

Robinson Township Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting
January 14, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Present:

Tracy Mulligan
Bonnie Hayward
Bernice Berens
Travis Vugteveen

Absent:

Jackie Frye

Also Present:

Ron Bultje-Legal Counsel
Christine Saddler-Deputy Clerk
Kathy Kuck-Zoning Administrator
Paul VanVelzen-Robinson Township Fire Chief
Greg DeJong-Ottawa County Commissioner
Seven members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Supervisor Mulligan. Bernice Berens gave an invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Berens made a motion supported by Hayward to approve the December 10, 2014 minutes. Motion passed.

Hayward made a motion supported by Berens to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion of a proposed Farmland Preservation Program resolution from Ottawa County. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mulligan opened with thanks to the prospective Board Appointees and for the others that serve our Township including Commissioner DeJong, Fire Chief VanVelzen, the Fire Department and our Zoning Administrator Kathy Kuck.

Greg DeJong gave an update on happenings in the County:

- Ottawa 211 is a great way for those in need to locate available resources.
- The Commissioners are working on their strategic plan.
- There is a controversy coming to a head over a sign in Hager Park with religious verbiage on it that was taken down because of one complaint. Ottawa County may choose to fight to keep the sign.
- He stated that he doesn't want to ask taxpayers to pay for the Ottawa County Farmland Preservation program.

Motion was made by Berens and seconded by Vugteveen to purchase term life insurance coverage for Fire Department members in the amount of \$25,000, with an initial premium of \$3,392. This is a Provident policy purchased from Burnham and Flower. Roll call vote: Yes: Hayward, Mulligan, Berens, and Vugteveen. No: None. Absent: Frye Motion approved.

Vugteveen made a motion seconded by Hayward to reappoint Bill Maschewske to the Planning Commission for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Hayward to appoint Rich Sibley to the Planning Commission for a three year term on expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Hayward to reappoint Rich Maike to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Hayward made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to appoint Mike Fraser to the Park Board for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to reappoint Eric Hayward to the Park Board for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Hayward to reappoint Milton Reeths to the Board of Review for a two year term expiring in 2017. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Hayward to reappoint Rod Bekius to the Board of Review for a two year term expiring in 2017. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to reappoint Rich Conaway to the Board of Review for a two year term expiring in 2017. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to reappoint Greg Poel as Alternate to the Board of Review for a two year term expiring in 2017. Motion carried.

Berens made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to reappoint Milton Reeths to the Water Board for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Hayward made a motion seconded by Vugteveen to reappoint Sheryl Koetsier to the Water Board for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

Hayward made a motion seconded by Berens to reappoint Helen Bulhouse to the Loutit Library Board for a three year term expiring in 2018. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the structure of the Water Board and the pay schedule for Board reps. The Boards' structure or the pay schedule could be changed by resolution at the next board meeting if desired. Bonnie Hayward's position on the water board needs to be clarified.

A discussion was held on a proposed resolution supporting the Ottawa County Farmland preservation program. This program would give farmers a payment of a % of the value of their property to enroll into the program. Once enrolled, the development rights of that property would be given up and the property would remain agricultural. More information is needed before a decision can be made regarding support.

A discussion was held regarding the Robinson Township section of the Ottawa County Parks Greenway plan. The Ottawa County Parks Department would like to partner with Robinson Township in order to develop this. Supervisor Mulligan was asked to arrange for a presentation to be made at the next Board meeting by the Parks Department.

Vugteveen made a motion seconded by Berens to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Vugteveen made a motion seconded by Hayward to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Saddler
Robinson Township Deputy Clerk