

August 24, 2010

A special meeting was held on Monday, August 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were approximately 26 public residents in attendance.

Motion by Kut, supported by Dalpra to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss fire millage, AECOM contacts and M-Dot.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Charlie Sandstrom stated that he wanted to make a correction. The budget discussed at the last meeting was a nine month budget and I was referring to a yearly budget. It would be closer to \$156,000.00 stated Sandstrom. Lesandrini corrected and said that it was \$144,000.00.

Al Gregg presented a copy of an ad from the Reporter. Gregg asked the board if they had seen this ad. It is a comment from the concerned citizens of Crystal Falls Township. It is all about the issues that are being discussed, stated Gregg. We went to the polls, did everything that we were suppose to do and said no, and this board is going to sit here at another meeting discuss pushing this millage out there. Shame on you, stated Gregg, because the next thing I see in line, would be a re-call of this entire board depending upon the vote. Gregg stated that if you can't work for the citizens of this community, get out.

Gary Bierrum stated that Nylund, Olson and Sartori made a good case last week for not cutting their department. If the City cannot uphold their half, why are we paying \$950.00 a month rent for their facility? Shouldn't it be more like \$1.00.

Norb Dishaw stated that he thought the decision of the operational millage was a victim of the fire millage. Both of them on the same ballot would be a big mistake, stated Dishaw. Dishaw noted that his thought was also the City should pay their share of the fire protection. Whatever the township pays the City should contribute the same amount. :

Scott Kenney stated that emotions were running high last week at the meeting. He stated that he would like to offer to the township, if the township is still planning on running a fire millage, at no charge to the township to put together some facts. I heard fireman say they responded faster than West Iron. I heard comments about grant writing and maintenance of the equipment. What are we, the fire districts (City and Township) receiving by having 2 full-time drivers that we would not receive if we went all volunteer. Kenney stated that he was an advocate for all volunteer fire department, but I want to put the facts out to the public so when we are able to look at it and measure the various things that we have, one versus the other, than we can make an informed decision rather than an emotional decision. I think that will help everyone if all the facts are out there, and I think that reasonable people will come to a common ground as far as decision making goes once they have all the facts. There were several issues brought up at the last meeting. Maintaining the equipment, preparation of the fire truck and how would those things happen if you have an all volunteer fire department? We know today, this falls onto the full-time drivers.

Lesandrini stated that he did receive the information from Mary, but did not act on it because that information is usually FOIA. Board members discussed this further and it was decided that they would be in favor of Kenney putting together the information and that John Ahola be the contact person for Kenney. Lesandrini stated he would e-mail him to let him know that Kenney would be in touch.

#### FIRE MILLAGE:

Lesandrini stated that there was a conflict with one of the trustee being able to vote. Lesandrini stated that he spoke with a lawyer from MTA and they stated that the trustee/fire fighter could and should vote on the questions. Tinti stated that he stands behind his decision. The trustee can not vote on the issue. Takala stated that he had also spoken with the MTA today, and they told him basically the same thing, that the board could vote on it or as a trustee Takala could make that decision. They have not heard of the case that Tinti was referring to stated Takala and MTA does not see any problem with townships less than 25,000. Right now, stated Takala there is a person on both Mastodon and Hemitate townships that sits on the board, who are also volunteers. Tinti stated that his advise remains the same. The board asked

for my opinion and you are aware of the consequences stated Tinti. If you decide to proceed without the benefit of taking seriously that advice, you live with the consequences. Dalpra stated in light of last week's meeting she would be in favor of putting the fire millage for February. Seppala stated that she had spoken with Joan and she said the February election would be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, which is the 22<sup>nd</sup> and she (Seppala) would be out of town during that time. After further discussion by board, it was decided to look into May. Lesandrini stated that he would prefer to have the fire millage run with the operating in November. Motion by Kut supported by Dalpra to table the fire millage to the next regular meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Takala abstained from the vote.

#### AECOM CONTRACT:

Lesandrini stated he had turned the contracts over to Mr. Tinti. Tinti stated that basically he was provided with 3 contracts. My recommendation to the board is to ask AECOM to voluntarily terminate. We are obligated to pay them through what work they have completed, stated Tinti. We cannot unilaterally terminate them but we can negotiate termination. A motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to have Tinti negotiate terminating the contract. Tinti suggested adding to that motion, the negotiation of termination that requires the township to pay whatever has been performed by AECOM and that we authorize the Supervisor to execute such documents so we don't have to call a special meeting. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### M-DOT:

Lesandrini stated that this document was given to him today. This is regards to sidewalks on the north side of U.S. 2, because there is an issue with the walking path where it crossed from the Clinic to Crystal Lumber. There is no handicapped ability to cross the street. After further discussion, Takala stated that he would like to take a look at the site. We need to move on this soon stated Lesandrini. Kut stated we have \$18,000.00 budgeted for sidewalks. Lesandrini stated that this should cost no more than \$15,751.25. Kut asked Takala if he would check out the site and report back to the board. Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk