



ACME TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Friday, April 4, 2014, 1:05 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT 1:05 p.m.

Members present: C. Dye, A. Jenema, G. LaPointe, J. Zollinger
Members excused: C. Collett, P. Scott, D. White
Staff present: Kate Redman, Township Counsel

A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Kelly 4893 Ridgecrest , expressed his opinion for requirements of hiring a future Bookkeeper/assistant for Acme Township. (attached to minutes)

C. Dye, Acme Township Clerk, read a prepared statement (attached to minutes)

Paul Rundhaug, 3733 Bunkerhill Rd, expressed his displeasure with the Deputy Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by LaPointe, seconded by Jenema to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

B. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None noted

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion regarding hiring a Auditor to look into improprieties or Illegal Activities when they are received.

Zollinger commented that in the Record Eagle article dated March 21, 2014, accusations of improprieties against Acme Township were expressed. Zollinger stated at present we have not received any information as to what the allegations are. The Clerk's office has received a letter of resignation but no information stating allegations were included in the letter. Zollinger expressed that these allegations are of a grave concern to the Board. Our legal counsel has contacted Treasurer, Collett's lawyer on two occasions and the State Department of Treasury and as of today no documentation has been presented.

Zollinger stated that the Board at a earlier monthly meeting requested that a RFP for audit services be prepared. We had three responses, Gabridge & Company, Tobin & Company and Abraham & Gaffney. The range of pricing was from \$9,900 to \$16,900.

Jenema expressed that we currently have a lot going on in the township and she is concerned about the Public losing faith in the Board as well as all the grant providers that we have benefited from.

Margaret Tipsword, Director of Client Services for Rehmann, stated that her company provides corporate investigative services. She is here to let Acme Township know of these services.

R. Kamps, 4176 Bartlett Road, commented that perhaps the State of Michigan would have some kind of protocol dealing with this and also the Statue of Limitations would be helpful in coming to the sunset of this issue. He suggested that the township contact State of Michigan. He did not believe that we should hire someone to look into something for which we have no information.

T. Phillips, 2986 Wild Juniper Trail, confessed he was a little suspicious when he first heard there was a meeting today. He thanks the Board for their transparency and for the open dialogue today. He suggested that the Board write a letter to the Record Eagle outlining the efforts that the Board has done to address the issues.

LaPointe expressed the same feelings as what has been said. He feels we need to counter what has been said in the Record Eagle.

Jenema was in agreement with LaPointe.

Motion by Dye to continue going forward with continual contact by our counsel with a date certain for requesting information and to take possible alternative legal actions if information is not received by requested date. Seconded by LaPointe. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

LaPointe would also like to have the supervisor draft a letter regarding the allegations that have been made.

Motion by LaPointe to have the supervisor draft a letter regarding the allegations that have been made, Seconded by Jenema. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Discussion regarding procedures to be followed when we start looking for the Township Treasurer based on the letter received from Collett effective 4/8/2014

Zollinger read Collet's letter of resignation effective 4/8/14. He stated that the Board will act on this at the regularly monthly Board meeting, April 8, 2014. He reviewed the procedures for replacing any elected official upon resignation.

Jenema, stated that she had been interested in running for Treasurer in 2012 but after seeing who was running decided to run for Trustee instead. Jenema MAY consider resigning as Trustee and running for the Treasurer's position.

LaPointe asked if the Deputy Treasurer was going to step in during this time. Jenema said the Deputy was gone upon the resignation of the Treasurer. Zollinger stated that a deputy whether for the supervisor, treasurer or clerk serves at the pleasure of the person that appointed them not the Board. Zollinger commented that upon acceptance of the Treasurer's resignation no checks for bills or payroll can be issued.

We have 45 days to fill the position and if not the State will step in.

Motion by LaPointe that staff have an ad for the Treasurer's position prepared to be submitted to the Ticker publication upon acceptance of the Treasurer's resignation. Seconded by Dye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

From: Brian Kelley, Acme Township resident
To: Acme Board of Trustees
April 4, 2014

The appearance and visibility of the present situation further underscores the need for a licensed CPA in the temp accounting position.

