

## Monterey Township Board Meeting

September 2, 2014

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Nevin Cooper-Keel at 8:00pm at the Community Building. Board members present: Nevin Cooper-Keel, Jennifer Frank, Lois Commons, Earl Collier, and Faye Black  
There were 20 citizens present and Ben Williams and Max Theil

Collier moved supported by Frank to amend the agenda to reduce public comment to one session and add board members reports. Motion carried 4yays 1 nay (CK)

Black moved supported by Frank to approve the September 2, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried. 4 yays, 1 nay (CK)

Max Thiele reported from the County that the Jail been fully occupied and the old jail will be torn down this spring. The county is reviewing the livestock claim process. The county is still looking into a request to provide dental care to those with income based need in Wayland; the Health Department is assessing this need. Allegan County Mental health is making progress toward becoming an independent agency and will be splitting with the county soon. Blue Star trail maintenance of a 1.7 mile section has been approved to be maintained by the county.

Ben Williams spoke about our recycling program. Resource cards are provided to our residents with their tax receipt, they are currently undated but he could add an expiration date if we wanted. Mr. Williams wanted to address the abuse of the recycling station, he presented a plan to use a county truck and 2 inmates from the jail as a work program to clean up the area/unacceptable items at the recycle station and take them to our transfer station this Thursday. Carl Avery will meet them there to let them in. Mr. Williams stated our recycling signs are out of date and he presented material on purchasing new signs. Paint can go by appointment to the Health Department to be disposed of and there is an annual Hazardous waste disposal event the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May.

Cooper-Keel moved supported by Collier to have new signs for the recycling station made per Mr. Williams quote. Lois Commons and Ben Williams will coordinate the verbiage for the signs. Motion Carried – 5 yays.

Grant proposals for the insurance agency were discussed. Nevin Cooper-Keel will draft a proposal to purchase surveillance cameras and Jennifer Frank will draft a proposal for increased training to be reviewed by Melissa at the insurance agency. Drafts to be presented next meeting.

AMAR response letter got a positive response from the state. Brian Busscher has written a letter to the board stating that he does not feel the terms presented to the state are what he is contracted for. He feels his contract reads he is to maintain the current roll and reassessing 20% of the properties per year is an additional task not reflected in his contract. Nevin Cooper-Keel is going to speak with the tax commission on what Brian is obligated to do. Nevin Cooper-Keel will work with Brian Busscher to mediate a solution to address this situation and how it pertains to the AMAR response letter.

There will be a planning commission opening in November as Karon Knoblock is not returning. Supervisor Cooper-Keel asked if the board could spread the word we are looking for candidates. Henry Reinart offered to be considered a candidate. Board would like an ad run in the penessee globe with this vacancy listed. Please email or call Nevin Cooper-Keel with interest.

Supervisor Cooper-Keel addressed the filing system in the hall. He had taken Pat Peterson up there to look for an electric bill and did not know how things were filed, wanted to purchase filing cabinets for the hall. Frank stated she used the hall for storage of past years and current filing is at her home office, person seeking information can contact her for that information. Lois Commons also only uses the hall for storage of past years. Frank brought up that top of the hall was not insured for public use and we should limit bringing persons up there as it will be a liability.

Supervisor Cooper-Keel asked if the township should get a server or somehow back up information to a web based place like the "cloud". The board discussed the risks of hacking information. Frank and Commons were already using a backup system to their information.

Supervisor Cooper-Keel asked where the ordinances digital copy was located. It was digitalized years ago by an outside agency, Frank will confer with past Clerk to gain insight. Wood Burning ordinance will be updated to web after election season.

Salem Township wants Monterey to contribute to the rebuild of 136<sup>th</sup> street. Lois will talk to Jim Pitsch, Salem's supervisor as this is not a possibility in our current road plan for several years. The road involved is primarily a Salem township road with only 2 homes on it in Monterey Township. Earl Collier suggested working to agree on a lump sum (ex \$100,000) that we could commit to the project.

Nevin Cooper-Keel suggested getting internet at the hall so he could work there.

Commons moved supported by Collier to pay bills. Motion carried. 4 yays, 1 nay (CK)

Collier moved supported by Commons to approve financials. Motion carried. 5 yays.

Faye Black reported on MTA training her and Lois Commons recently attended. She learned board members cannot use their title on the internet without board approval. The class strongly discouraged Face Book as a means of communication. Conflict of interest pertains only to a close relative with significant financial gains involved; Conflict of interest was not in play with our Election Chair and board member. Faye Black also brought information on the Right to Farm Act (GAMP) it is mainly in place to prevent problems and seems to be geared toward city and suburban settings. She has also contacted the Allegan Votech and is working with the instructor there to see if there is a possibility of the classes helping replace the doors in the cemetery buildings, suggested talking to boy scout program about this as a service project.

Jennifer Frank reports the election is going well so far. The website company has agreed to reduce our annual fee from \$540 to \$300.

Frank provided the board a proposed schedule for board meetings 2015 to review and vote on next meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carl Avery wants to be able to sell punch cards at the transfer station. Monterey currently has an agreement with the Monterey Store to sell the cards. Frank will look into the terms of the current agreement.

Al Radspeiler voiced his opinion that the board should not hold public comment speakers to a three minute rule.

Pat Peterson suggested we adopt a resolution for proper decorum in presenting at public comment. Rules against cursing and how one presents.

Katie Burch presented her fact findings in the Michigan Election Law Act 168.2 that defines the relationships that may fall under conflict of interest. She felt Mary Arndt and Jennifer Frank were wrongly accused of conflict of interest in relation to election working and asked Nevin Cooper-Keel to apologize to both individuals. Katie Burch also shared her research that we are 1/10<sup>th</sup> owner of Wayland EMS and wondered why Supervisor Cooper-Keel is wanting to change ambulance services because of one complaint from the Dumont lake area. Mrs. Burch shared call figures for the year and offered her support as a Nurse as to the importance of keeping Wayland EMS and our first responders.

Supervisor Cooper-Keel responded he did not feel like he disrespected anyone and declined to apologize. He felt there was more than one complaint from residents that prompted him to push to switch ambulance companies.

Katie Burch asked Supervisor Cooper-Keel not to put our township in jeopardy by switching companies.

Lenard Reinart asked board to look at washout on shoulder of 134<sup>th</sup> (between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>)

Katie Burch stated she appreciated the board accepting a bid from a local company for the road projects.

Pat Roys – stated Pat Riley from Dumont lake campground asked township to look into switching ambulances and so the township needed to look into it. Pat Roys stated his opinion that if there is a hint of a conflict of interest the board needs to recues themselves from voting.

Jennifer Frank stated the council given by both the township attorney and MTA was that there was no conflict of interest issue regarding the election and that a board members duty is to vote whenever possible, she was advised not to recues herself from voting.

Mary Arndt stated as she was the center of the conflict of interest issue she wanted to state her feeling that there was no conflict of interest. She has been serving as the Election Chairperson for over 36 years and has always worked hard for the township. When this election came up she thought nothing of her relationship with Jennifer Frank as she was simply doing the job she had always done. She was shocked when Supervisor Cooper-Keel made issue with relatives working together as that happens often in small communities. She feels it is established there is no wrong doing and would like to move past the issue.

Nevin Cooper-Keel states he never made allegations against Mary Arndt.

Collier moved supported by Commons to adjourn. Motion Carried 5 yays

10:25pm

Jennifer Frank  
Township Clerk