

## CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP

### Board Meeting

February 19, 2024

**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: Cathy Walker, Lee Hyslop, Jon Stevenson, Kyle Oomen, Bethany Seymour

**ABSENT:** None

**Guests Present:** Michael Beach, Dawn Riley, John VanDenHeuvel, Paul Erickson, Anthony Pietrusiewicz and Marc Seymour

**Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes:** January 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were presented. Motion by Oomen and supported by Stevenson approved last month's minutes. **Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Changes to Agenda:** Cathay Walker made a motion to have John Stevenson replace her as the Township Planning Commission Board Member, Jon Stevenson accepted, **Voice Vote, Motion Carried.**

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Letters and Communications:** Letter received from Detroit Energy advising of Solar Farms, Battery Farms and Windmills in regards to CREO. Nothing has been approved by or adopted by the State of Michigan, The MTA is working on it.

Lee Hyslop asked if the Township wanted to participate this year in the Hazardous Household Waste Disposal, which will be held on June 30, 2024. Cathy Walker requested last year's participation count, Lee Hyslop will get that information. The decision was tabled until the March meeting for a decision. There is a June 30, 2024 deadline.

**Fire Department Report:** Hyslop asked Chief Purdy at the January meeting for the value of the fire truck for the insurance company and the amount it would cost to replace it. Chief Purdy is picking the information up for Lee and will have it to him on 02/20/2024.

Chief Purdy okayed the \$1,200.00 Invoice for Oceana County Firefighter Training. Lee approved.

**Zoning Report:** Ron Smith wrote two zoning permits, one for Blackmer, he will be demolishing a house and rebuilding it. The old one is removed already and the replacement house will be started. The second is for a 16' X 80' Mobile Home which fell through due to a lien issue. House at 7357 126th pulled a permit on a porch and is now turning it into a room. Ron is looking into how to properly handle that. House at 6969 126th is noncompliant which we're well aware of, went to court twice, the first time gal didn't show up, the magistrate postponed it for a couple weeks, then went to court and the magistrate said she was in full compliance. Ron Smith then took pictures of everything and showed the magistrate the photos as well as a copy of the citation and then the magistrate did find her to be non compliant and gave her until February 28th to be in compliance. If it doesn't work out further action will be taken.

**Clerk's Report:** Bethany Seymor went through the voting information and said that she will post on the door where to go for early voting and the days and time the Hall will be open for persons wanting to come in and vote. The testing on the equipment will be February 21, 2024 at 12 PM and anyone is welcome to attend that day. There is now a ballot box outside with a temporary security camera viewing it. Permanent security camera is forthcoming accompanied by lighting for the voting box.

Lee spoke briefly about improving on the budget, that changes are being made to it, the process should be done by end March'.

**Review and Pay Bills:** February bills were presented in the amount of \$20,438.65. Motion by Oomen and supported by Jon to approve the payment of bills as presented. Kyle Oomen motions to approve bills. **Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Walker presented the January 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts	Cash Disbursements	Bank Fees	Current Balance
\$312,770.60	\$ 90,848.54	\$7,205.29	\$21.86	\$396,391.99

**Supervisors Report:**

**Dam Testing and Clearing:** Soils and Structures came out drilled and did hit a tree about 20 feet down. Lee and Mary Hyslop had gone out and cleared to make sure their rig would be able to get in through the trees. There didn't seem to be any problems in their opinion, however, the report will take a while before it is out. I believe the County should have been there but they failed to show up.

I brought up to the County that they should set up a maintenance program to maintain the Dam/Park in the event there is no one at Crystal Valley Township that will be unavailable to do it.

No maintenance program is one of the reasons we were unable to get a Grant for the County Park renovation.

**MEDC report:** Went to the MEDC meeting in Shelbyville and rode along with Arbore Farms. The facility we went to was supplied by the Gun Lake Casino which was a gorgeous facility with phenomenal food. Found out that the MEDC is paid for by the State of Michigan, and that 100 Mil of dollars to support Michigan was available through MEDC that no one applied for so it went back into their General Fund.

**Farm Road - OCRC/Crystal Road Revitalization:** Been a busy month. Spent an inordinate amount of time on the Farm Road Project. Last zoom meeting at 3 PM 02/20/2024, the deadline is 02/28/2024. It's not confirmed yet but I've been told the Grant will be around 20 Mil. dollars. This will take care of the paved roads specified as well as slag road brought up to slag and some bridges and culverts, also include paved roads going to Arbore Farms and some side roads going over there, 176th going into Walkerville, Jackson road and a handful of roads in Shely because they qualify for poverty. If we get it done and get it in on time in a few months we'll find out if we have anything.

The Farm Road Project has been renamed to OCRC/Crystal Road Revitalization, I've gotten ahold of all the Farmers, I've put out 25 letters for endorsement and have gotten 24 back. Fred from Valley View Pork promised he would get his back and that will make 25 of 25. That shows me that the people are anxious to get the roads fixed around here for our number one business in our County which is agriculture. I might say that the Grant writer that is helping us out this did manage to throw me under the bus about twice a week by sending group emails out and telling people that Lee wants to know when this or that is going to happen.

**Compactor Reset Procedure:** Compactor went dead on one of the cold cold days, so I called Sebright down in Wayland, they built it, and they told me how to do it. Have to open up the control panel which is not a good place to be because of the computers and chips and things. They told me which button to push, I pushed it and it started working again. Somewhere we should have on sight a Manual or something with a reset/restart procedure. If you get called, it's the blue box on the west side, the paddle lock has to be taken off, there is a small relay in there with a blue button and a white button, push one of them and you're back in business.

**Old Business:**

**Assessors Contract:** Our new assessor is with us tonight, his name is Michael, are there any questions for Michael? **None were asked.** Lee had asked him about property values and Michael had given him a Master Plan that consisted of 88 Pages. Crystal Township total real and personal property evaluation is \$34,894,308.00 which puts us at the absolute Foundation of the county, and we are down 1.3% change but compared to 2014 we are up 14%. We have no other way to earn money in our Township other than to do a fair and equitable job on our assessing. We may be behind on this but Michael has been highly recommended to us and will be helping us work through this. He mentioned the best way to generate revenue is to increase your SEV and that can be achieved by increasing the desire to live here. Promoting the nearness of Lake Michigan, hiking/ski trails and the park. Lee mentioned the exceptional farming business in our area as well as the National Forest property that we have and that those things do not have a draw for large expensive homes nor do we

have a large school, nearby shopping centers or even a Dollar General. We have those challenges but we'll work through them. So, with all this said we do want to hire you and we do have the contract here. So with all that said we need a motion to hire Michael. **Catherine Walker Motioned to hire Michael. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Insurance Comparison** - Selection: We can save \$1,500.00 by going with Berends Hendricks and Stuit Insurance Co., don't know how we can make that decision right now. The complication we have is that we now pay monthly with our current Agent and with BHS we'd have to pay just under \$8,000.00 up front. What does the board think of that? I also brought up to The bonding. They said the Clerk bond is 10k, the Deputy Clerk bond is 10K, the Treasurer bond is 25K the Deputy Treasurer is 15k and the Supervisor bond is 5K. I think the other companies' bonds are almost double. According to Bethany we have until the end of March to make a decision. Lee suggested using that time to make an accurate decision.

**New Business:**

**Review and Appoint Planning Commission Chairperson:** Lee was going to appoint Marcos

Seymour to the Planning Commission, he found out this was an error on his part, he misunderstood how appointments were made on the Planning Commission, we don't have anything to do with it. Everything done at the Planning Commission is done through the Planning Commission, so he had a big pile of papers of rules and regulations that he then gave to Marcos.

**Training for Planning Commission- May 16, 6:30 PM, Contact Brittany at the County Building to reserve:** Brittany is in the Administrator's Office.

**Poverty Exemption Resolution:** We have to do this every year and evidently some of the guidelines have changed, correct me if I'm wrong Michael, Michael Beach the Assessor stated that the only thing that really changed was the income levels and normally that the only thing that will change in the resolution is those dollar amounts. You have to have a Certification on hand, and Application has to be filled out and the Board of Review makes the decision. It's based on income level and asset test. The Board of Review has the forms. According to Michael the income level can be adjusted up or down by 10% by the Board. **The forgoing resolution was offered to raise or keep the same. Jon Stevenson motioned to keep it the same. Voice vote. Motion Carried.**

**Mileage agreement:** Lee asked if any changes should be made. Use the current Federal guidelines. Anyone opposed, none heard **Motion to approve by Kyle Oomen and 2nd by Lee Hyslop. Voice vote. Motion carried.**

**Brining:** Brining was discussed and a decision was made by Lee after a discussion with the Board to eliminate brining on Minky Road which is one mile. **All in favor say I, any opposed, None Heard. Motion Passed Kyle approves. Bethany 2nd. Voice vote. Motion carried**

**Compensation Resolution::** Lee suggested a 5% increase. Review annually. Last raise was in 2019. Board comment was inflation is at 8%. It was commented by the Board that 5% is not enough to motivate employees to stay and that is not keeping up with inflation so unchanges your current compensation.. Bringing the wages up to current standards the increase should be 18%. **Motion to increase compensation to a 15% raise to be reviewed in one year was made by Kyle Oomen and 2nd by Bethany Seymour. All in favor say I, I opposed, none heard. Voice vote. Motion passed.**

**Public Comments:**

**Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Lee Hyslop. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Hyslop