

CHESTER TOWNSHIP MINUTES-Regular Meeting

June 14, 2010

Supervisor Creager called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Board members present: Dianne Berenbrock, Troy Goodno, Ed Kelly & Jan Redding.

Agenda Approval-

Motion by TG to approve the agenda as amended. Second-EK, motion carries.

Public Comment-

Greg DeJong introduced himself as a candidate for 5th District County Commissioner.

Consent Agenda-

Minutes of 5/10 & 5/17/2010.

Treasurer's report & payment of bills.

Motion by DB to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Second-RC, motion carries.

Township Reports-

Fire Dept-Chief Sheridan reported on the Pancake Breakfast held on Memorial Day weekend. About \$2600 was raised by donations. He requested that the Township Board authorize purchase of new helmets that had been approved as part of this year's budget. Motion by EK to purchase new helmets at a cost not to exceed \$5200. Second-RC, motion carries.

Old Business-

Energy Grant-a mandatory meeting for participation in the program will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 3:00. RC said he would check to see if he would be available.

New Business-

Commissioner Hehl addressed the board regarding the proposed combination of the Ottawa County Clerk's office with the Register of Deeds office. He would like JR to provide a written detail of the services provided by the County Clerk to the Township for management of elections or other functions. He cited budget concerns as the reason he supported the combination. JR will provide the information, but was concerned that the combination would not actually provide the projected savings and would result in a loss of critical services and increased costs for the Township.

Memorial Day-responsibility for organizing the Memorial Day Parade was discussed. As it is an American Legion function, the Township will assist the Legion, but it is their responsibility to manage the activities.

Horse Manure-additional complaints have been received about horses being ridden on residential streets in Conklin and leaving a mess. A letter will be sent to the horse owner who is most often seen riding and ask their assistance in preventing the problems. No ordinance revisions will be done at this time.

Big Springs Cemetery-a complaint was received that the cemetery was not properly being maintained and that it was not easily accessible. The board determined that because this cemetery was not visited frequently, mowing less often was appropriate. The Township has provided legal access and a small parking area so that it can be reached on foot. At this time, there is no additional money to put in a driveway.

Memorial Headstones-four headstones have been provided by the federal government for the graves of Civil War veterans that were not properly marked through a group called the "Pillars of Honor". The township will arrange to have them placed on the graves.

Sewer Report-providing information to the customers on the financial status of the Conklin sewer system was discussed. Fees are not covering costs and the system is operating at a deficit. Keeping the residents informed is especially difficult due to information the Township is not being given by Ottawa County.

Mechanical Inspector-motion by TG to authorize Ted Shepardson as a mechanical and plumbing inspector and a plan reviewer. This will be done to provide coverage for vacations, under the contract with Imperial Municipal Services. Second-JR, motion carries.

Road Commission Meeting-DB will represent the Township Board at the meeting on Tuesday, June 22nd.

Escrow Funds-there was a discussion of charges being made to escrow funds, specifically those connected

with mining operations. JR asked that the rest of the board be involved in determining the amounts to be charged. A review process will be set up. It was also noted that Van's Contracting has not made payments on the amount owed. Use of the irrevocable letter of credit may be required to get the money before they cease operations on August 1.

Board Member Discussion-

Land divisions-some changes to the land division special use procedures are being discussed at the Planning Commission and TG wanted to know how the Board felt about the issue as he is the Board Representative to the commission. The consensus was that some changes could be considered that would allow some flexibility for land owners and still preserve farm land.

Zoning Administration-Board members discussed the increased work load for zoning and planning administration. RC has been acting as Zoning Administrator, but as his office hours are limited, other staff has been filling in. RC stated he will commit to putting in additional time at the office.

Announcements-

The Election Commission will meet just prior to the next Board meeting on Monday, July 12 at 6:55 p.m. A newsletter will be prepared for distribution in early July. Information on the primary election on August 3rd will be included.

The auditor plans to present the audit at the July meeting.

Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. by DB. Second-TG, motion carries.

Janice Redding

Chester Township Clerk

(Any document referenced in these minutes is on file in the Clerk's office)