

April 7, 2014 Algansee Township Board Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7:30pm Supervisor Russ Jennings called the Algansee Township Board meeting to order at the Algansee Township Hall, 378 South Ray Quincy Rd, Quincy, Michigan. All Algansee Township Board members were present- Supervisor Russ Jennings, Treasurer Ann Strong, Trustee Bill Avra, Trustee John Shilling and Clerk Suzanne Preston. Visitors who signed in were Rodney Carpenter, Tom Morgan- 233 Dons Drive, Harold Sneath- 251 Donnell Drive, Earl Waterstrat- 804 Bennett Drive, Ron Boggia- 770 Bennett Drive, Rowdy & Deb Gibson- 1116 Campbell Road, Mary Sue Miller- 243 South Fremont Road, David Dryer- 670 South Ray Quincy Road, Dennis Higbee- 832 McNitt Road, Don Vrablic- Branch county Commissioner, Bob Migrin- 203 Dons Drive, Rochelle Ray- 2120 Spring Hillsdale and Greg Richer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Supervisor Russ Jennings led the pledge to the American Flag.

B. AGENDA- John Shilling motioned to approve agenda with additions of assessor's maintenance contract, May 6th Quincy School Millage election and computer update for Treasurer and Clerk. Support by Bill Avra. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

D. MINUTES- Algansee Township Board Minutes- Bill Avra motioned to accept the corrected March 3, 2014 Algansee Township Board minutes. Support by Ann Strong. Motion carried.

Algansee Planning Commission Minutes- John Shilling motioned to accept March 31, 2014 Planning Commission minutes. Bill Avra supported the motion. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT

E. 1. Monthly Report- Treasurer Ann Strong reported balance at last township meeting, March 3, 2014 of \$329,035.86. We had expenses this month of \$17,358.87, income of \$147,877.55 in March giving Algansee Township a balance of \$459,559.54. The Clerk agrees. Bill Avra motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Support by John Shilling. Motion carried.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F. 1. Quincy Fire Association- Trustee Bill Avra reported the Quincy Fire Department held special meeting both grass rigs were down. They bought one for \$10,000 and will fix other one. Bill Avra also reported he and Russ Jennings met with the strategic consultant who said there is need for a millage to provide for the Fire Department. The next meeting will be tomorrow April 8th.

F. 2. Report from Zoning Board of Appeals- Bill Avra reported they didn't meet.

F. 3. Report from Planning Commission- will discuss under new business.

F. 4. Website- www.alganseetownship.com- Supervisor Russ Jennings reported it is working.

F. 5. Ordinance Violations- 1025 Grove Rd- Supervisor Russ Jennings reported received court petition to allow township to clean up and add expenses to property owner's tax bill. We'll need quotes to clean up the property.

G. OLD BUSINESS-

G. 1. Planning Committee to Review Feasibility to Move Library to Twp. Hall- committee of Russ Jennings, John Shilling and Bill Avra will meet to review the move of the Library. Supervisor Russ Jennings reported he talked with Branch County District Library Manager Evette Atkins doesn't believe there are any restrictions on the money not to be used for the building fund. Joy Wood said Mr. Morton didn't want funds to go to a building. He wanted it to go for reading, learning and programs. Bob Migrin asked what is story behind Mr. Morton donating money to Algansee Library. Harold Sneath asked who uses the Library? Erica Ewers said a lot of kids, people from Algansee Township, California Township and some people from Kinderhook Township. Harold Sneath said he did not believe there would be an increase in use if the library was in a bigger building and it was moved 4 miles north of the present building.

