

March 21, 2016 Cost & Fee Workshop

Minutes

When Convened: March 21, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. by Township Supervisor

Who Present: Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, John Ollila and Bruce Petersen
(Supervisor)

Public Present: No Public present

Where: Township Offices Located at 47240 Green Acres Road, Houghton,
MI 49931

Discussion Items Under Each Township Department

Cemetery:

Water → We have a aged irrigation system that was initially designed to handle the demand of a few users watering individual plots – the new normal is for a “landscaper” who contracts for 25/30 plots care to move in and mow and irrigate all at the same time thus greatly increasing momentary water demand well above the design parameters of the old system. They have made a case that they really don’t receive the \$20.00/year per lot worth of water when the pressure is so low it barely flows.

I think we should work towards a new irrigation system with mainlines running along the two roadways with laterals coming off to service the various cemetery areas. Board agreed plus we should ascertain whether under high demand times or not the new piping and valve located near the vault would alleviate some of the low pressure/volume problems in the back 1/3 of the cemetery. A possibility of a Pet Cemetery was introduced. There is one already in the Traprock Valley. Board didn’t think the area could support another one.

Assessor:

Land Splits → \$125.00 per land split. Should we increase that charge? Are there any other charges that could be levied? The Board thought that the splits should be \$125.00 for up to three – then \$25.00 for everyone thereafter. John made a motion, Seconded by Bill, passed Unanimously.

Recreation:

What are we going to charge for the private ice **rink rental** for various winter/summer usages?? At the Township Office a sign up register with the renter's name, what sort of activity and date and time period for that appointment will be kept so the private party events do not overlap or interfere with another event. At this time there will be no charge to residents for the rinks usage. The Tapiola rink will be monitored by Mr. Karviko at Superior Welding located in Tapiola in the same manner.

Constables:

Roy B. = \$140.00/month as constable + \$100.00 (liquor inspection)

Robert L. = \$113.00/month as constable + \$62.00 (liquor inspection)

Because of the six month window prior the primary elections this summer we cannot change to any code enforcing officer at the present time. The Constables must enter their names so they can be on the primary ballot. The constables and payments will remain the same.

Zoning/Building:

Zoning Application → Presently, there is an initial filing fee charge of \$20.00. Should there be a charge for the actual inspection and or should we increase the fees?? After much discussion it was decided to increase the Zoning Administrators initial inspection fee to \$50.00 per inspection. If his decision is contested/appealed the costs for the Board of Appeals (B.O.A.) hearing, posting and scheduling would be \$200.00. If the appeal is heard by the Planning Commission (P.C.), the charge for the meeting, scheduling and posting would be \$250. It was also recommended that these new rates take affect June 1, 2016. John made the motion, seconded by Bill, passed unanimously.

Water & Sewer:

New Hookups & or Turn on Fees → Charge more for commercial versus private house was discussed.

Water Consumption → more/less per gallon/cubic foot for commercial consumption was also discussed.

Garden Meter → Presently, a one time charge of \$85.00 and when returned the homeowner receives a check for that initial fee. Should there be a very small monthly fee or can that be included in the homeowners base fee was discussed.

Late Fees → Presently, 5% per month on the outstanding balance, an increase to that was also discussed.

A commercial hookup for water and or sewer will remain \$1,500.00 apiece and a new private house hookup for water and or sewer will remain \$1,200.00 apiece. Both commercial and private residents will be charged at the same gallon age rate for sewer and water.

Publishing → We should attempt to remove our rate schedules from ordinances so they can be passed during the course of a regular meeting thus avoiding multiple public meetings and costly publication charges. If rate changes are placed on the meeting agenda the public has an opportunity to comment and hear the discussion. With the increases in rates for the B.O.A. and the P.C. posting/publishing costs will be covered by the new hearing/meeting rates.

<u>Ordinances:</u>	(Fines)	
Number	What	Fines
108 & 119	Cemetery Ord.	If damages are incurred at the cemetery the fine is ≤ \$500.00 & prosecution charges & all the restitution to the TWP for labor, materials, etc.
111	Junk Ord.	Old Ord. = ≤ \$500.00 fine and or ≤ 90 days in County jail. New Ord. = 30 day correction warning, then if not corrected a fine of ≥ \$100.00/month is levied.
115	Snow Removal Ord.	Initial infraction is \$5.00 then \$10.00 for each subsequent infraction.
117	Littering Ord.	Initial fine of \$400.00 plus prosecution costs and or ≤ 90 days in County jail.
123	Traffic Ord.	Cannot block or impede traffic flow. A ≤ \$500.00 fine and or 90 days in County jail.
134	Dangerous Bldgs. Ord.	Subject to State of Michigan fines of which ≤ \$500.00 is paid to Portage Twp.

The Board of Trustees thought as the above mentioned ordinances are rewritten for clarity – at that time the fines should be adjusted accordingly.

These monetary changes will be reviewed again and possibly passed at the April 11, 2016 regular Board of Trustees meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned by John Ollila at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Petersen Township Supervisor