

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were Supervisor Dennis Bjorkquist, Clerk Dianne Taylor, Treasurer Connie Jankwietz, Trustee Guy Finout and Trustee John Dontz. Also present were County Commissioner Jeff Dontz, Fire Chief Chuck Barron, Deputy Clerk Karen Clouse, Keith Brown with PEG, Jim Henderson, Jim Berish, Mary Lou and Dan Ursum, John Maser and several other residents.

Supervisor Bjorkquist called the meeting to order. All attending stood and said the pledge to the United States flag. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Clara Kraus Saari and her many years of service to the Township; Clara passed away on July 17, 2017.

Minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting of the Manistee Township Board were provided. Trustee Dontz made the motion to approve the minutes as written; Clerk Taylor seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer Jankwietz provided the Treasurer's report for the month of July 2017. The receipts were \$3,169.42; expenditures were \$27,415.65, leaving a balance of \$50,611.57 in the General Fund as of July 31, 2017. The report placed on file.

Manistee Township Planning Commission ~ accepted minutes from the July 6, 2017 meeting were provided to the board. No discussion; minutes placed on file.

Manistee Township Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

There being no public comment, Supervisor Bjorkquist asked County Commissioner Jeff Dontz to report on the County activities. County Controller/Administrator Tom Kaminski will be retiring effective February 28, 2018. The timber sale of the property behind Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital is moving forward. The proceeds from the sale of West Shore Medical Center to Munson Healthcare will be sent to MERS. The tentative Fiscal Year 2017/18 General fund Budget of approximately \$11 million was adopted. The DDA presented their budget for FY 2017/18. Tim Urban, AES Executive Director, will be leaving his position. AES is looking to reorganize before filling the vacancy. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribe will be building 10 new homes. Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital will be constructing a new medical office building. County Commissioner Jeff Dontz attended the first-ever Michigan County Commissioners Conference at the White House in Washington D.C.

Trustee Finout, as Zoning Administrator, reported on the activity in the Zoning Department for July. There was one (1) new written complaint making a total of five (5) complaints that Zoning Administrator Finout is now working on. There were five (5) receipts for land use permits. The Planning Commission approved, with contingencies, the site plan for Auto Zone. Work on a local building and construction codes enforcement department is continuing. Multiple complaints have been received from township residents on short-term rentals in their neighborhood.

Fire Chief Chuck Barron reported on the activity at the Fire Department. There were six (6) meetings and other training, five (5) calls for fire suppression, and sixteen (16) calls for medical assistance. All apparatus are in good working order and the station is as well. The new SCBA's were put into service. Captain Wes Owens has accepted a position with the Cadillac City Fire Department and will be missed. Tom Johnson has resigned as Assistant Fire Chief but will

remain active as a Firefighter. Fire Chief Barron thanked Tom Johnson for his 40 plus years of service. Discussion followed regarding when and how these positions will be filled. Approval for two new probationary Firefighters was requested. Trustee Dontz made the motion to accept Brad Kamaloski and Sam Koscinski as Probationary Firefighters for the Manistee Township Fire Department; seconded by Trustee Finout. All in favor; motion carried.

Supervisor Bjorkquist, as Liquor Inspector, stated there were no significant changes for July.

With the passing of Clara Kraus Saari, positions on the Planning Commission and Bar Lake Improvement Board will need to be filled. The Township will be accepting written applications and letters of interest for these positions as well as for Liquor Inspector and Revenue Sharing Board representative. An application is available at the Township Hall on Holden Street and on the website.

Public Act 230, local control over Building Inspections in Manistee Township, was discussed. A copy of the proposed ordinance was available at a previous meeting. Copies of two (2) proposed contracts were presented to the Board for review. The deadline to meet the October meeting agenda for the State of Michigan is September 6, 2017. Zoning Administrator Finout made a motion for preliminary approval of a new ordinance to create a Building and Code Enforcement Department and to sign the appropriate contracts when the contracts are agreeable to all parties involved; seconded by Trustee Dontz. All in favor; motion carried. Zoning Administrator. Finout has invested considerable time and research into this project and was thanked for his efforts.

An issue with short-term rentals has been raised, with several Township residents in attendance to address the Board on this topic. A lengthy discussion occurred between the Board Members and the residents on the issues, including noise complaints, trespassing, legal enforcement and underage driving of golf carts. The Township Board agreed to seek legal counsel for options, which may include a letter being drafted to the short-term rental property owners.

Revenue Sharing Board Grant Application deadline for Cycle 2 – 2017 is September 1, 2017.

The bills for August totaling \$32,757.33 have been provided. Trustee Dontz made the motion to approve payment of the bills for the month as presented and as they are received; Trustee Finout seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**Manistee County MTA Meeting will be Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden St Manistee MI**

**Manistee Zoning Board of Appeals – Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall.**

**Manistee Township Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Manistee Township Hall.**

**Bar Lake Improvement Board –Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.**

Next regular meeting of the **Manistee Township Board** will be held on **Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.**

Supervisor Bjorkquist stated the road work on Kott Rd has hit a snag and completion will be delayed. The Sheriff's Department will be monitoring the speed limit on Kott Rd due to several complaints being made. Supervisor Bjorkquist reiterated the need to fill several positions within the Township of Manistee.

Under public comment, Dan Ursum inquired of County Commissioner Dontz whether the issue of cultural sensitivity was addressed prior to the sale of timber from the land behind the Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital. Mary Lou Ursum inquired of County Commissioner Dontz whether the Bar Lake Improvement Board functions could be transferred to the Bar Lake Association in the future; the commissioner expressed the hope a Township Board committee could address the functions thereby possibly eliminating tax assessment to residents. The discussion of this issue will continue at the next BLIB meeting.

There being no further business or public comment to come before the board, it was moved by Trustee Dontz, seconded by Treasurer Jankwietz to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor  
Manistee Township Clerk