

Gun Plain Township

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 3, 2012

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by supervisor Vandenberg at 7:00 pm. The following board members were present Corbin, Kopka, Moerman, Meert, Vandenberg, Pearson and Morrison.

The pledge was recited.

Approximately 15 guests were present.

Minutes

Corbin motioned to approve the minutes with one correction (under arriving Bronco Sealing Bid note that there were three other bids) Kopka seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Kopka motioned to approve the agenda with one addition new building project. Morrison seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Meert presented the board with a list of checks written for the month of April 2012 and a list of the enterprise funds. Pearson motioned to accept the report as presented. Morrison seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Morrison reported that the 5/3rd checking account balance was \$1,251,841.08, the 5/3rd CD was \$37,605.03 and the Raymond James Investments was \$235,486.46. Pearson motioned to accept the report. Moerman seconded. Motion carried.

Open to the Public /none

New Business

PNC Bank / not present

Chemical Bank

Chemical Bank was present to do a presentation of what their bank could offer compared to our current banking institution. Chemical has a courier service and could save the township on monthly fees that could generate a saving of up to \$600.00 to \$800.00 a month. The board will make a final decision at the June 7, 2012 meeting.

Building Addition Project

The new addition to the existing building for a larger vault and more storage area was supposed to go on the north end of the township hall, however when Miss Dig staked the utilities a large problem was discovered, all of the services would have to be moved, this would like tens of thousands of dollars. The committee then looked into another way to add the storage and new vault, this would also add additional space to the hall area where elections are held, and the room would be approximately 20 feet longer. Vandenberg suggested that we spend \$500.00 to have Larry Bishop to redraw the RFP to see if the new area would work for the new addition. Corbin motioned to spend up to \$500.00 to redesign the drawings for reconsideration. Kopka seconded. Corbin also stated that he would also want this job rebid. Kopka agreed. Motion carried.

Old Business

106th Ave Dumping/MDOT

At the April 19, 2012 meeting with MDOT they agreed to split the cost with the township to do sampling of the soil dumped at the 106th Ave. area. On Monday April 30, 2012 Jason Latham asked for a meeting with the clerk and supervisor and expressed to them that MSOT would be willing to pay for the testing of the soil, however for PCB only. Jason asked if the board would be content with the testing of PCB only. Vandenberg and Meert stated that they would not speak for the board. They told Latham that they would take his proposal to the board at our next regular meeting which will be held on May 3, 2012. Vandenberg explained the meeting to the board and asked for direction from the board, However since the meeting on Monday Jason (MDOT) emailed Vandenberg and requested that the following be reads into public record prior to Township Board action regarding soil testing at the 106th Ave. interchange.

The following is Jason Latham statement read by supervisor Vandenberg as requested by Mr. Latham to be read and written into the minutes.

MDOT first would like to sincerely apologize, again, for the failure to communicate with the Township officials and residents regarding the relocation of soil material from the M-222 reconstruction and slope stabilization project to the 106th Avenue interchange. MDOT recognizes Gun Plain Township officials have been vigilant in their efforts to residents informed and should not be blamed for the initial lack of involvement by MDOT to provide clear and informative updates on the project.

MDOT has preformed all necessary soil testing for the M-222 project along the Kalamazoo River and received approval from the DEQ to place excavated soil material at the 106th Ave. interchange. The following three tests were performed.

1. Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) – 15 samples: Due diligence and due to care were taken to determine the only contaminate which may be within MDOT's project limits was PCB. The test results showed no PCB contamination and the soil material is clean and safe to be moved to the 106th Ave. interchange.

2. Geotechnical analysis – 4 samples: Following standard lab procedures, MDOT geotechnical engineers tested for PCB's, Michigan Metals and VOC's. All four samples came back showing the soil material was again considered safe to be moved to the 106th Ave. interchange. The Michigan metals detected are naturally occurring and were found to be well below levels considered safe for drinking water.
3. Landfill test – 2 samples: The geotextile liner was tested for PCB's and found to be clean.

The DEQ has confirmed on several occasions that the material is clean and MDOT has done more than required to determine the soil material was safe to be moved. It is unfortunate a few individuals choose to ignore the facts and continue to demand further testing be performed. There are many state officials and consultants who have their professional licensure and/or credentials on the line every day to ensure MDOT follows standards and procedures for the benefit of all Michigan residents.

MDOT is not in favor of a fourth test to demonstrate the soil material is safe when overwhelming data, that clearly supports the same, already has been documented.

I also included the test results for your files. Thanks again Jason.

Vandenberg reported that the cost for the sampling from our engineer Prein and Newhoff is approximately \$8700.00. Kopka state that he would suggest that MDOT pay \$8000.00 and the township would pay \$700.00. the board is interested in going ahead with testing for both PCB's and metals, if MDOT refuses to work with the township and will not pay for the testing of the soil, the board would like to move forward with a hearing with the Transportation Department in Lansing Michigan.

Monthly Reports

Warnement reported that the fire department responded to eight calls for the month of April 2012.

Deputy Bronson gave a report on April 2012 police activities.

Sewer/Water none

Ordinance Enforcement/ none

Resolution for 106th Ave.

Corbin motioned to request MDOT put the 106th Ave. on their five year plan for on and off ramps. Moerman seconded. Corbin yes, Kopka yes, Meert yes, Moerman yes, Pearson yes, Morrison yes and Vandenberg yes. Motion carried.

Open to the Public

Larry (Casey) Jones updated the township board and guests on Allegan County activities.

Jerod Renkus announced that he is running for Allegan County Clerk. Vandenberg asked if he had ever worked an election and he stated that he had not.

Adjournment

Vandenberg motioned to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Kopka seconded. Motion carried.