

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP

Board Meeting

August 21, 2023

This meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hyslop at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll Call: Board Members present: Lynn Gardner, Lee Hyslop, Rosalie Sauser, Kyle Oomen

ABSENT: Catherine Walker

Guests Present: Gary Gardner, Rena Gardner, Dawn Riley, Betty Daily, Michael Duane

Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes: The July 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were presented. **Motion by Sauser and supported by Hyslop to approve last month's minutes. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

Changes to Agenda: Lee wants to add potential for recycle at the transfer station (added to new business).

Citizen Comments: Gary Gardner spoke on shots being heard near his property at dusk. After taking a ride and looking around he found 5 deer shot and left laying out in plain sight where vultures are eating them. He doesn't feel this is right to just shoot these deer and leave them lay. He suggested donating them to the poor or vets or someone who could use the meat for eating. He understands the crop damage issue the deer cause but to be shooting them and leaving them lay just doesn't seem right. Hyslop suggested Gary call the DNR. Gary also suggested allowing hunters to come onto the land to shoot them and take them home. Oomen stated it is a liability and they can't just let anyone on their property shooting guns for safety reasons. Hyslop would like to hear how the DNR addresses the issue.

Hyslop mentioned Betty Daily donated to Crystal Township a three ringed binder with the history of the Crystal Dam which included photographs of the original creek before the dam was put in and the original dam that was washed out. There is some pretty interesting stuff included. Hyslop thanked Betty for her donation.

Letters and Communications: Gardner received a letter from AT&T for signature by the Clerk extend the current METRO ACT Permit which expires December 31, 2023. This new permit will expire December 31st, 2028.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief is not present today. Hyslop stated that during the fire truck tire testing done by Xtreme Tires. He understands that some of the tires were old. Lee was hoping to get some information on that from the Fire Chief. Also mentioned that one of the chrome hubcaps got damaged and is irreplaceable but the price that was quoted by Xtreme Exhaust was ridiculous so Hyslop said they will work out those details when they figure out what's happening with the tires. Hyslop also stated that the Fire Chief stopped in at Hyslop's house on the day of Jack Mustards funeral and Hyslop asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the interior of the Fire Barn, Fire Chief stated that he didn't know so Hyslop is going to assume that role. He noted that there is duct work that is smashed on the east side of the building.

Zoning Report: Ron Smith has been out for medical issues and Hyslop is temporarily taking on that role. 2 zoning permits were written. There was a written report submitted by Ron Smith. Several signs had been removed throughout Crystal Township.

Clerk's Report: Auditor has been working with us on cleaning up our coding in QuickBooks so because of the changes, Gardner will be going back and updating the past records for this year so all codes line up. This makes it more Auditor friendly when he does come in and audit us, it won't be such a confusing report. Hyslop mentioned that Doug (Auditor) is setting us up to meet the GAAS specifications. Because we've had several Clerks over the last couple years, it has been challenging to follow what was done so this will make it much more user friendly and comprehensible.

Review and Pay Bills: August bills were presented in the amount of \$9658.15. **Motion by Gardner and supported by Oomen to ap78approve the payment of claims as presented. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

Approved: 09/18/23

Treasurer's Report: Walker presented the May 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts	Cash Disbursements	Current Balance
\$352,059.03	\$13,115.89	\$15,969.01	\$349,205.91

Supervisor's Report:

- **Farm Road Project:** Hyslop sent the Farm Road Project PowerPoint presentation that was written up by the grant writers to all of the Senators, Representatives and got responses back positively from Curt VanderWall – he will start looking for money. Hyslop will be meeting with a representative in September and driving the farm roads. He has a meeting on Tuesday with USDA and she will be having a meeting with MDOT management. Getting information seems kind of slow but we are making progress so we will continue forward and see how it goes.
- **Blight Grant:** Blight grant is in limbo. One property set for the grant was not recorded properly, paperwork was not done correctly so the ownership of the property is in question. The rest are going forward with the exception of Jack Mustards who had passed away along with his wife so trying to contact the heirs to see if they are interested in going forward.
- **Vandals at Crystal Valley Park:** Hyslop had cameras up and got over 500 photos. With that he caught 4 young people coming there to the park and damaging the bulletin board, power panel and 3 of them bringing rifles into the park. At that time, he contacted the Sherriff. He did find out it is legal to put a camera at the park. He found out that the vandals were being raised by a single grandparent who is now being evicted so they are out of the picture as far as the park goes for now. The vandalism has stopped. But they know now that the park is being watched over.