Library Report- Circulation 407, Attendance 357, Hours 87, Young Adult programs 4, Attendance 11, Adult Program 1, Attendance 8. Books loaned to other Michigan Libraries 47, Books patrons borrowed from MEL 46. The real stats for in Library computer use for January 95, February 111, March 120, Wireless use for March 352. I did report wireless right for all months. On March 19th we had 8 patrons come for Book Discussion. The Book was Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry. Roland Stoy led the discussion, he did a nice presentation and all had a good time. Snacks were cookies and water. Weather seems to be getting better, hope to have a good April for Algansee Library. We are planning more weekly programs. I have also added 1 more program for the summer, now we have 3 programs with a free program from WMU Natural Hazards, showing children how a volcano erupts. Dynamic West School Assemblies presenting made in Michigan and Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary from Athens, Michigan. Algansee Branch Manager Jan Clark and Algansee Library Clerk Jessie Clark. David Dryer said his family uses the Algansee Library every week.

Someone asked how many Algansee township residents use the Library. We didn't know.

G. 2. Planning Committee to Review Feasibility to Move Lights at Twp Hall- committee of Russ Jennings, John Shilling and Bill Avra will meet to review moving the lights to keep the bugs off the township hall.

G. 3. Any Other Old Business- none

H. NEW BUSINESS-

H. 1. Gravel Road Dust Control Bids- Supervisor Russ Jennings said he called S & M Liquid Tire Fill who we had last year do dust control, we didn't hear any negative comments from last year. Their bid is .1275/\$255/mile times 29 miles of gravel roads in Algansee Township equals approximately \$7,395.00. Bill Avra motioned to have S & M Liquid Tire Fill do the dust control for the township's gravel roads. Support by John Shilling. Motion carried.

H. 2. Branch County Road Commission Seal Coat Contract Resolution- Brown Road (Ray Quincy Road to Kelly Road)= 3.05 miles and Kelly Road (Brown Road to Grove Road)= 1.50 miles for a total of 4.55 miles of Seal Coating at \$14,500/mile equals \$65,975 with \$32,987.5 due now with contract. Bill Avra motioned to accept the seal coating contract. Support by John Shilling. Roll Call vote- John Shilling- yes, Bill Avra- yes, Russ Jennings- yes, Ann Strong- yes and Suzanne Preston- yes, motion carried.

H. 3. Mister Hearing date- hearing date for pretrial conference is Friday August 1, 2014 at 2:30pm. Bench trial will be Tues. Sept. 23, 2014 at 8:30am, and if need be Wed. Sept.24, 2014 and Thurs. Sept. 25, 2014 at 8:30am.

H. 4. Approval of Zoning Amendments- Supervisor Russ Jennings read the 2-27-14 letter from Chris Khorey (see attachment). Supervisor Russ Jennings also read the 3-25-14 letter from Linda Belcher, the letter from William and Barbara Lloyd and the 3-31-14 letter from Mary Sue Miller. Supervisor Russ Jennings opened the meeting for public comment. John Shilling explained why the township is requiring 4 acres with the 100 foot set back on all sides and drew an example on the white board. Amos Barnett said that cemeteries have setbacks. Ann Strong asked where the Amish are proposing to build this school, on Colvin Road. Dennis Higbee said that with 1 acre lots they couldn't meet the 100 foot setbacks. Tom Morgan said we have been working on this for more than 2 years and we need to work with these folks, other townships don't have problems with their zoning laws. Pricilla Dodd said we haven't been working on this for 2 years. No one has said we don't like these folks. Ann Strong said we shouldn't infringe on our neighbors property. John Shilling said the current Amish school is exempt from taxes. Public schools are exempt from zoning. Rodney Carpenter said public schools still need 100 foot setbacks and the reason this has taken so long is the Amish have slowed the process down. Harold Sneath said they need to declare it a public school. Bob Migrin said in our zoning ordinance 10.03 states churches and schools setbacks are 500 feet. If it is changed to 100 feet wouldn't the problem go away? Russ Jennings said every time a house or school is built it needs a land split and a parcel identification number, they want to have safety for their children. Rowdy Gibson asked if they could put the school within their own property. Dennis Higbee said we can't take schools out of the zoning ordinance. Russ Jennings said that they could still farm around the school house. David Dryer said the Amish need more homes and that is where they are having the problem. John Shilling said our zoning ordinance used to require 1 house per 40 acres and the Amish didn't like that so we changed it to 1 house per 10 acres. Ron Boggia said he feels the proposed zoning amendment changes are a good compromise. Supervisor Russ Jennings closed the public comments and asked for comments from the board. Russ Jennings said he feels 1 school house per 10 acres is too restrictive for the Amish. Ann Strong said it isn't right if only part of the residents in the township have to abide by the zoning ordinance. John Shilling said we can only solve one problem at a time. Bill Avra said we work hard for what we do. We need guidelines for the entire community whether it is a public school or a private school. Ann Strong said we all need to abide by the same rules. Russ Jennings said he told the Amish they could still ask for a variance. John Shilling motioned to accept the Zoning Amendments. Support by Bill Avra. Roll call vote- John Shilling- yes, Bill Avra- yes, Russ Jennings- no, Ann Strong- yes, Suzanne Preston- yes, motion carried. Supervisor Russ Jennings said the Zoning Amendments will be in effect 7 days after publishing.

