

Town of Mercer
Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2018
(unapproved)

- Chairman John Sendra called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Haines Building.
- **Roll Call:** Chairman John Sendra, Supervisors Tom Thompson, Mike Lambert, Chuck Schroepfer, Jeff Stenberg, Treasurer Lin Miller, Clerk Christan Brandt and Attorney Schellgell.
- **Approval of meeting minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Public Comment:**
- **Contract for bill of service to disperse funds for Chamber to run the 4th of July festivities:** Since the prior committee has retired, the Chamber is willing to take over overseeing the event. Motion to contract with the Chamber to run the 4th of July celebration and forward the current balance of funds of \$10,682.88 to the Chamber to do so made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Sign Ordinance revision 2018.2:** Attorney Schellgell stated that this amendment further defines what electronic messaging is and what it displays. It basically involves any sign that changes its content by electronic means. The amendments clarify what is prohibited, and what is exempt. Signs in existence before December 17, 2015 are grandfathered in and would not be subject to the current prohibitions. Supervisor Mike Lambert stated that he would like to see this changed. We could have them do something similar as far as color as to what the school and Chamber have and we can set it so that it only changes every two minutes or so. Bonnie Banaszak from the Planning Commission stated that they made their changes to the ordinance were based upon the community vision from the Mercer Comprehensive Plan and on the informal survey that was sent out to the town. Most respondents to that survey stated that they did not want digital signs. This was the recommendation of the entire Commission. Motion was made to approve the amended ordinance by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, no second was given. Supervisor Jeff Stenberg abstained. A Planning Commission meeting will be set for March 28 and the board will attend to offer input and arrive at an understanding with the Commission members on what changes need to be made to the sign ordinance.
- **Lotter BP Sign:** Motion to postpone made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Cramer Lake Bridge bid project approval/denial of lowest bid projection above:** We received notice on Wednesday that the bids were let and that it came in over what the original projections for cost were going to be. We were informed that the town would be on the line for an additional \$112,000 to fund the project. Chairman Sendra stated that we just do not have those type of funds and we have too many other items that we need to address as well. Motion to postpone made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Business Park Ordinance/ Covenants:** Chairman Sendra stated that he reviewed the covenants and there are no teeth in the ordinance if Business Park lot buyers do not follow through with what is expected from them. He would like to change section 2.1 to restate the section about job creation and having 1 job exclusive of management. That employee stipulation shall be required within 2 years of occupancy. He would also like to change section 5.1 to add verbiage that the applicant will forfeit the purchased property if the owner does not comply within 2 years of purchasing the property. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.