Old Business:

- **Bank Transfer** is complete and Huntington Bank is now our bank.
- **Hart Public Library:** The board voted some months ago not to continue the contract with the library. The library has been contacting Hyslop asking when the contract was going to be paid. Hyslop's dug into it further and him and Kathleen Rash have had some conversations. She provided a letter from the Department of Educations which states that we do have a responsibility under State of Michigan law 397-511 that libraries must receive state aid money and we have 169 people from Crystal Township that uses the library. We have options of making our own library, go to the Walkerville library or continue to make our payments to the Hart Public Library. Hyslop feels it is a good investment and would like someone to motion to sign the agreement which is good until March of next year and make those contributions of \$1596.00 to the Hart Library. **Motion by Gardner and supported by Oomen to sign the contract and make the payment to Hart Public Library.**
- **Fire Truck Inspection** was completed. It was not as bad as predicted. Hyslop found in a resolution from years ago if tires go bad, we have to get sealed bids on replacements.
- **Dam Update:** The last Oceana County Board meeting approved the James Tiffany payment of \$22,000 for the engineering management and repair of the dam report. The Drain Commissioner and the Deputy Drain Commissioner wrote a formal letter stating they are bowing out of having anything to do with the dam from this point forward. Mr. Tiffany has drafted a letter to Eagle who kindly responded with a timeline of investigative work done and the steps and progress will be to move forward. Hyslop feels it is incredible that we have already gotten action done that hasn't happened since the 1960's.

New Business:

- **Freedom of Information Act:** We had our first request and we have learned some things. We must appoint a Coordinator for the Freedom of Information Act requests. Hyslop offered himself as the Coordinator. **Resolution was initialed for Lee Hyslop to be the FOIA Coordinator made by Oomen and supported by Gardner. Voice vote, Resolution carried.**
- **New Budget/Auditor:** New Auditor has been here several times and has done a lot of work with QuickBooks and working with us on our system and reports. He did give us an estimate that it will cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000 for the work he has done. He has worked with Hyslop, Gardner and Mary Hyslop on the budget and QuickBooks.

Approved: 09/18/23

- **Repair Work / Duct Work:** Hyslop to get bids on fire department duct work needed for improvement repairs.
- **Recycling:** Hyslop has done some investigation into our township using Recycling. He wants to get some input from the public if they are interested or not. He will have some cards made up with a questionnaire if you are interested or not. This will be handed out at the Transfer Station to get a feel for if the township would be interested or not.
- **Solar Farm:** In Montague some farmers put together a social and determined some would like to have Solar Farms. Other citizens are against it and now there is a law suit. So this brings to light that we have not officially for zoning on Solar Farms for our township.
- **Cemetery:** We have a new manager – the Clerk as part of her responsibility is taking this back on and we no longer have a separate manager. Hyslop and Gardner set down with Sexton and Ms. VanSickle who does it for Elbridge Township to help us get a better understanding of what we need to do. We have come up with different pricing and revised the form for the client to make choices and have less of a chance of errors in the pricing. Purchase of one space is increased to \$325 and whole lot to \$2600. Foundation purchase is changed to cost is \$0.25 per square foot. **Motion for approval of cemetery changes was made by Oomen and supported by Hyslop. Voice vote, motion carried.**
- **Mobile Home Zoning Changes:** Hyslop was going to discuss this but wants to table it until next months meeting. Ron Smith and Lee Hyslop are looking at the age of mobile homes are being brought in. So they want to require they meet current codes.
- **Crystal Valley Park Grant:** Hyslop just wants everyone to be aware of where we are at the County Level. He feels we should require a written maintenance schedule from the County for the park improvements and the same for the dam. History shows there has not been input from the County. It is beneficial to have it put in writing and have accountability.

Public Comments:

Betty Daily thanked Hyslop for all he's done.

Dawn Riley mentioned our Township Website needs corrections for the citizens names named as Board Members that are no longer on the Board.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 by Sauser, Oomen second. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Gardner