

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting
August 14th, 2024 6:30 pm | Township Hall

- A. Call to Order @ 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Braman
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by Clerk Honn
- C. Roll Call Attendance (all present)- Braman, Honn, Behnke, Feirick, Glynn
Other members present: Captain Johnson, Joe Moore, and members of the public.
- D. Approval of Agenda was motioned by Feirick/Glynn, however Honn & Behnke wished to amend agenda. Honn added a correction to the totals of Bills & Claims, Behnke added 2 new motions (9 & 10) – Amended Agenda was approved by roll call vote as follows:
Yes- (5) Feirick, Glynn, Behnke, Honn, Braman
No- (0) none
- E. Call for Public Comment was open and Bruce Nevins requested the board give more detail on the motion concerning the Indian Lake sewer lift stations. No other comments were presented.
- F. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (Motions 1 &2) motioned by Supervisor Braman, supported by Clerk Honn, passed with a roll call vote as follows:
Yes- (5) Braman, Feirick, Glynn, Behnke, Honn
No- (0) none
 1. Approval of minutes from July 10th regular meeting
 2. Approval of bills & claims totaling \$ 121,131.98
 - a. General Fund \$ 95,277.22
 - b. Building Dept Fund \$ 12,675.69
 - c. Indian Lake Sewer Fund totaling \$ 11,571.07
 - d. Public Safety Fund totaling \$ 1,608.00
- G. Reports to the Board
 - a. Clerk Honn reported on voter turnout for the August Primary was just under 26% and informed the board of the issues that occurred that day. She provided quotes for new election equipment and will seek approval at the next meeting for a decision on purchasing.
 - b. Communications- The board briefly discussed a communication sent from a taxpayer requesting postage paid on return envelopes. Clerk Honn reported that this would cost over \$7,000 and Supervisor Braman had stated he talked with other townships and this is not something they provide either. There was also a letter received from Dowagiac Connected in support of the Pickleball Courts proposed at Russom.

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting

August 14th, 2024 6:30 pm | Township Hall

H. Public Safety Updates/Discussions

- a. Police/Fire/Ambulance: Captain Johnson reported on successful recruitment and training occurring within the Cass County Sheriff's Office and gave some updates on the recent thefts in the area.
- b. Building, Zoning & Blight – no discussion

I. Commissions & Board reports

- a. Parks & Recreation/Russom Park- the board discussed some of the bids presented for review. Trustee Glynn noted that although they obtained the quotes, the Russom Board did not meet quorum at their last meeting and therefore unable to recommend one quote over the other. Trustee Glynn mentioned that the parking lot sealing was not in this year's budget, but that one of the quotes were willing to work with us on payment. The brush cutting had 2 quotes and would be split 50/50 with the city if we were to move forward with the bids. Clerk Honn offered a special appropriation for the parking lot if they felt it was required this year as the interest on the capital account would bring in almost \$8,000 this year and was willing to type up the papers if needed. Glynn reiterated that due to the lack of quorum, he really could not speak on the Russom Park Board's recommendation and believed that this could wait. Joe Moore was also present and was in agreement with what Trustee Glynn was saying.
- b. Planning Commission – still accepting bids for the Master Plan, extended the deadlines for FRPs to be turned in
- c. Sewer Board – met on August 8th and requested the board to make some decisions as outlined in motions 7 & 8. Supervisor Braman asked that we move Sewer discussions to later in the meeting where the motions occur.

