief indicated on the 4 year study.

Appears that 33% of calls occur between 2:00 and 6:00pm.

Treasurer - Thank you to those who helped with the Fire Department grant applications – Chris, Sam, Linda, Jeff & Tom.

Clerk - Year end payroll duties are complete, gearing up for Presidential Primary.

Supervisor – Contacting Jerry Gross for ordinance enforcement. Received information that the assessor of the City of Cedar Springs met with Roger Morgan and determined Rockford Ambulance qualified for not-for-profit status, so wouldn’t be taxed once a building is built on the property. Several items on the Planning Commission agenda for this month.

Additional public comments: none.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. Gunnell to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ellick.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Submitted by: Mary Lou Poulsen, Solon Township Clerk