

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

**FENTON TOWNSHIP CIVIC COMMUNITY CENTER
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE, FENTON, MICHIGAN**

Supervisor Mathis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Goupil, Shumaker, Attorney Belzer and Operations
Manager Broecker.

Absent: Kesler, Lorraine

OPENING PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Trustee Goupil offered the opening prayer. Supervisor Mathis led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the 2/20/17 Fenton Township Board Meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by: Goupil

Seconded: Shumaker

Ayes: All Present

Nays: None

Absent: Kesler, Lorraine

Motion carried. The agenda is approved.

PRESENTATION:

Loose Center – Funding Issues

Loose Center Board of Directors President Ken Wensel addressed the board regarding proposed changes to the funding received by the center from Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR). They are asking for support from the SLPR member communities to maintain SLPR funding at 19% of their property tax revenue. SLPR has indicated they plan to use a grant process to allocate funds to Loose and the Loose board is concerned that SLPR board may use this change to remove or reduce their funding. Mr. Wensel made the following points:

- The original SLPR millage vote passed due to senior support because of the declared commitment of funding for the Loose Center.
- The original intent of SLPR board was to maintain the 19% funding allocation on a permanent basis.
- SLPR funding is vital to maintain level of programs and services at the Loose Center and its 5,710 members.
- A legal opinion from Loose Center attorney indicates that SLPR can opt out of Loose Interlocal Agreement, which would allow them to reduce the funding level.
- The Loose Center is asking the township to urge SLPR to honor their “moral contract” to maintain funding levels.

Alberta Martin, Loose Center board member, stated that she helped campaign for the SLPR millage and was a member of the original SLPR board. There is no question that the millage passed due to the support of the senior population, and the reason they supported the millage was the promise of the 19% funding level. The Loose Center is dependent on that funding.

Les Scott, Loose Board member and former member of the Fenton Township Zoning Board of Appeals, relayed his own personal story of how being a member of the Loose Center helped him cope with the loss of his wife. The entire Loose Center organization is

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dedicated to developing and maintaining the best senior center in Genesee County. Mr. Scott believes the SLPR funding level should not change.

Vince Eible, Treasurer of Loose Board of Directors, stated that the Loose Center Board of Directors must undertake planning efforts to achieve long term sustainability. Requiring Loose to apply for SLPR funding under a grant process makes their financial planning too unpredictable.

Ramona Dees, a volunteer at Loose Center, stated that there was only one employee and a handful of volunteers in the early days of the center due to very limited funding. The Loose Center almost did not survive. The SLPR millage was a lifesaver for the center, which provides vital services to many seniors. She asked board to support the center.

Trustee Shumaker noted that the original ballot proposal did not commit a specific level of funding for the Loose Center. He also asked how much funding is provided to the Loose Center from the Genesee County senior millage. Mr. Wensel stated that the center received \$170,000 this year, although that funding is expected to drop going forward.

Shumaker went on to say that the SLPR grant process is intended to assure accountability. He is not aware of any plans to reduce the level of funding. SLPR simply wants to put into place a mechanism to better account for the funding.

Joanna Pyles Zaleski

Ms. Zalweski stated that the seniors are worth the 19%. The funding should remain as it has been for the past 17 years.

Trustee Shumaker noted that SLPR has had difficulty in the past obtaining financial information from Loose.

Carl Gabrielson, Loose Center Executive Director, took exception to Trustee Shumaker's comments that Loose does not provide financial information. Financial reports are sent out annually.

Dick Laing

Mr. Laing, a member of the Loose Center Board of Directors, noted that the revenues received from SLPR and Genesee County are significantly less than the total budget for the Loose Center. They already have to generate approximately \$100,000 in additional revenue each year to balance the budget.

Clerk Krug noted that Fenton Township has frequently been on the short end of SLPR votes relating to the Loose Center. He doesn't have a problem with the concept of the grant process since that's how Genesee County allocates their millage. He also stated that he believes 19% of the SLPR revenue should be allocated to senior services, whether that is the Loose Center, senior programs administered by SLPR, or a combination thereof.

Ken Wensel stated that he recently met with Ray Culbert and Pat Lockwood (SLPR), who indicated that SLPR is in desperate need of more funds for recreational programs.

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Ms. Lockwood also indicated that concern regarding transparency is the primary reason for moving toward the grant process.

Vince Paris, SLPR Executive Director, noted that the next SLPR meeting is Thursday 2/23/17 at 6:00pm. He also stated that the SLPR grant application was not designed specifically for the Loose Center. The application includes information determined by the SLPR board to be essential for making grant funding decisions. The process is designed to work the same for all applicants.

Supervisor Mathis stated that SLPR must balance the needs for recreational programs and the needs of the seniors. Everyone needs to work together to find a mutually beneficial solution.

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for the 2/6/17 regular meeting stand approved as presented.

EXPENDITURES:

Treasurer Tucker questioned the \$54,000 invoice from Apollo Fire Equipment. Operations Manager Broecker stated that the Fire Department purchased a new cutter and spreader (i.e. jaws of life) to replace their old units. Motion to approve invoices and expenditures for all funds totaling \$884,576.04 for payment as presented.

