

Supervisor Rick Speck called the regular meeting of the St. James Township Board to order at 7:30pm on February 2, 2011. Also present were Jim Wojan, Tim McDonough, Ray Cole, and Jean Wierenga.

Motion by Cole and seconded by McDonough to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 5, 2011. Motion carried.

Motion by Cole and seconded by McDonough to approve the schedule of payments. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Speck acknowledged all correspondence received. Letters from Elaine West and Jackie LaFreniere regarding the NREC read by Speck as requested.

#### Reports:

Speck reported the Fire Department Auxiliary has taken in over \$28,962 over the past year and they deserve big congratulations from St. James Township for all their hard work.

Letter read from Sara McCafferty, Director of the EMS regarding the air ambulance service. Island Airways will not be transporting patients at this time due to federal regulation changes and need to secure required insurance coverage.

Speck reported a payment to be made from General Fund to Street and Road Fund in the amount of \$6,555 for the loan for purchase of Whiskey Island.

Waste Management Report given by Wierenga.

#### Old Business:

Motion by Wojan and seconded by McDonough to set February 7, 2011 as date for joint closed Township meeting at Peaine Hall. Motion carried. Meeting time will be 1pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the acquisition of property for expansion of township airport.

#### New Business:

Motion by McDonough and seconded by Cole to post Board of Review dates and times. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor.

The following resolution to allow local residents to protest in writing also entered into the record:

In order to ease the burden on taxpayers, the assessor and the board of review and to ensure that all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the board of review, the Township of St. James hereby resolves, according to provisions of MCL 211.30(7) of the General Property tax Act, that the board of review shall receive letters of protest regarding assessments from resident taxpayers from the first Tuesday in March until it adjourns from the public hearings for which it meets to hear such protests.

All notices of assessment change and all advertisements of board of review meetings are to include a statement that the resident taxpayers may protest by letter to the board.

(Signed by Supervisor and Clerk) Motion by Speck and seconded by Wierenga to approve resolution. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Motion by Wierenga and seconded by Cole to authorize Supervisor to sign new agreement with AD Assessing for next three years. Motion carried.

Doug Tilly gave a written report of his work for first year as Zoning Administrator.

Jeff Powers gave a thorough report on the Beaver Island Wildlife Certification Outline, and requesting approval and support of this outline that will be presented to the MDNR Natural Resources Council on February 10, 2011. Motion was made by Speck and seconded by Wojan to support this Wildlife Certification here on Beaver Island. Motion carried.

Recent activities by one member and a non member of the NREC writing letters to Lansing without approval have been made public after requests by the Northern Islander in a FOIA request. This letter writing by individuals to government agencies was not what the Township Board had agreed to when this Commission was being formed as representatives came to board asking for support. Concerns regarding this activity were heard from all board members, as well as many in audience. Motion was made by Speck to rescind the motion made previously by the board creating the NREC and seconded by McDonough. Motion carried. It was further stated it can be a good cause and still function but not thru the Township.

When a township holds an annual meeting a resolution must be passed authorizing the Township Board to set the salaries for the offices of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees for next fiscal year by adopting a resolution at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors. Speck recommends the salaries of Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer remain the same as 2010. He recommends a 2% raise for Trustees. Separate resolutions were adopted for each position as follows:

Motion by Wojan and seconded by McDonough to approve salary of \$14,267 for Supervisor for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor. Speck abstained.

Motion by Wierenga and seconded by McDonough to approve salary of \$14,267 for Treasurer for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor. Wojan abstained.

Motion by McDonough and seconded by Wojan to approve salary of \$15,534 for Clerk for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor. Wierenga abstained.

Motion by Speck and seconded by Wojan to approve salary of \$4,312 each for Trustees for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried. Roll call vote, all in favor. Cole and McDonough abstained.

Motion by Speck and seconded by Wojan to extend the phragmities contract for Jackie LaFreniere for one year. Motion carried.

Motion by Wojan and seconded by McDonough to adjourn at 8:40pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Wierenga, Clerk