



Milton Township

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Official Minutes for Milton Township Board Meeting 32097 Bertrand St., Niles, MI Tuesday, May 13th, 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Anyone Wishing to Speak to the Board: (3 min/person)

- 1) Brandon-Is a member of the salary and compensation committee. Wanted to thank the BOT for appointing him to the position in the fall of 2013.
- 2) Tom Cook-Wanted to know about Trash Pick-up and if there was any chance to get some county trustees from the jail to come out and pick up trash on the roads.
- 3) Cori Buchar-Wanted to thank the BOT for the written appreciation which was presented at the last meeting. In addition, the spring clean which was held last weekend was a huge success. The Township collected a lot of tires, a ton of paper, and many other items of trash. Regarding the other issues on the agenda I have enjoyed working with each and every one of the members of the BOT.

Approval of Agenda:

Because of what is listed on the agenda:

- 1) Cori Buchar was informed that she has the right to go into closed session. Cori BUCHAR was asked if she would like to do that and she responded "No."
- 2) Sue Kronewitter was informed that she has the right to go into closed session. Sue KRONEWITTER was asked if she would like to do that and she responded "Yes."
- 3) Changes were noted for the agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as changed.

Motion Carried

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Minutes from Previous minutes were corrected and motions were made to approve the correct minutes.

Motion Carried

Board Member Comments:

- 1) Eric Renken-SMCAS will hold initial interviews on May 22 and discuss the top 2 candidates. An interview for the top 2 candidates will be held on May 29.
- 2) Susan Flowers-not an easy thing to gently bring up but I want to have a smooth working environment in the Township. The Clerk has made an accusation that information was being discussed from a closed session and I am not going to tolerate this any longer.
- 3) Sue Kronewitter- Stated that she had a conversation with Robert BENJAMIN that some information about a closed session was brought out by an unreliable source. The information was sent to the attorney. Milton Township had an election and Milton Township was the first township to get their results from the election recorded, just 21 seconds after the election ended.

- 4) Robert Benjamin-made the following comments:
 - a) Everyone said that they had a fun time at the election.
 - b) Our insurance is up for renewal.
 - c) Comment about the clean-up day.....Goodwill was very excited about being at our ~~open-house~~ SPRING CLEAN and were able to get a lot of donations.
 - d) The “Headlee” is in for the township millage and there will be a rollback.

Business (w. Attendees):

- 1) Township Hall Building Project Update (Hebard & Hebard)
 - a) Presented a concept for a night deposit box.
 - b) BOT selected a Weather Vane for the top of the Township Hall
 - c) Schedule-we are keeping the contractors feet to the fire. Still tracking for our Aug 1st deadline. May still be in the “punch list” mode.....but Hall will be substantially completed.
 - d) There are now going to be 6 poles in the great room. There will only be 4 exposed posts and have the heavy timber trusses.

Old Business:

- 1) MTA and State AMAR Response
 - a) Response to the State AMAR. Robert BENJAMIN had an opportunity to talk with the director of the Michigan Tax. If it wasn't for Robert BENJAMIN'S discussion then everyone in Residential and Commercial would have seen an automatic INCREASE across the board increase. By the end of the year we will be the top township from an updated and accurate records standpoint.
 - b) 4/5s of the township received a letter about the assessment. Every industrial and commercial property is being looked at by a couple assessors (township and county) and a “state” assessor. It was recommended by MTA that we need to finish this assessment this year....the board voted to move it forward and have it completed this year. Supervisor Benjamin recommends that every resident gets a copy of their “record card.” Why pay for 3 bathrooms if you only have 2 bathrooms?
- 2) Selection of new Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer
 - a) Kronewitter made a motion to hire James P Furkis
 - i) Motion failed for a lack of second
 - b) Susan FLOWERS motioned to hire Peg Hartman
 - i) Second by Eric RENKEN.
 - ii) Concern by Sue KRONEWITTER because Peg is on PC at Niles Charter Township.
 - iii) Concern by Sue KRONEWITTER that this is not the best candidate because she has no ZA experience.
 - iv) Motion Failed
 - c) Motion to authorize the Supervisor Benjamin to enter into negotiations to hire Margaret (Peg) Hartman.
 - i) Second by Kelly SWEENEY.
 - ii) Motion Carried
- 3) Update on Clerk's computer status
 - a) Supervisor Benjamin is still looking for “support” for the Clerk's computer.
 - b) Sue KRONEWITTER reported that she has no major issues at this time...only minor issues.
- 4) Social Security/Pension/Payroll
 - a) Supervisor Benjamin that Form section 218 was not approved by the state. The board directed Supervisor Benjamin to move forward with addressing and correcting this issue.
 - b) Sue KRONEWITTER is concerned that our residents are going to have a hard time understanding why the Board is paying into a pension and not Social Security.
 - c) The board gave his guidance to have Robert BENJAMIN move forward to making this situation correct.

5) Employee Policy Manual

- a) Eric RENKEN is willing to compile several different "Employee Manuals" into a final document. Kelly SWEENEY will assist Eric RENKEN.

