

Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting- July 28, 2008

At 4:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rick Estola, the pledge of allegiances was said.

ROLL CALL:

- Present: Supervisor Rick Estola, Clerk Gayla Salmi, Treasurer Jyl Olson.
- Trustees: Marilyn Partyka, Bernie Brunello, John Suutala, and Frank Genisot.
- Also present: Carl D. Maki, Tony Pollack, Chuck Williams, Tom Schneller, Laverne Przybysz, Hartha Hughes, Chuck Lawson-Wilcox Engineering, Jean Verbos- GRWA Administrator, Kim Mattson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA- None. Motion offered by Mr. Brunello supported by Mr. Suutala to accept the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes: Regular meeting- July 14, 2008.
- General Fund Vouchers: 29897 – 39926 totaling \$12,874.34.
- Water Fund Vouchers: 7614 -7621 totaling \$18,771.79.
- Waste Water Fund Vouchers: 7620 for \$500.

A motion was offered by Mr. Genisot supported by Mr. Suutala to accept the consent agenda as presented.

REPORTS:

- GRWA: Jean Verbos, GRWA administrator reviewed the Grand View Water Tank Financing Contract and Publication of Notice. The document shows financing 66% Ironwood Township, and 33% Bessemer Township, based upon usage. Mrs. Verbos noted the original Ironwood Township Tank project was to be placed in the Township upon construction of the new water distribution system; however engineers recommended the tank be placed at the Grand View Hospital site. This will help both Bessemer Township, and Ironwood Township's distribution system. Construction on the distribution system will begin in spring 2009. Mrs. Verbos noted the GRWA will pay the debt retirement on the Tank, and not charge back to either of the Townships \$40,000 per year. GRWA is paying the engineering cost of \$108,000 until the Special Assessment District is collected, saving several thousand dollars in interest.

A motion was offered by Mr. Brunello supported by Mr. Suutala to approve and authorize signatures on the Grand View Water Tank Financing contract. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call.

- AUDIT: Mr. Tony Pollack, C.P.A. of Joki, Makela, & Pollack, PLLC. Presented the 2007 audit to the board of trustees. In reviewing Mr. Pollack noted that the Township had received a "**clean audit opinion**" Mr. Pollack also noted that the "**fund balances were healthy,**" showing the general fund as having a six month operating balance available, and the utilities having a seven month operating balance. Recommendations by Michigan Township Association is a three to six month operating balance. Regarding Internal control- there were no material weaknesses, suggestions were made to enhance the controls already in place.

REPORTS(continued) AUDIT (continued):

- Again noting the healthy fund balances, and clean audit opinion as evidence that the controls are in place, only needing some adjustments. Mr. Pollack also noted the provision for bad debt should have been entered in the audit last year; however the previous auditor did not enter this adjustment. The adjustment is from one large customer. The County Treasurer and the Township Treasurer, are working with the parties to keep the residents with continued water service, and out of a tax sale.
- PAUD: Mr. Estola noted a rate study was conducted by a firm from lower Michigan. The reports shows the current rates, and billings are properly set up, with only a Suggestion to possibly meter the water going in to the unit to gain a more accurate usage on the individual homes, though the draw back would be well water clogs water meters up and after a short time, is not a useful tool of measure. To install Water meters at the PAUD site would be \$112,000.
- PLANNING COMMISSION: Mr. Genisot noted that Chairman Ernie Mattson, Passed away. Also noted that the Soils Ordinance was approved by the planning Board at the last meeting, and now will be sent to the Trustee board for review and approval.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Olson noted that the manager of the trailer court has updated the number of habitable mobile homes, which is a large decrease. This will decreased the Specific tax which by \$3.00 per mobile home, per month, and the EDU's charged per mobile home. This will decrease the amount due the township by over \$10,000.
Ms. Olson also noted that the Kichak's were away for a weekend, and the hose was left running for 30 hours. Will discuss a possible allowance with The City of Ironwood.
- CLERK'S REPORT: Ms. Salmi reviewed the year to date general Fund Budget vs. Actual. Noting the cost of Fire Department insurance has risen. Noting that all expense categories are within the budget for this time of year. A motion was offered by Ms. Olson Supported by Mr. Brunello to accept the year to date budget as presented. The motion carried.
- FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Williams presented a new locking system to the board for the main entrance for firefighters. A keyless lock using fingerprint. This will enable to know who is coming and going from the firehall. It is a dual system, as it also has a keyed entry. It was noted that only 5 firefighters will have a key. A motion was offered By Mr. Brunello supported by Mr. Suutala to purchase the fire door lock. The motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: at 5:18 p.m. a motion was offered by Mr. Genisot supported by Mr. Brunello to adjourn, the motion carried.

Estola, Supervisor

Gayla Salmi, Clerk

Rick