- **Williams Electric to discuss street lighting:** Pete Wetzler, owner of Williams Electric, came to the meeting to discuss the upkeep of the light poles that were erected in the downtown area in 2012. They are two years beyond warranty, and there are 8 to 9 lights that we are currently having issues with. He went on to explain the issue that is going on: parts that are needed, warranty issues and inventory. The end total was around \$15,000.00 to keep the lights in working order and good condition. We do not know where we are going to get this kind of money from at this time as it was not budgeted for. Motion to postpone made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg. Carried.
- **Discuss retaining an Architect for building renovations and repair:** Supervisor Schroepfer stated that the architect came and looked at the garage and received a quote from him. We are reviewing issues from all of the town's buildings and even the items such as the new roof at the Community Center. These are smaller issues, but we do not want to spend all this money to put a roof on the Center only to have it done wrong and have something missing. The front section of shop #2 needs to come down and the front wall needs to be rebuilt. Supervisor Thompson asked if it would be cheaper to knock down entire building and put a Menards building up. It was stated that they did not know if it would be cheaper. Supervisor Stenberg stated that you are not going to be able to just get a Menards building, you would need a commercial building. We can get quotes to find out what we want to do. We should get a list together of everything that needs to be done. The Board should inform him what they want him to do about these concerns. Supervisor Schroepfer will then begin negotiations. He stated that we have 20 years of building neglect that needs to be taken care of. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. 3 yay 1 no. Carried.
- **Discuss asbestos removal at Town Shop #2:** Supervisor Schroepfer stated that we have been working on this project for a while and the coating and two windows need to come off Shop #2. The cost is over \$30,000 and includes demo and paperwork, and we already have put about \$7,000 into it. We can put this out for bids for the work to see if we can get anyone else to bid to bring the cost down. Motion to put the asbestos removal out for bids made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Discuss demolition of Town Shop #2:** we cannot do anything until we have the asbestos removed and a certificate of abatement on the asbestos removal. Everything else is lined up with the DNR, and we will also save some money as we can have the crew tear down the block of the building. Look into estimate for the demo made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson.
- **Discuss monitoring wells at the old landfill:** Supervisor Schroepfer stated that he investigated the well monitoring and to reduce the testing to once a year instead of twice would save us \$1000 annually, but the initial cost would not be cheap. There is no guarantee that we would get the approval. The cost for fees and paperwork would be around \$6,000.00 and the permit for the DNR review would run around \$1,650.00.
- **Discuss railing replacement at the Community Center:** Supervisor Schroepfer noted that we have 2 problems at the Community Center: the steps and railings. The steps are falling apart, and there is not much support holding the top portion of the railing. We also have issues with the sidewalk running along the toward the library. It will cost \$1,440.00 to place a new railing on both sides of the steps and a 12-foot railing on the upper walkway. Do we want to get estimates on the steps as they are cracked down the middle? We can have the crew do the demo. Supervisor Thompson stated he would talk to Charlie Watts about the steps.

- **Discuss Focus on Energy Program:** Supervisor Schroepfer talked to John at Great Lakes Electric to get us a quote. He did a survey on the lighting at the garage, and we are looking at a cost of \$5650 after some of the rebates. We would save 50% off our current light bill. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. 3 yes 1 no, Carried.
- **Approval for new Plow Truck:** This cost is for just the chassis, and it did come in over the original cost. Lance from Mid-State said some of that was for the added warranty which brings it up to \$122,437.50. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Vouchers:** The Clerk presented checks 37720 to 37736, 1000362-1000365 totaling \$19,916.48 and the vouchers for checks 37737 to 37759 in the amount of \$148,916.95 which included the plow truck invoice. Motion to approve the vouchers and issue the checks made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer stated that the general account had an ending balance of \$378,492.94 and the total amount of funds was \$1,994,585.43. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Chair's Report:** Chairman Sendra stated that he and Tom had gone out to 24 Section to look at the Fire Department building. It does need some work, and I'm not sure on what it would cost because it needs windows, paint, and insulation. Supervisor Thompson stated that Chaney put an estimate together, and he believes that Adam has it.
- **Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer:** He was at the Library board meeting Monday night, and they said they are picking up some type of needle loss infestation. They talked about cutting down the pine trees that abut the building. They crew can do it but if we are going to remove 3 or 4, we might as well take them all. Kelly Martinko stated the same thing to them at the meeting. Teresa did not agree with that. He wanted to know who was in control of this item. Attorney Schellgell stated that this is our building, so it is our decision. Supervisor Schroepfer has a call into Kelly to talk to her more.
- **Supervisor Jeff Stenberg:** He has someone interested in the other lot at the Business Park.
- **Supervisor Mike Lambert:** He stated that as far as the pumper truck at 24 section goes, Steve Altman talked to Shane out there, and it works but has its issues.
- **Supervisor Tom Thompson:** Nick Jongebloed came to see him, and he has concerns regarding the speed limit on Popko Circle. The ATV's and snowmobiles are going too fast on that road and then they come tearing the gravel up on the private portion of the roads that feed off it. Then the residents must go out and fix it. He asked if the speed limit could be lowered to 10mph from 25mph? Mr. Jongebloed stated that there are various speed limits on other town roads. The board will contact Tara from Forestry to have her attend the next town board meeting to address the issue and see what can be done. That item will be placed on agenda to
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried. 7:12pm