

**LONDON TOWNSHIP**

**Board Meeting**

**November 12, 2018**

**Minutes**

This meeting was called to order by Supervisor Taepke at 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Gary Taepke – Present, Treasurer Melissa Beauchamp – Present, Clerk Lisa Marie Francis – Present, Trustee Richard Horn – Present, Trustee Roger Werstein – Present

**Approval of Agenda:**

Supervisor Gary Taepke made additions to the agenda: 2<sup>nd</sup> page Deputy Clerk computer added, and on #6 add snowplow.

**Motion by** Supervisor Taepke and seconded by Treasurer Beauchamp to accept the agenda as amended.

**1st Citizen Time:**

Resident expressed concern about a pond of his that he is trying to fill in and asked if the Supervisor has received an October 16<sup>th</sup> email from him in this regard. Resident is trying to take care of this issue in timely fashion. Supervisor can not comment until he reviews the email and will be in contact with resident at that time.

Concern expressed about the lack of lighting on the building. Arrangements have been made to get one more quote on all lights on the north side of the building.

Regarding concerns for township fire millage since both millages were voted down. Suggested revisiting emergency services cost recovery act which is the ability to charge residents' homeowners' insurance for fire runs and emergency runs to cover this gap. Resident also stated that regarding the road millage that agriculture will pay much of that. He suggests that special assessments be done to cover road costs. Suggesting that this is another means for cover fire/emergency coverage needs.

**Approval of the Minutes: October 8, 2018 -**

**Motion by** Treasurer Beauchamp and seconded by Clerk Francis to approve October 8, 2018 minutes.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**Supervisors Report:**

This is Trustee Rich Horn's last meeting. We're sorry to see Rich go. Penny will be taking his seat and we welcome Penny to the Board. Transition should be smooth.

Discussed an idea of Amanda's in an effort to get these meetings to the public, to people who can't make it so they can feel more involved hopefully next month. We could live stream Board of Trustee meetings on Facebook and then residents can use Facebook to observe meetings in real time or even afterwards. There will be no cost attached to this, we're using all of our own equipment.

**Motion by** Melissa Beauchamp, seconded by Richard Horn to approve Supervisor's Report. Motion carried 5-0.

**Treasurer's Report:**

As of now our water assessment debt is completely paid off and the Collingwood Estates is no longer responsible for their water debt amount. In the water account there is \$45,246.67. There are 82 parcels in Collingwood Estates. This results in \$551.79 to eligible Collingwood Estates residents

**Clerk Report:**

A thank you to all the election workers for the November 6 election. The number of ballots totaled 1,318. A tape from the election generated by the tabulator is posted on the board. Kevin Heath was my Deputy. He came on to assist temporarily. His replacement is Therese Richmond who lives in our township. Therese Richmond is welcomed and is starting the week after Thanksgiving. She will have office hours on Tuesdays from 10 to 3. Also, our jurisdiction was not one picked to be audited.

**Building Department Report:**

Stacy is back in the Building Department and she has provided the missing permit list:

July	13 permits pulled for a total of	\$3,116.28
Aug	15 permits pulled for a total of	\$3,437.84
Sept	7 permits pulled for a total of	\$1,531.00
Oct	25 permits pulled for a total of	\$4,209.36

**Planning Commission Report:**

No report, no meeting held.

**Reading of Monthly Disbursements**

**Motion by** Supervisor Taepke and seconded by Clerk Francis to approve the disbursements from the General Fund.

**Totaling: \$29,572.97**

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-yes, Clerk Francis-yes, Trustee Werstein-yes, Trustee Horn-yes

**Sewer Fund:**

Noted that Sewer expense was \$6,468.00. It's not normally that large, usually half that but this is for two months as per Jean from the Drain Commission. She reworked the calendars for two years and this has just been received. This bill is for September and October.

Motion by Supervisor Taepke and seconded by Trustee Horn to approve the disbursements from the Sewer Fund

**Totaling: \$6,468.00**

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-yes, Clerk Francis-yes, Trustee Werstein-yes, Trustee Horn-yes

**Water Fund:**

This goes off the agenda forever now.

**Grand Total from the General Fund and Sewer Fund: \$36,040.97**

**Old Business:**

Regarding paper recycle bin. This is through Integrative Services. We need the Board's approval in writing to get the bin set up. There is no charge for this service. This is for paper only. Residents can come to the township and drop off their paper – not cardboard. Working on getting a second bin for more than just paper. More information will be coming in December's meeting. Magazines are okay.

**Motion by** Supervisor Taepke, seconded by Treasurer Beauchamp to place recycle bin.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-yes, Clerk Francis-yes, Trustee Werstein-yes, Trustee Horn-yes

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**New Business:**

Refund already explained regarding the Collingwood Estates. \$551.79 per parcel approved to disperse. There are 82 parcels.