New Business:

1) Employee Discipline Issue

- a) Supervisor Benjamin stated that this Complaint hearing and put Cori under oath.
- b) Supervisor Benjamin again asked Cori if she wanted to go into closed session and the answer was No.
- c) Supervisor Benjamin came up with 7 issues based on Sue Kronewitter email:
 - i) Cori is agitated by requests from the Clerk
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this claim was unfounded
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried
 - ii) The ~~Admin~~ CLERK is required to put requests in writing
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this claim was unfounded
 - (2) Second by Eric Renken
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried
 - iii) The ~~Clerk~~ ADMIN closes her office door
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this claim was unfounded
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried
 - iv) Misplacement of Applications/Not following the Mail Policy
 - (1) Clerk Kronewitter stated that this is now a non-issue.
 - v) Reaction by Cori to the Clerk's question over "the device" plugged into her computer
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this claim was unfounded.
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried
 - vi) Insubordination
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this item was addressed via a verbal warning and no further discussion is needed.
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried
 - vii) Profanity
 - (1) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion that this claim was unfounded
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Discussion
 - (4) Motion Carried

2) Complaints received from Administrative Assistant

- a) Supervisor Benjamin stated that this is a Complaint hearing and put Sue Kronewitter under oath.
- b) Supervisor Benjamin again asked Sue Kronewitter if she wanted to go into closed session and the answer was YES.
 - i) Robert Benjamin moved the board meeting go into a closed session under section 8(a) of the open meetings act, to consider complaint ~~over~~ charges brought against the Clerk ~~if the Clerk requests a closed session~~. In compliance of MCL 15.268(1) with the Board, Township Attorney, Cori Buchar, Revie Stewart.

- ii) Second by Eric Renken
- iii) Motion carried.

Closed session started at 9:46 PM

Regular Board of Trustee's meeting was restarted at 1:22 AM

- c) Supervisor Benjamin came up with 10 issues based on Cori Buchar's email:
 - i) Rudeness by Clerk
 - (1) Eric Renken made a motion that this claim was unfounded
 - (2) Second by Robert Benjamin
 - (3) Motion Carried
 - ii) Clerk is irritated by having to make requests in writing
 - (1) Robert Benjamin made a motion that the board found evidence that the clerk does become irritated by the Admin's requests be made in writing and the board directs the clerk to put future requests in writing.
 - (2) Second by Eric Renken
 - (3) Motion Carries
 - iii) Cursing in office by Clerk
 - (1) Susan Flowers made a motion that this claim is unfounded.
 - (2) Second by Sue Kronewitter.
 - (3) Discussion.....There is no policy on this issue.
 - (4) Motion failed
 - (5) Robert Benjamin made a motion regarding the complaint of the clerk cursing in the office that the board will take no action as there is no profanity policy.
 - (6) Second by Eric Renken
 - (7) Motion Carries
 - iv) False accusations made by Clerk
 - (1) Robert Benjamin made a motion regarding the complaint about false accusations made by the clerk that the board instructs the clerk to substantiate issues before jumping to conclusions and making false accusations.
 - (2) Second by Eric Renken
 - (3) Motion Carries
 - v) Lying by Clerk
 - (1) Eric Renken made a motion that the complaint about the clerk lying is unfounded.
 - (2) Second by Kelly Sweeny
 - (3) Motion Carries
 - vi) Silly complaints
 - (1) Robert Benjamin made a motion regarding the complaint about silly complaints by asking the clerk to put future complaints in writing for the board to act on.
 - (2) Second by Kelly Sweeney
 - (3) Motion Carries
 - vii) Creepy behavior
 - (1) Robert Benjamin made a motion that this complaint is unfounded and that no further action by the board be taken.
 - (2) Second by Eric Renken
 - (3) Motion Carries
 - viii) Uncomfortable work environment created by Clerk
 - (1) Susan Flowers made a motion regarding the complaint about the uncomfortable work environment created by the clerk is founded and the board directs the clerk to cease and desist creating an uncomfortable work environment in the township Hall.
 - (2) Second by Eric Renken

- (3) Discussion
- (4) Motion Carries
- ix) Intimidation by Clerk
 - (1) Kelly Sweeney made a motion regarding the complaint about the intimidation created by the clerk that it is founded and the board directs the clerk to cease and desist intimidating others.
 - (2) Second by Susan Flowers
 - (3) Motion Carries
- x) Harassment by Clerk
 - (1) Robert Benjamin made a motion that Milton township board recognizes that harassment is not allowed in the workplace of Milton Township or any of its properties and it will not be tolerated: all elected officials, appointees and employees shall refrain from harassing behaviors to others.
 - (2) Second by Kelly Sweeney
 - (3) Motion Carries

The meeting was recessed at ~~1:22~~ 1:40 AM until 2:00 AM

The meeting was called back to order at 2:01 AM

The meeting was recessed for 5 minutes at 2:08 AM

The meeting was called back in session at 2:15 AM

The supervisor stated that the treasurer will not be returning

- 3) Clerk Resignation
 - a) Sue Kronewitter submitted her signed resignation letter
 - b) Eric RENKEN made a motion to accept the Clerk's resignation effective May 16, 2014
 - c) Second by Kelly SWEENEY
 - d) Motion Carries
- 4) FOIA Coordinator
 - a) Supervisor Benjamin made a motion to appoint Eric Renken as the FOIA coordinator
 - b) Second by Kelly SWEENEY
 - c) Motion Carries.

Board Member Comments:

Adjournment:

Eric RENKEN motion to adjourn
Second by Kelly SWEENEY
Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at ~~2:25~~ 2:45 AM

Unofficial Minutes are respectfully submitted by Kelly Sweeney. These minutes are based on notes taken by Kelly Sweeney. There were no minutes supplied by the Clerk.