

Albany Township–Monthly Meeting–February 24, 2014

The regular monthly township meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Rosen on February 24, 2014 ,7:30 P.M. at the Albany City Council Chambers. Supervisors, Mary Rosen and Tim Nierenhausen were present. Absent Rosanne Lehnen. Also present, Diane Noll, Clerk. Members of the Planning Commission, Gary Bloch, Mike Noll and Ryan Pratt were also present.

**The pledge** of allegiance was recited.

**2. The agenda;** A motion to accept the agenda as reviewed was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried unanimously.

**3. Minutes** The minutes from January 29 and February 3, 2014 meetings were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as reviewed was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Roesn, motion carried, unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for February was reviewed; Investments–\$304,938.65; Checkbook balance–\$283,713.73 ; Deposits–\$1,252.53 .Claims–\$13,837.80; Payroll–\$828.84. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Supervisor Rosen, seconded by Supervisor Nierenhausen, motion carried, unanimously.

The certificates of deposit at CMCU (February 24, 2014–9 month) and Stearns Bank (March 27, 2014–6 month)are up for renewal . A motion to renew certiificates for the respective times was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

**5. Approve Claims**

A motion to approve claims 8301 to 8312 plus electronic transfers of 21403 was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried, unanimously.

Payroll Claims

8301 to 8303 \$828.84

Claims

8304	Albany Phone	\$30.85	8305	Custom Waste	\$2,750.00
8306	Lehnen Rosanne	\$29.98	8307	Star Publication	\$89.70
8308	Arceneau, Sheela	\$112,50	8309	Groetsch, Mary Ann	\$118.75
8310	Laing, Diann	\$143.75	8311	Noll, Diane	\$221.75
8312	Sunnybrook	\$10,175.00	8313	MN Assn. Twp	\$50.00
21403	Pera	\$115.52			

Total Payroll and Claims \$14,666.64

As requested at the January meeting contact was made with Dave Gerads Construction in reference to his bill for the aggregate placed on 350 Avenue.The additional charge was \$2,975.00. An agreement was reached to pay for ½ the additional charge which would be \$1,287.50. A motion to approve paying Dave Gerads Construction the amount of \$1,287.50 was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

When Paying Custom Waiste for removing the snow, it was noted that the owner of the company is a brother to Supervisor Nierenhausen. Clerk Noll requested to avoid a conflict of interest that Supervisor Nierenhausen refrain from voting on issues concerning this contractor.

**6. Guests**

Molly Thompson,CPA Schlenner Wenner

Ms Thompson was in attendance to report on the audit for the year ending on December 31,2013. She reported the financial status of Albany Township is in good order. There were two concerns. The township did not receive final

paperwork from the contractor on the construction done on 360 Street and there was an overpayment to a contractor on grading that was done. Follow up will be done by Clerk Noll on these two concerns.

A motion to approve the audit done by Schlenner Wenner was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

## 7. Open Forum–None

## 8. Planning Commission

a. Monthly Report–Supervisor Rosen–No meeting was held.

b. Building permits–Jerry Forster–No permits were issued

c. Sharon Seiler–Final Approval of Plat

At the December 23, 2013 meeting Ms Seiler presented to the board a request to split her property. This was approved and a Certificate of Compliance was sent to the County. There have been no changes to the plat – Chair Rosen signed the respective Plats.

d. Shelly Schwinghammer–request to build child care center in Township–not present

c. Geronimo Energies Tena Rytel and Nathan Fransen

Ms Rytel and Mr. Fransen are working with Geronimo Energies to complete a \$2.5K Solar project to be located at 23864 360 Street in Albany Township. Mr. Fransen assisted with the work done on the St. John's Solar project. In December 2013, Geronimo was given permission to move forward with the project. At the end of March P.U.D. Will meet to make a final decision on the project.

When completed the energy will be going directly into a grid for Excel Energy.

### ***Concerns expressed by the board.***

How will our roads be protected?–*Solar energy does not have the same impact on roads as does wind energy. Prior to construction the township and contractors will need to have an agreement.*

How long will this project take to complete?–*Construction will take about one season to complete.*

When will construction start?–*This will depend on the states decision being made at the end of March 2014. Our goal is to start in May of 2016 and have it completed in December of 2016.*

How large is this project?–*This project will cover 70 acres of property. The project at St. John's is only 4 acres.*

What can damage the solar panels?–*One inch hail at 50 MPH and 90 mph winds will/may do damage.*

Will there be a weed plan in place?–*Yes, that is part of the project.*

How far off the property line will this be constructed?–*Project will be placed 50 feet from the property lines and fences will be built around the entire perimeter.*

The Krebs farm is located on both sides of 360 Street, will the project extend over the road, or stay on one side? *It is planned for only one side of the road.*

The county has requested all lines be underground–is this the plan? *Not sure at this time.*

How will this affect the tax base of the surrounding properties? *This will be zoned as Ag property and should not affect the tax base. The project will also generate a production tax that will be split between the county and township.*

## 9. Road Reports

a Road tour–Supervisor Rosen

St. Anna Drive–Received notice from Excel Energy; they will be replacing electric poles.

St. Anna Drive–received notice from county, they are requesting some work be done on the bridge. We will review this when we do our spring road tour.

Pioneer View Road all 911 numbers on one post-21204-21190-21267-21243, will need to be moved to respective residence in the spring.

225 Avenue-north end by Schiffler-Stop ahead sign twisted

Orchard road has high banks-all is off the road at this time, we will need to see what the weather brings.

205 Ave east end curve sign twisted.

Orchard Road-Curve sign by ponds hanging on with wire

238 Ave-received report from resident stating the trees need to be trimmed.

19557 Quaker Road-because of a fire at this residence, there was water poured on the road. The county sheriff called requesting sand to be placed on the road. Herdering was called to assist.

The following roads have high snow piles and will need to have them removed.

207 Ave/375 St/251 Ave/239 Ave. / 350 St east end/255 St /320 St/251 Ave/St. Anna Drive

A motion to have Custom Waste remove the snow on the above roads was made by Supervisor Rosen, seconded by Supervisor Nierenhausen, motion carried. Because we only have two officers in attendance it was necessary for Tim Nierenhausen to second this motion. Because Mr. Nierenhausen's brother is part owner in Custom Waste it is requested that he does not vote on issues concerning this contractor, to prevent a conflict of interest.

A contract will need to be signed with Custom Waste for the work being done. Clerk Noll will draft a contract stating the amount of \$125.00 per hour for snow removal.

Clerk Noll-When we signed the contract with Sunnybrook, there was no mention of paying rent for his shed. We were billed for this on his January invoice. Should we be paying him for this expense? Board stated yes.

#### b. Gravel Bids

A motion to place a notice in the paper for our summer gravel was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

Notices will be sent to local contractors for their information. When accepting the contract we should add information on watering the gravel if it is a dry year.

### **10. Old business**

#### a Approval of Comprehensive Plan

A motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan as reviewed was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

Copies of the Comprehensive Plan will be available at the Annual Meeting.

#### b. Review of Levy-Freeport Fire Department

When we received the invoice from the Freeport Fire Department the amount was more than we had budgeted for 2015. Review was done on the budget and changes were made to reflect the changes. A motion to approve the 2015 budget with the changes was made by Supervisor Nierenhausen, seconded by Supervisor Rosen, motion carried.

### **11. New Business-None**

### **12. Officer Reports**

Clerk Noll-Board of Appeals Training, the county is offering numerous chances for board members to be trained.

