

March 20, 2009

A regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were 15 public attendees. A motion by Takala, supported by Dalpra to approve the minutes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Special meetings on March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to approve the agenda with corrections. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS : JEFF BAL

Lesandrini stated that the Township had sent out letters to all the residents that would be affected by the sewer projects, inviting them to attend this Board meeting. Bal stated that presently, residents in the Tobin Location have septic tanks on their properties. Bal stated that 4 or 5 months ago a preliminarily engineering planning grant application was submitted. Basically that grant application was to get money from Rural Development to pay the Township to have a study done to see if replacing the septic with a new sewer would be feasible. Bal also stated not to wait for that preliminarily plan- o- gram application, submit something now because the Township might get grant consideration. Bal stated that if the study determines the Township should move forward with the project, there are a number of funding options available, including Rural Development loans, special assessments and perhaps stimulus grants. Bal stated that they are offering up to 75% if your sewer bill is over \$30.00 a month and more than 1.25% of the average medium household income level as reported by the 2007 census report.

Steve Tinti, Township Attorney noted the connection costs are a major concern to residents, but most of the systems in that area are old and substandard. Tinti stated that the Township has already invested tens of thousands of dollars up in the Tobin location preparing for sewers, and the residents should already know that. Tinti stated that what seems today to be more economical course could be exact opposite long term. Lesandrini stated that the board will make the plan and proposed costs available to the public once it has been completed. It was noted that of the 15 public attendees, 7 voiced their opinion that they were NOT in favor of the sewer project. After further discussion, Dalpra stated that the planning grant study was approved last year, and that the board should at least go ahead with that. Board agreed. Dalpra also stated that we need to get more response from the residents in the Tobin Location.

#### WELL HEAD – DIANE KUT:

Kut stated that there was a Wellhead meeting last Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. She stated that Chuck Thomas gave a very good informational presentation on the Wellhead. She also stated that the Wellhead signs are in and waiting for them to be installed. Brochures were given to the Iron County Chamber, and Jay Barry had the trivia on the radio last week. The website has been updated, and Terry has added a lot of information to it also. Kut stated that there are three items pending, which are the contingency plan, which needs to be detailed more, the call center is still being considered, along with the Township attorney working on the ordinance and finally what the Township would like to do as far as implementing procedures and address the potential contaminated sites.

#### TAX COLLECTIONS – MARY DALPRA:

Dalpra stated that the tax collection closed on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$ 91, 044.48 in delinquency was turned over to the county treasurer. Dalpra stated that the escrow company, Citi Mortgage, failed to make about \$9,000.00 in escrowed tax payments. Dalpra noted that those property owners will be receiving a delinquency notice from the county. Dalpra stated that she would try to resolve the matter before then.

#### MDOT 2010 HWY US 2 PROJECT AND WALKING PATH UPDATE – TOM L.:

Lesandrini stated that there will be an M-Dot meeting at the Township hall on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. discussing proposals for a walking path, sidewalks and realigning some business entrances.

#### ELECTIVE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES:

Lesandrini stated during February's meeting the salaries for 2 board members were set for the year, and he had learned that they were done improperly. Clerk Joanne Seppala and Treasurer Mary Dalpra each requested raises and the request were acted on in one motion. Motion by Kut supported by Dalpra to approve the increase of 3.5 cost of living in the amount of \$455.00 for Clerk Joanne Seppala. Roll call was taken. Takala no, Dalpra yes, Kut yes, Seppala, yes and Lesandrini no. Motion carried. Motion by Dalpra, supported by Takala to approve the 3.5 cost of living raise of \$420.00 along with the \$1,080 for her added tax processing duties. Roll call was taken. Takala yes, Dalpra yes, Kut no, Seppala no and Lesandrini yes. Seppala stated that her decision was not based on Mary's work performance. She stated that she respected both Mary as a person and also her work for the Township as Treasurer. Kut and Seppala both stated that they did not think that they were given enough information to justify the increase for the work being done during the year.

#### WEBSITE:

Lesandrini suggested to the Township residents to check out the website at [crystalfalltownship.org](http://crystalfalltownship.org) to see all of the updates. Visitors to the site will find information and updates regarding zoning, wellhead protection, sewer issues, annual audits and the Township's recycling program.

#### PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN'S REPORT – TERRY ALEXA:

Monthly bacti water samples were collected from the Lind and Townline systems and sent to the State in Houghton for testing. All samples met the DEQ's standard requirement.

Monthly water usage reports were sent to the MI DEQ and City water Department.

The ceiling in the Township Hall was painted along with some touch up work on the stage area.

Fire hydrants were plowed and shoveled open for access to the Fire Department.

A water service under M-69 was thawed.

All 630 Township water meters were read using the auto radio read.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to approve the Public Works Foreman's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### 2009 TAX RATE REQUEST:

Lesandrini stated that the Township is permitted to levy four mills, but we are currently only collecting three mills, which generates \$269,169.00. It also collects two mills for fire protection raising \$178,764.00. The county allocation of 1.1422 mills raises \$102,481.00. Lesandrini stated that the taxable value of the Township is \$89,723,153.00, which is the largest tax value in the county. Lesandrini recommended to the board to stay at the millage for operating at 3 mills and to reduce the Fire Protection millage to 1.75 mills.

Motion by Takala, supported by Dalpra to approve the 3 mills and the 1.75 millage for the Fire Department. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### CRYSTAL FALLS ZONING PROPOSAL RATES DIANE KUT:

The board was presented with a proposal rate for the modification of the fee structure from the Zoning and Planning Board. Kut stated that the Zoning Board felt that they should try to re-consider some of the fees that were established and try to keep the most common fees that our residents use to a cost as to where we are presently at. Kut stated that they went back to the Planning Board and the Planning Board agreed that that should be the direction that should be followed. Kut stated that the board increased the Variance application from \$150.00 to \$250.00 and the Special Land Use permit to \$300.00 to cover administration, meetings and notice costs. Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to approve the resolution for the modification of the fee structure of the existing zoning ordinance # 26. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### RECREATION PLANS WITH THE CITY OF CRYSTAL – TOM L.:

Lesandrini stated that he had met with Chuck Nordeman regarding combining recreational projects such as Runkle Lake Park and the Crystella Ski hill. Lesandrini stated that they will be looking at a joint recreation plan, and joint grant projects.

#### RE-APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD MEMBER TERM:

Lesandrini noted that he had received an email from Bev Camp pertaining to Ken West's term on the Zoning & Planning Board. Also, Ken had sent an email stating that he would be interested in serving another 3 year term. Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to approve Ken West serving a three year term on the Zoning and Planning Board with the term expiring in 2012. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS:

Lesandrini stated that an ad will continue to run in the Reporter for 2 alternates for the Zoning Board of Appeals until both positions are filled.

#### SERVICE CONTRACT (PRINTING OF SUMMER TAX BILLS FOR F.P. SCHOOL DISTRICT:

A contract with the Forest Park school district was submitted to each board member concerning summer tax processing. The Township had proposed to prepare, print, fold and deliver the tax bills to the school, who would then mail them out and collect the taxes. The school would charge for the materials used. Forest Park revised the one year to three years at a cost of \$750.00. Lesandrini stated that he was concerned with the contract because they don't know the future costs for the materials. Steve Tinti, attorney for the Township suggested the Board strike the words 'township is the controlling entity' and omit '2010 and 2011' from the contract and return the contract to the school. Motion by Dalpra supported by Kut to strike the words 'township is the controlling entity;' and omit '2010 and 2011 from the contract. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### CLOSING DATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK:

Tinti stated that the current owners have asked to extend the date at which the period would run because of road conditions and a generation full of items from the property. Tinti recommended that it would be in reasonable order to authorize up to 90 days extension. Motion by Takala, supported by Dalpra to approve up to 90 days extension. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Lesandrini noted that on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. the board will hold a budget hearing, at which time budget amendments will be reviewed. Following, will be the State of the Township. Refreshments will be served.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Takala to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. and proceed into Executive session to discuss litigation on opinion of council. All ayes. Motion carried .

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to reconvene the regular board meeting at 6:20 p.m. Roll call was taken. All ayes.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to pay the EFT's in the amount of \$738.00, the monthly invoices in the amount of \$24,234.79 and prepaid in the amount of \$23,447.90 with a total of \$48,420.69. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Takala adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk