

**SURREY TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Russ Hamilton leading the Pledge to the Flag. Members present: Supervisor Russ Hamilton, Clerk Glenna Bradbury, Treasurer Stacy Delong, Trustee Ken Pitchford and Trustee Rod Williams. Also, in attendance: Fire Chief Dave Williams, Commissioner Samantha Pitchford and Attorney Jaynie Hoerauf.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Agenda**

The meeting agenda for February 14, 2023 was reviewed. R Williams made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by K Pitchford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting was made by R Williams, supported by S Delong. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Bills**

•General Fund bills: (check #s 38604-38607, 38622-38629, 38642-38662) for a total of \$71,679.74 •the Fire Fund bills (check #s 15890, 15897 (voided amount \$159.50), 15898-15912) for a total of \$11,580.77 •and the Transfer Facility bills (check #s 1597-1605) a total of \$5,479.24. K Pitchford made the motion to pay the bills plus the credit card totals of: General \$234.50 and Fire \$769.86, supported by G Bradbury. Roll Call Vote: K Pitchford-yes, G Bradbury-yes, R Williams-yes, S Delong-yes and R Hamilton-yes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

The report was presented by S Delong. The report will be kept on file.

**REPORTS**

**Fire Department Report**

D Williams reported: •Requesting \$1,000 for the Clare Co. Fire Chief's Training •Asks permission to sign hose and ladder testing agreements with National Hose Testing •Needs \$1300 to complete communication network with Pro-Tech between Fire Dept Bldg #1 and #2 •Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. there will be a demonstration at the Fire Dept. bldg. of the SAM System for the newest Fire Truck. •motion made by G Bradbury for \$1,000 for the Fire Chief's Training fund, seconded by K Pitchford. Roll call vote: G Bradbury-yes, K Pitchford-yes, R Hamilton-yes, S Delong-yes and R Williams-yes. Motion carried. •K Pitchford made the motion to sign the hose and ladder testing agreements, supported by R Williams. Roll call vote: K Pitchford-yes, R Williams-yes, R Hamilton-yes, S Delong-yes and G Bradbury-yes. Motion carried. •motion made to approve \$1,300 to complete communication network connection by R Williams, seconded by K Pitchford. Roll call vote: R Williams-yes, K Pitchford-yes, G Bradbury-yes, R Hamilton-yes and S Delong-yes. Motion carried.

**Special Report:** Per G Bradbury's request, Attorney J Hoerauf attended the Board meeting to give clarity to an ongoing issue with the residents pertaining to civil infraction enforcement for Zoning and Blight issues. •9 years ago, all were charged as a crime with a jury trial. That was awful so it became a Civil Infraction. This saved money and time and R Williams does most of the paperwork that gets submitted to the court. The courts aren't perfect but this made it better. Infractions are similar to a traffic ticket. Offenders report to court, they are fined, have 14 days to admit wrong doing or not, ask for a hearing, or do nothing. Popular action is to do nothing. The court issues default and gives fine. A ticket is written and nothing ever happens and the court doesn't order a cleanup. The court finally worked out an agreement with a fine and an order to cleanup within a certain amount of days (usually 30-60). After 60 days with no cleanup the Township can ask for bids to find help with cleanup. Get search warrant to enter on property

and cleanup begins. This process can happen many times before the offender understands the consequences of not cleaning up. During bad weather months all activity halts when snow comes and ground freezes. Sometimes no matter what the Zoning Admin. does it could still go to Circuit Court where only the attorney can do and this all costs more money. Bottom line this is a very time consuming process. R Williams added Surrey Townships 1<sup>st</sup> fine is \$75. He will be submitting a revised Ordinance to Atty. Jaynie Hoerauf to address certain issues that need updated.

- K Jankowski asked if there was anything the citizens can do to help, answer – not really. It's just a matter of the Township following the process and the court system.
- J Nelson how can a complainant follow an issue, there doesn't seem to be transparency, answer-go to court and follow the proceedings or ask for available copies of actions taken.
- P Leyva asked if it could be posted in the paper, answer – the paper only posts convictions.
- J Nelson asked if R Williams should just start by giving out a ticket to speed up the process, answer-no, we want to treat people respectfully. R Williams said he gives out a copy of the Ordinance with his business card.

### **Zoning Report:**

Rod Williams reported: •2 permits issued in YTD •Asking to attend MTA Conference, April 17-20. It will cost \$390 + \$360 for lodging plus mileage. •Motion made by R Hamilton to attend the MTA Conf., seconded by G Bradbury. Roll call vote: R Hamilton-yes, G Bradbury-yes, K Pitchford-yes, S Delong-yes and R Williams-abstained. Motion carried.

### **Planning Commission:**

Per Rod Williams the next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

### **Commissioner**

Per S Pitchford: •The Commissioners have given L Mott, County Clerk, permission to hire a person that would be involved in the Elections. G Bradbury expressed her opinion and concerns regarding the cost and function of the 9 days of early voting and where that should be conducted. She feels her voters would be better served at Surrey Twp. Not enough info is readily available at this time to consider what the better way could/would be.

### **OTHERS:**

- 1. D Rogers, Road Comm. gave an update on the roundabout at Surrey Rd and Old State Ave. He requested a Resolution for a traffic study on Old State between Surrey Rd. and US10. Lake 13 requested the study with the hopes of the speed limit be reduced. The resolution would show Surrey Twp's support for this study. The project timeline: Bids in April, Construction June/July, Finish Sept 2023. He delivered blueprints to the Board. There will be posted detour info/signs at a later date. Other paving projects: • Old State between Scott Dr and the roundabout, •Old State Rd. from the roundabout to Maple Grove and •Surrey Rd at M115 to roundabout. G Bradbury made the motion to accept the Resolution #2023-01, seconded by R Williams. Roll call vote: G Bradbury-yes, R Williams-yes, K Pitchford-yes, R Hamilton-yes and S Delong-yes. Motion carried. •K Pitchford asked about putting a "No Trucks" sign on Cutoff Road. D Rogers responded: there will be no sign, he asks people to call law enforcement with complaints. •R Hamilton ask about the neighboring Township has a "No Truck" enforcement for most of their roads, is that enforceable? D Rogers answered "Yes". •R Williams asked about chip and seal for Harding and Washington roads, "is that getting done this year?" D Rogers said he forgot about it; it won't be done this year.
- 2. Dale Schmid asked to tap the 3 Maple trees in the Cemetery between February and March. R Williams made the motion to approve the tapping of the trees, seconded by S Delong. All ayes, motion carried.
- 3. M Schefsky yielded his time to his wife, Kate Schefsky, regarding the GFL and the Transfer Facility. There are concerns about money and the reduced costs to the Township. R Hamilton explained that the first year will be a learning process regarding costs. GFL is responsible for the bills that concern just the running of the Transfer Facility. The Township is responsible for the workers wages, the maintaining of

the landfill, maintaining brush & leaves, postage, misc. worker's needs. Other concerns regarding the contract and the lack of transparency. K Schefsky asked several questions to GFL's representative, Rick Fancon regarding GFL's trash, the handling of trash. R Fancon answered all her questions. There will be no expansion on the additional 19 acres. She asked the Board if they would be interested in a Citizen Advisory Board. R Hamilton said that it could be reviewed and addressed next meeting. R Fancon gave her his business and invited her to call anytime.

- J Nelson spoke about transparency. Wanted to know who is paying the Transfer Facility insurance, the answer is GFL.
- P Leyva doesn't understand the concerns, the garbage gets scooped up and it's gone
- R Williams presented some history facts about the Transfer Facility. •Sept. 1988 construction started
- July 1989 completed and licensed by the State of MI a Type A facility on July 13, 1989 (Grant funding was used from Dept. of Natural Resources) •Mar. 1988 to Jan. 1 2014 contract with Waste Mgmt at which time notice was given that Surrey Township was taking over mgmt. and switching to American Wste for recycling and waste hauling •landfill capped and original monitor installed Jul 1990. •All is overseen by EGLE.
- P Leyva asked: the signing of the contract is up to the Board, answer is yes.
- D Williams commented: if you don't come to the Board meetings, you shouldn't be complaining.
- G Bradbury stated she's been at the Township since 2006 and the Board meetings have always been the second Tuesday of the month, except if there is an election that day, then it's the third Tuesday. There are always postings for Special meetings which are seldom.
- J Knoph asked: •how many residents receive dump cards, answer 1,650 eligible, 1,147 received YTD •is it public knowledge how much GFL is paying the Township, answer they are not paying, they have assumed all bills pertaining to the running of the facility: recycle and waste hauling, snow plowing, grass cutting, electricity, restroom rental, etc.
- M Knoph why isn't GFL responsible for monitor testing, answer because that is the old landfill and it is the Township's responsibility. The landfill is overseen by DEQ/EGLE and is tested and inspected twice a year.
- K Jankowski stated she comes to all the Board meetings and is always encouraging others to attend.
- J Nelson asked how much does testing cost, answer for 2022 it was \$15,686. The Township also maintains the landfill, the brush and leaves and the compost at the Trans.Facility.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

See above

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Addressed under Others

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- J Nelson asked if there is zoning for trash cans at Surrey Lake subdivision, answer \*that is handled through the Home Owners Association.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Glenna Bradbury, Surrey Township Clerk

Transcribed by Glenna Bradbury, Surrey Township Clerk