- Motion by: Tucker
- Seconded: Shumaker
- Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Goupil, Shumaker
- Nays: None
- Absent: Kesler, Lorraine

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

REPORTS:

Supervisor Mathis urged residents to stay off the lakes as the thin ice is very dangerous. Two men that fell through the ice while riding an ATV on Lake Fenton this past weekend. If not for a resident on Case's island seeing the incident and calling 911, these men may not have survived.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Capital Improvement Bond Sale Update

Operations Manager Broecker reported that the recent sale of \$1.7 million in capital improvement bonds resulted in an interest rate of 2.33%, lower than the pre-sale estimate of 2.5%. The closing for the bond sale will occur on 3/2/17.

Informational Meeting – Thompson Road Reconstruction Project

The board reviewed a press release from the Genesee County Road Commission, scheduling a public informational meeting for the upcoming reconstruction and widening of Thompson Road from US-23 to Torrey Road. The meeting will take place Wednesday 3/8/17 in the lower level of the Fenton Township Civic Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

**Rezoning #R17-001, Peregrine Ventures/Ridgeway White, parcel 06-23-530-026
(vacant land on Grove Park Road); R-3 to AG with conditions/1st Reading**

Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to rezone vacant land on Grove Park Road from R-3 to AG, with conditions. Treasurer Tucker noted that the Planning Commission has looked at a few “down zoning” applications in recent years to allow for agricultural uses near residential developments, and there seems to be a trend in this direction. This particular application was supported by most area residents, as they saw agricultural uses as preferable to more housing. The applicant has offered conditions to allow the property to be used only as an orchard with no livestock. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed rezoning.

Mathis asked applicant about a small parcel on the opposite side of Swanee Beach Drive that fronts the lake. Mr. White clarified that, while he owns that property, it is not part of the rezoning request.

Trustee Shumaker asked if the apple trees could be planted under the current zoning. Mr. White stated that his ultimate intent is to be able to sell the produce grown on the property, which would require AG zoning. Trustee Shumaker also asked about the use of pesticides. Mr. White stated he is still learning about how to develop an orchard, but will follow all safety protocols for chemical use.

Attorney Belzer noted that the property would have to follow Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for the storage and use of any chemicals.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed rezoning ordinance will be conducted at the 3/6/17 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

**Resolution No. 2017-03 - Supporting DNR Canada Goose Egg & Nest Destruction
Program – Silver & Marl Lakes**

Supervisor Mathis reported that the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner’s Association is making application to the Michigan DNR to participate in the Canada Goose Egg & Nest Destruction program again this year. A resolution of support from the local governing body is required. Dick Sandell explained that previous efforts under this program has been effective. The Silver Lake Park has not been closed due to e-coli levels for the past few years.

There was no further discussion. Clerk Krug presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-03

WHEREAS, the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner’s Association, Inc. wishes to make application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to once again participate in the Canada Goose Egg & Nest Destruction Program on and around Silver Lake and Marl Lake in 2017, and

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WHEREAS, such application must be supported by the governing body of the local unit of government, and

WHEREAS, the Fenton Township Board supports the efforts of the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association, Inc. to control the population of Canada Geese to benefit the health, safety and welfare of the lake residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the township board of the Charter Township of Fenton hereby supports the application of the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association, Inc. to participate in the MDNR Canada Geese Egg & Nest Destruction Program in 2017.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2017-03 as presented.

Motion by: Goupil
Seconded: Shumaker
Ayes: Mathis, Tucker, Goupil, Shumaker
Nays: Krug
Absent: Kesler, Lorraine

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

Resolution No. 2017-04 - Supporting DNR Mute Swan Egg & Nest Destruction Program – Silver & Marl Lakes

Supervisor Mathis reported that the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association is also making application to the Michigan DNR to participate in the Mute Swan Egg & Nest Destruction program this year. A resolution of support from the local governing body is required. Dick Sandell stated that the DNR strongly encourages efforts to control mute swans, as they are a non-native and invasive species that negatively impact other native species. They are also very aggressive and present a safety risk for residents. Supervisor Mathis stated that she is opposed to this program. She believes natural predators, such as turtles, sufficiently control the swan population.

Thomas Ureche, President of Silver-Marl Association, reported that his family has experienced attacks from mute swans.

Clerk Krug presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04

WHEREAS, the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association, Inc. wishes to make application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to participate in the Mute Swan Egg & Nest Destruction Program on and around Silver Lake and Marl Lake in 2017, and

WHEREAS, such application must be supported by the governing body of the local unit of government, and

WHEREAS, the Fenton Township Board supports the efforts of the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association, Inc. to control the population of mute swans, a non-native species, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the lake residents, and to protect native wildlife species;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the township board of the Charter Township of Fenton hereby supports the application of the Silver & Marl Lakes Area Homeowner's Association, Inc. to participate in the MDNR Mute Swan Egg & Nest Destruction Program in 2017.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2017-04 as presented.

Motion by: Goupil
Seconded: Shumaker
Ayes: Mathis, Tucker, Goupil, Shumaker
Nays: Krug
Absent: Kesler, Lorraine

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

BOARD COMMENT:

The board briefly continued discussion regarding the Loose Center issues. Attorney Belzer confirmed that the township board has no authority in the decision regarding SLPR funding for the Loose Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Bonnie Mathis, Supervisor

Robert Krug, Clerk

Minutes Posted 2/21/17