J. Motions:

- 3. Motion CARRIED to approve Road Sign quote in the amount of \$1,100 (4x\$275each)
Discussion: Board discussed that this was a Speed Limit sign for a public road that was requested by several constituents and on the advisement of Joe Bellina, we should install 4 signs warning the 25mph off of M152- Currans Beach Rd.
Moved by Honn, supported by Glynn, passed with a roll call vote as follows:
Yes- (5) Glynn, Behnke, Honn, Braman, Feirick
No- (0) none
- 4. Motion CARRIED to approve Budget Amendment (JE#208) for Fund 205, increasing revenue and expenditure by \$10,000 to account for Fire Equipment grant

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting
August 14th, 2024 6:30 pm | Township Hall**

Moved by Behnke, supported by Honn, passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (5) Behnke, Honn, Braman, Feirick, Glynn

No- (0) none

5. Motion CARRIED to advance draft Short-Term Rental ordinance for the attorney’s guidance

Moved by Glynn, supported by Feirick, passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (5) Honn, Braman, Feirick, Glynn, Behnke

No- (0) none

6. Motion was TABLED to schedule Hunt Drive proposed Special Hearing for March

Discussion: although there were signatures obtained, no bids were received, and the materials and wants were still undecided by the homeowners –the board did not want to consider it until more information is provided with the request

Moved by Feirick, supported by Honn; TABLE the motion introduced by Honn, supported by Behnke passed with a voice call vote. All AYES, no objections.

7. Motion DID NOT CARRY to approve SLAUA to hire Wightman Associates to determine current replacement costs for all Indian Lake Sewer lift stations, cost not to exceed \$30,000

Discussion: The board asked Joe Moore to clarify on the request to “approve SLAUA to hire Wightman Associates to determine current replacement costs for all Indian Lake Sewer lift stations, cost not to exceed \$30,000” Joe Moore stated that this is to determine if there is sufficient insurance coverage to cover replacement costs for the lifts specifically located in the Indian Lake Sewer lines. Trustee Glynn questioned the expense as Wightman had done a similar study a few years back when they received the SAW grant and wondered if they could use that study. Supervisor Braman and Clerk Honn had discussed that if it was just about insurance coverage, that they had met with the insurance agent shortly after the SLAUA lift failure to re-evaluate the ILS coverage and felt that they had sufficient coverage after they had increased their plan last year.

Moved by Honn, supported by Behnke, did not pass, roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (0)

No- (5) Honn, Braman, Feirick, Glynn, Behnke

8. Motion CARRIED to approve SLAUA to engage City of Dowagiac to conduct fog testing of Indian Lake Sewer, as needed, to be billed directly.

Discussion: this is to ensure no residents are illegally hooking their gutters to sewer.

Moved by Behnke, supported by Honn, passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (5) Feirick, Glynn, Behnke, Honn, Braman

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting
August 14th, 2024 6:30 pm | Township Hall

No- (0) none

9. Motion CARRIED to delay the escheatment process for Indian Lake Weed checks.

Discussion: Behnke had not escheated them yet and wanted to re-issue the checks on the advice of the accountant giving the residents another chance to collect their refund. Honn suggested putting a “void after 180 days” stipulation on them.

Moved by Behnke, supported by Glynn, passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (5) Glynn, Behnke, Honn, Braman, Feirick

No- (0) none

10. Motion CARRIED to purchase a 2-drawer fire file cabinet up to \$1200

Discussion: Behnke requested a fire file cabinet. Honn offered a 4 drawer one that was available. The 2 drawer is requested due to size and wanting to place printer above so it was not accepted. No quotes were offered. Board set the cap at \$1200.

Moved by Behnke, supported by Feirick, passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Yes- (5) Braman, Feirick, Glynn, Behnke, Honn

No- (0) none

- K.** Call for Public Comment was open at 7:34pm – Phil Nevins suggested to the board to have their attorney look at the short-term ordinance St Joseph has when reviewing ours as it is well written and held up in court.

- L.** Motion to Adjourn at 7:35pm was motioned by Behnke, supported by Feirick and passed by voice count with unanimous support.

Next meeting will be September 11th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Public Hearing for Weed Special Assessment Districts (Magician Lake, Dewey Lake, & Little Crooked Lake) and the regular meeting immediately following

Jessica Honn, Clerk

Mick Braman, Supervisor