

BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP
July 18, 2019
BIG CREEK TOWNSHIP HALL

Regular meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Booth, Avery, Mitchell, Stone, Mundt, Fire Chief Shephard, Blight Officer Bundoff, Sheriff Grace, Commissioner Bondar, Commissioner McAuley, 45 electors
ABSENT: None

Brief Public Comment - No public comment at this time.

MINUTES – June 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Mitchell/Stone to approve minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

LIST OF BILLS

Total invoices of \$30, 242.52.

Stone/Mitchell to approve bills as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Into tax season, all going smoothly with new tax program.

Fund balances: General Fund - \$313,351.60; Cemetery - \$44,715.73; Parks - \$88,566.83; Road Fund - \$239,074.38; Luzerne Fire Fund - \$95,897.21; Fire millage - \$137,345.13.

FIRE REPORT

Responded to a fire, a hazmat situation, and 2 accidents.

Introduced Alex Martin, prospective new firefighter.

Stone/Avery to authorize Alex Martin to join the Luzerne Volunteer Fire Dept. on a probationary basis. All ayes. Motion carried.

Brian Roddy and Nathan Socia both passed FFI & II classes. This leaves only the new firefighter without the required FFI & II certification.

Applied for Title III (wildland) money through the county.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Lots of phone calls the last couple days; audited the park and everything looks good. July Board of Review held last night.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utility Authority - Business as usual.

No meetings for Tri-Town.

MTA meeting at Steiner Museum on August 12. Quilt show there this weekend.

BLIGHT OFFICER REPORT

No verbal report due to amount of attendees present for discussion on noise ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul Olsen, Municipal Underwriters re: Insurance - Premium stayed close to the same (about \$200 more) and rebate is approximately \$450.
Inland Marine covers \$37000 of playground equipment; to increase to \$100,000 it will cost close to \$800. Olsen will get us a quote on price to insure so we can discuss it then.
Re: Charging for parking on township property – Proprietary function (in a position where twp. is making money) the township no longer has as much governmental immunity. If the Fire Assn. makes the money, the twp. still has their immunity. For the Fire Assn. to be insured it will cost approximately \$1500/year. A one-day policy for \$1000000 would be about \$450 thru another insurance co. The township needs to be an additional insured on the Association policy.
If the Association goes to private property and has a beer tent on the private property, the township would have no responsibility if there was a lawsuit.

Stone/Mitchell to accept proposed insurance as presented by Michigan Municipal Underwriters. All ayes. Motion carried.

- Private Use of Township Property - Complaints about use of township property to park. Stone – If there's no permission to use it, either they remove them or we have them towed. Sheriff's dept. would respond if they were told the vehicles were trespassing. Steve Martin, Jim Kuchinow, Big Foot Lodge – Their people were told to not park there but they did anyway and when they were notified the cars were there they were moved.
Avery/Mitchell - To post the Township tower site at Luzerne as "No Trespassing". All ayes. Motion carried.

Stone suggested a citizen committee to review and make suggestions on events.
Volunteers - Booth/Mitchell/Marylend Berry, Betty Berry, Mary Dunsmore, Tracy Dunsmore, Rich Burdis, Jan Burdis, Kathy Cox, Kathie Mitchell.

- Event Permitting -
- Haz Mat Fees – An ordinance was written in 2009 to address charges for HazMat response. Our ordinance indicated charges would be updated annually, and included on our fee schedule. Other townships charging \$250/hr. for equipment, \$100/hr. for personnel.

Stone/Mitchell to add HazMat charges to the 2019-20 fee schedule. All ayes. Motion carried.

MAIL:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Burtis – Property abuts Big Foot Lodge. Questions about disturbing the peace.

Mark Patullo – Kushstock Company was contacted. There was 600 people signed up to attend.

There is no music after 11:00, Security will be there, this is a business to business. Pulled the plug on Kushstock as of today. Would like the twp. to consider the economic implications of our policy on event permitting.

Rich Burtis – Music Thursday & Friday until 2 am, Saturday all night. The windows shook at .3 mile from the music origination. If the police came, they did nothing and the response was to get louder.

Jim Kuchinow – Will not allow it to happen again.

Mysty Berry – Concern is there are 6 more weekends of summer to put up with similar problem.

Jim Kuchinow – No more people coming for the rest of the summer. This won't happen again.

Kathie Mitchell – Felt the sheriff's deputies were treated disrespectfully.

Steve Martin – Talked to police Dept.

Sheriff Grace – A lot of intoxicated people there, they did arrive out there several times. The investigation has been completed and will be sent to prosecutor to see if there would be charges.

Kathy Cox – A lot of people are not aware there is a request for a marijuana facility in the township.

Booth – LARA has now published the rules. We will be holding a public meeting then make a decision.

Stone – If we opt out, there can be a referendum by those wanting the marijuana facility. Sixty signatures will put the question on a ballot. We pay for it.

Booth – If there's a referendum, the vote is on an ordinance we have no input into.

Larry Leaf – Do we have a noise ordinance. No – The township has no police dept. so there's no one to enforce an ordinance.

Sheriff Grace – County ordinances were taken off the books because they weren't enforceable.

Kathy Coopa – Questions what happens when money from marijuana is deposited in the bank.

Booth – LARA is working on it. But there is legislation to get the banking issued changed.

Ken Friday – LARA keeps changing the rules. Doesn't think the state will send a bunch of permits to little Oscoda County.

Jackie Bondar – re. noise ordinance, suggests if anyone wants to encourage county commissioners to pass an ordinance, contact Brenda and be put on the agenda.

BOARD COMMENT:

Commissioner McAuley – AuSable River Natural Rivers – people asking for a variance to expand their house within the 195 foot setback on the Ausable, and it was granted.

Sheriff Grace – C. Morse-Bills has done a lot of work on county ordinances.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the successful search for the little girl in Comins twp.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Rhonda Mundt,
Township Clerk