

**BIRCH RUN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2016**

Supervisor Ray Letterman called the April Regular Meeting of the Birch Run Township Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present for the board were Karen Parlberg, Treasurer; Pam Moore, Fred Sheridan & Brady Totten, Trustees. Approximately 15 people were in the audience. Others present were Brad Thomas for the Department of Public Works, David Matzke for the Fire Department and Jeanette Morrish for the Library. Clerk Corey Trinklein and Trustee Ed Magnus were absent.

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve the April 12, 2016 Agenda as amended.

Yeas: Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan
Nays:

March 15, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes were discussed.

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Sheridan to approve the March 15, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Yeas: Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten
Nays:

April 7, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes were discussed.

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Moore to approve the April 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Yeas: Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore
Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve Invoices through 4/7/16 totaling \$192,218.03.

Yeas: Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore
Nays:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 7:06 p.m. to 7:22 p.m.

John Lakowski; Cheryl Hadsall; Rosemary Hayes; Ken Campbell

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Comments submitted by Trustee Pam Moore:

- Congratulations to Corey, Ray, and Karen for their raises that 5 board members orchestrated at the annual meeting.
- February 9th – board UNANIMOUSLY approved the resolutions to keep the salaries constant; there was no discussion of increasing the salaries.
- March 15th – board UNANIMOUSLY approved the budget with the old wages on the line items. No discussion again of increasing the salaries.
- March 22nd – Annual meeting occurred and was over in 4 minutes. Minutes were in the newspaper that 25 ELECTORS were present, which is misstated as the township park meeting was set for the same time as the annual meeting and 75% of the people were present for that event. Motions were made to set the Clerk to \$30K by Mary Jo Tanner/ Ed Magnus; set the Treasurer to \$30K by Beth Sheridan/Fred Sheridan; set the Supervisor to \$19K by CJ Norris/Mike Marr. People were told to have a seat and you would get to them when you were done with YOUR meeting. These so-called electors did not participate in the process as they had no idea of what was being conducted. These taxpayers were used to inflate the support of the raises.
- Personnel committee – did not meet to discuss the potential raises?
- There is a pattern of omitting “controversial” items to the agenda that is distributed to the board/published for the public to review. A recent example is the 50 cent wage increases at

the March 15 meeting. There are several items that are amended on the agenda for discussion at the last minute when the meeting starts. Most of these items have already been discussed as you continue to sit in the office for hours at a time and determine the outcome of what is needed.

- Salaries have been raised and the budget process has been ignored AGAIN. The last few years of audit comments have continuously had write-ups to represent violations where line items are not adhered to. Again, you are asking the board to shift money to these over-expenditures due to the lack of planning and ignoring the APPROVED BUDGET that was given one week prior.
- Public awareness – it is an election year. We are all here to represent the people, some seem to forget that! You argue over \$5 health insurance card costs, \$1 per hour police contracts and yet you don't think twice about blowing the budgets to pad your salaries. You are about to ask the people for money for the library and ease the burden on the township. I hope the public starts to get involved and watch the expenditures being made here.

Comments submitted by Trustee Brady Totten:

I am very disappointed that the wage increases for the Elected Officials were handled at the Annual Meeting. These increases were supported by some board members. Prior to that meeting, we had unanimously approved resolutions in February regarding elected official salaries during our budgeting process. I am not implying that there was anything done improperly, as I am fully aware of the laws and intent of a General Law Township Annual Meeting. Nor am I stating these increases were unmerited. Our elected officials deserve to be fairly compensated for their responsibilities and the duties they perform. As board members we have continual opportunities to have a healthy, transparent discussion about the amount of hours these positions require, the amount of work that is performed beyond statutory duties, and whether these are truly part-time, or full-time positions which may prohibit the office holder to seek additional income. We could have done our due diligence at the board level to assure that we have basis for board wages and they are not arbitrary rates or increases. In the future, my hope would be that would could discuss this issue at the board meeting for the purposes of fiscal planning and maintaining our electors trust.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve the April 2016 Budget Amendments (FY 2016) as presented.

Yeas: Parlberg, Sheridan, Letterman

Nays: Totten, Moore

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Parlberg to approve the April 2016 Budget Amendments (FY 2017) as presented.

Yeas: Sheridan, Totten, Letterman, Parlberg

Nays: Moore

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve hiring Wellman Excavating to install the water main extension at Downing & Dehmel at a cost of \$163,452.00.

Yeas: Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan

Nays:

FAILED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Letterman to approve hiring Jacobi Custom Remodeling to move the Clerk's Office at a cost of \$4,079.00.

Yeas: Parlberg

Nays: Moore, Letterman, Totten

Abstain: Sheridan

FAILED: Motion by Letterman seconded by Sheridan to approve the DPW to purchase a used air compressor from Thetford Township at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Yeas: Sheridan

Nays: Letterman, Parlberg, Totten, Moore

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve Resolution #2016-09 (Amend Fee Schedule for Cemetery) as presented.

Yeas: Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore, Letterman

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Parlberg to approve the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Simply Blue PPO HSA Gold \$1350 w/ Contribution through Burnham & Flower with all employees paying 20% of the premium.

Yeas: Sheridan, Letterman, Parlberg

Nays: Totten, Moore

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Moore to approve hiring Michelle Duncan as the recording secretary for the Planning Commission at a rate of \$50.00 per meeting.

Yeas: Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve setting the Planning Commission Secretary wage at \$50.00 per meeting from \$60.00.

Yeas: Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Moore to approve the Birch Run Township Concession Stand Rental Agreement as presented.

Yeas: Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Sheridan to approve sending to the Township attorney for an opinion on the water line assessment for 8310 Lange Road.

Yeas: Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore, Letterman

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Moore to approve refunding Larry Thompson of 8370 Lange Road \$615.00 for the overpayment of water debt to rate assessment 8/3/05 – 3/26/16.

Yeas: Sheridan, Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Totten to approve Ed Birkmeier Well Drilling to install new 5" well located at Birch Run Cemetery at a cost of \$4,200.00.

Yeas: Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan

Nays:

PASSED: Motion by Totten seconded by Moore to approve the DPW to purchase a utility trailer from Turf Tech Inc. for \$3,890.00.

Yeas: Moore, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten

Nays: Letterman

PASSED: Motion by Sheridan seconded by Parlberg to approve the DPW to purchase a Zero turn mower from Keene Small Engine Repair at a cost of \$10,953.00.

Yeas: Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan, Totten, Moore

Nays:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 8:52 p.m. to 9:04 p.m.

Connie Mazur; Lee Simms

PASSED: Motion by Moore seconded by Sheridan to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Yeas: Totten, Moore, Letterman, Parlberg, Sheridan

Nays:

Submitted by: Brad Thomas

Approved: May 10, 2016 _____