Fire Millage. As all are aware both millages did not pass, which included the 1 mill increase and the renewal. Most municipalities pay for their fire service through millages. We have no source of income

for our fire protection at this time. We have a school election on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Supervisor would like to ask the Board to put it back on the ballot. Supervisor Taepke stated that it likely failed for a couple of reasons: The recall, the ballot was huge and the fire vote was at the end. The fire millage is critical, it is 40% of our budget. We can't absorb that expense, we don't have the money for it. Fire Chief Stevens is here tonight from Milan Department to explain the importance of protection and funding. Both departments that cover London Township spend a lot of time seeking grants to help cover costs. They are aware that all dollars are hard earned and to come by.

Fire Chief Mike Stevens: Milan has been fortunate to receive many grants in the past which touches some of the equipment. So far this year we've run approximately 100 calls and the year is not over. I applaud the Board for trying to get the millage on the next ballot. If you have any questions about what we do for the township, please ask.

Resident asked what if the millage doesn't pass, what then? The response was that the fire department doesn't bill the residents, we send all our expenses to the Townships. A millage is the best. Treasurer Beauchamp states that we do have a system to bill those who don't live in the township. Supervisor Taepke stated that it's still a small portion of the whole bill. Supervisor Taepke stated he is looking at developing a special assessment for the entire township. We would have to charge by the parcel which would be added to the taxes. We don't have a choice.

Referring to the voting result, the Renewal lost by 58 votes and the added Millage lost by 51 votes.

Concern was expressed that residents are paying for those who don't live in the township. The response was that we are sending bills but it's difficult to collect.

Supervisor Taepke we couldn't afford our own department. It costs \$200,000 a year. But we cost share with several municipalities. The current millage ends March 31, 2019. Winter taxes will be the last one covering fire service. Our existing millage only covers half of the fire expense and its been that way for years. We've been using General Funds for the balance.

Supervisor Taepke stated that we also have other expenses like the Sandy Creek Assessment that come due next year. Its \$35,000 and there is nothing in the budget to cover that if we're spending it all to cover fire millages. The two millages didn't lose by much and if they go back on the ballot, they'll likely pass. The voters have to decide. Resident commented that it's failed twice, this will be the third effort, how many times do we do this? Supervisor responded that then we vote on a special assessment millage or let the county takeover which would cost residents more. We need 2 mil to cover the fire expense. A huge part of the problem was the wording – one was for protection and the other was for equipment. It costs nothing to put it on the ballot. Information will be put in with the winter tax bill

detailing the need. Resident stated that her taxes are escrowed and how does she get a breakdown. Treasurer Beauchamp stated that a request can be made to her office for a statement.

**Motion by** Treasurer Beauchamp seconded by Supervisor Taepke to put the London Township Fire Protection on the ballot for 2 mil.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-Yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-Yes, Clerk Francis-Yes, Trustee Werstein-Yes, Trustee Horn-Yes

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**Supervisor Computer / Deputy Clerk Computer:**

Three months ago, the deputy clerk did get a new computer. But since that time the assessor's computer died and the assessor got the deputy clerk's computer. A quote received for \$1,029 each. This is the best, the cheapest quote available. It comes with all the software needed and with a three-year warranty.

Motion by Supervisor Taepke, seconded by Treasurer Beauchamp to approve the purchase of two computers.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-Yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-Yes, Clerk Francis-Yes, Trustee Werstein-yes, Trustee Horn-Yes

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**2018-11 Employee Wage Resolution:**

There are no wage changes just wording changes. It includes the Co-Chair to be listed under election workers and the Sexton is now included. The Sexton had always been paid \$15 per hour but now is on the list. So now the Co-Chair and the Cemetery Sexton are officially listed in black and white so it is clear. Resolution 2018-11 is adopted.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-Yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-Yes, Clerk Francis-Yes, Trustee Werstein-Yes, Trustee Horn-Yes

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**Snow Plowing:**

We want an ad placed in paper to hire a snow plower (last year it was \$70 per event and salt was \$.30/lb.

Motion by Supervisor Taepke seconded by Treasurer Beauchamp to place the ad.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Taepke-Yes, Treasurer Beauchamp-Yes, Clerk Francis-Yes, Trustee Werstein-Yes, Trustee Horn-Yes

**Motion Carried 5-0**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Citizen's Time:**

Resident has attended the Annual and District Watershed Meetings just for our half (for the River Raisin). When asked if we'll be getting new maps, she will ask about it. She was asked who takes care of the Saline River near Bigelow Rd since its filling up with downed trees. It was stated that volunteers do that work.

An update on the ground water situation is being researched. It has not costing anything as this point. Supervisor Taepke is exploring the least expensive way to get quality water for the township. He is looking for rough costs and then will be looking for grants to help. Concern expressed for the costs of all expenses but it won't happen without going to a vote. Concern expressed again about the millage going up.

Asked when the last raise to the Board, answer is in 2009.

**Motion to adjourn** by Supervisor Taepke and seconded by Treasurer Beauchamp.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm.