

**NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
FEBRUARY 17, 2009
REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Kidwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 320 Bell Road. Noble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler.

Agenda: Durm-Hiatt motioned, supported by Cooper, to approve the agenda with deletion of township vehicle and rescission of 3% delinquent tax penalty plus the addition of police proposal and fines/foreclosures.

All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes: Goodwin motioned to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009, regular meeting. Noble supported.

All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence and Announcements: Durm-Hiatt will be ordering the most current MTA (red book) Authorities and Responsibilities Books.

Clerk's Report: General O & M \$36,333.96, Fire O & M \$25,910.72, Sewer O & M \$17,288.30, Water O & M \$2,891.11, Fire Capital Improvement \$1,836.80, Capital Improvement Sewer City Charge \$91,718.09, \$18731.25, Health Benefit \$577.40 Special Assessment \$2,969.45, **Grand Total \$198,257.08**

Cooper motioned to approve the clerk's report. Ringler supported the motion.

ROLL CALL AYES: Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell.

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Comments from the Public: Joy Woods, 2350 Osborn Court expressed concern over hunting on her property and gun use within residential areas of the township.

Sgt. Miller introduced Lt. Don Goluch newly assigned to South County. Miller also presented a summary for 2008 police activity in the township, and the regular monthly report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Kidwell announced that his deputy, Tammy Youngs, had been sworn in today and is requesting the board to set her salary. Following discussion Noble motioned to go into closed session to discuss the deputy's salary following committee reports, with action possible after the session. Durm-Hiatt supported.

ROLL CALL AYES: Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble.

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Park Department-DNR Grant:

Harry Thibault, from the township park board, explained the DNR grant that the park board would like to make application for an eleven acre parcel that adjoins the township community park. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is helping in the grant application process. The grant is a 25% township match and the property price is \$120,000.00. The grant process will be lengthy and the grants are assigned in December with an eighteen month time frame before we would receive the money. The property owner has agreed to take the property off the market during the grant period. Ringler motioned to authorize application for the DNR grant with a 25% township match. Bailey supported the motion.

ROLL CALL AYES: Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble.

NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Police Proposal: Kidwell questioned Sheriff Bailey about the difference in the proposed contract amount and the actual contract amount. Bailey suggested that they meet when he has the figures with him.

Kidwell also commented on a written request for the daily police activity reports, presented to the Sheriff. Mac Elliot, Berrien County Legal Counsel, responded to Kidwell, denying the request. Sheriff Bailey concurred with legal counsel.

Committee Reports:

Bailey: supported the information that Harry Thibault presented on the DNR Grant.

Goodwin: Gave report from the SMCAS.

Ringler: announced that the township will be collecting taxes and selling dog licenses until March 2, 2009.

Kidwell: presented FEMA certificate for Robert Ruff.

Durm-Hiatt: None.

Noble: reported on drain problems on Bell Road and James Street. Also he is following up on accidents at Chestnut and 11th. Street. There has been a signage issue on Echo Valley and Valley View.

Cooper: reported on a Berrien County Road Commission meeting he attended today, with Q&A concerning the stimulus package. The emphasis seems to be on Federal project right now, more information to follow.

Re-convened open session: Goodwin motioned, supported by Bailey, to return to open session.

All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Tabled action: Goodwin motioned to table action on the deputy supervisor compensation until the March 2, 2009 meeting, so members of the board could gather more information. Bailey supported.

All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Bailey motioned to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Goodwin supported the motion.

All voting in favor

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Durm-Hiatt, Clerk