H. 5. May 6, 2014 Quincy School Millage Election- Greg Richer and Rowdy Gibson spoke about the 2 bond proposals Quincy Community Schools has on the ballot for the May 6th Election. They are part of the Quincy Community Action Committee that meets every Monday night and they were willing to answer any questions.

H. 6. Assessing Services Maintenance Contract- Erica Ewers presented her contract which is a renewal with \$9/parcel with 1499 parcels for a total of \$13,491.00 for the year or \$1,124.25 per month. Ann Strong motioned to accept Assessing Services Maintenance Contract. Support by Russ Jennings. Motion carried.

H. 7. Computer Updates for Treasurer and Clerk- both computers have XP Windows and Microsoft no longer supports XP windows. John Shilling motioned to upgrade computers. Support by Russ Jennings. Motion carried.

H. 8. Any Other New Business- none

I. PAYMENT OF BILLS- The township expenses were presented in the amount of \$55,386.29. John Shilling motioned to pay bills. Support by Bill Avra. Motion carried.

J. SPECIAL REPORTS

J. 1. Zoning Administrator's Report- Zoning Administrator Amos Barnett reported he issued 2 permits last month.

J. 2. Branch County Commissioner's Report- Don Vrablic gave his Top 5 Report- Is it Spring yet? Mental Health Funding, I-69 Weigh Station, Child Abuse Prevention Awareness and Sales Tax Boost Proposal.

J. 3. Alganssee Library Report- already read Librarian Jan Clark's report.

J. 4. Assessor's Report – Alganssee Assessor Erica Ewers reported- March Board of Review met on March 12 and 13 for total of 12 hours, processed 43 applications- 1 veteran, 14 poverties (11 approved), 6 personal properties, and 22 value questions. Mailed in the 2014 board of review and poverty application for Chris Girod Tax Tribunal hearing scheduled for Friday, April 11th at 11:15am. The March Board of Review values were frozen and data submitted to the Branch County Equalization office on March 19 and Board of Review certifications signed by Board of Review were submitted to County on March 21. Have received preliminary word from County everything submitted okay but unable to roll over database or do any updates until receive final okay from County, Continuing to pick up data twice a month at Equalization, Building Inspection and Register of Deeds Office, also picking up Property Transfer Affidavits and Principal Residence Exemptions at Branch County Abstract & Title Office.

K. CORRESPONDENCE- received from DEQ- approval of John Grove's irrigation permit, Michigan Department of Licensing, Michigan Business Federal and Michigan Regulations, Joe Donato's family sent a note, MTA workshop for ZBA member's \$79/attendee. Bill Avra motioned to pay for the ZBA members to attend. Support by Russ Jennings. Motion carried.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT- Jack McClain said he would like a receipt for his taxes. The Clerk said County Clerk and County Board of Canvassers will be here on April 15th at 10:00am to inspect the ballot cans. Rochelle Ray introduced herself and said she is running for Ken Kurtz's seat, the 58th State House District seat.

M. NEXT REGULAR MEETING Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:30pm,

N. Adjourn- Ann Strong motioned to adjourn. Support by Russ Jennings. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:45pm. Suzanne Preston, Alganssee Township Clerk