Financial advice purchased by the township should be in writing, and it should come from someone with a professional license in the State of Michigan. Anything less is too informal and not a good value, at any hourly rate, for the citizens of Acme.

Thank you,

Brian Kelley

Brief comments for today's meeting:

Since being appointed Clerk of Acme Township;

I have conducted my duties and office in a professional, responsible and courteous manner. I have also been extremely responsive to township resident's needs. I have attended (2) 4 day MTA conferences, received clerks accreditation From the State of Mich. Attended 10 monthly county wide Clerks meetings and have built networking relationships with other area clerks including GT County Clerk Bonnie Scheele. Bookkeeper Drennen was brought in to reconcile at least 10 months of the twp. books, that hadn't been touched prior to my appointment. Drennen's services benefited the Supervisor's, Treasurer's and Clerk's office. He was not brought in to only to "teach" Government Bookeeping to the new clerk. There have been problems with the township books dating back (at least) a decade. To hang any responsibility for those problems on Drennen or myself, is simply not understanding the Facts!

I also feel I must address the comments made by Treasurer Collet to the Record Eagle with regard to my actions being "Possibly Illegal". I have done absolutely nothing illegal in my duties as Acme Township Clerk! To make such comments without documentation is irresponsible and ridiculous. I believe the Treasurer made these comments maliciously, in my absence, in a public form to purposely damage my reputation. Her comments are completely personally revolting and professionally inexcusable!

I would like to express my disappointment at the removal of Dennis Drennen at the special meeting, during my vacation on March 20th. I expressed my reasons for retaining his services to board members, even suggested that the issue be tabled until my return, but the board elected to placate the treasurer and Drennen was removed. Considering the treasurer's resignation, and the fact that her position needs to be filled, I request that vote be rescinded and Drennen re-instated, ~~for the time being.~~

I also ask that I be given time at the April 8th township meeting for further comment on the Clerk's office and activities.



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6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Friday, April 4, 2014, 1:00 p.m.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP MEETING POLICIES

- A. All cell phones shall be switched to silent mode or turned off.**
- B. Any person may make a video, audio or other record of this meeting. Standing equipment, cords, or portable microphones must be located so as not to block audience view.**

CALL TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment periods are provided at the beginning and end of each meeting agenda. Members of the public may address the Board regarding any subject of community interest during these periods. Comment during other portions of the agenda may or may not be entertained at the moderator's discretion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

C. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

E. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion regarding hiring a Auditor to look into any improprieties or Illegal Activites when they are received.**
- 2. Discussion regarding procedures to be followed when we start looking for Township Treasurer based on letter received from C Collett effective 4/8/2014.**

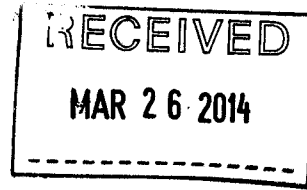
PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

ADJOURN



6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690 Tel. 231-988-1466 Fax 231-988-1610 www.acmetownship.org

March 24, 2014



Cathy Dye, Township Clerk
Acme Township
6042 Acme Rd
Williamsburg, Michigan 49690

To: Acme Township Board of Trustees

I resign my position as Acme Township Treasurer effective April 8, 2014.

Connie Collett
Acme Township Treasurer

March 27, 2014

Acme Township Board of Trustees
6042 Acme Road
Williamsburg, MI 49690

Re: Resignation Letter from Treasurer
Our File N^o: 5385.00

PUBLIC
INTEREST
LAWYERS

PRINCIPALS:
James M. Olson
Christopher M. Bzdok
Scott W. Howard
Jeffrey L. Jocks

ATTORNEYS:
Ross A. Hammersley
Kate E. Redman
Emerson Hilton

OF COUNSEL:
William Rastetter
Michael H. Dettmer
Lawrence I. McKay III
Joan S. McKay

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Frankfort
Michigan 49635
231.352.4412

Dear Township Board:

As was stated at the March 20, 2014 Township Board Special Meeting, Treasurer Connie Collett has provided a letter of resignation which is attached. Ms. Collett's resignation will be effective April 8, 2014. In order for the resignation to be effective, you must accept the resignation by board motion. You will also need to appoint a new Treasurer to take Ms. Collett's place. The following will explain the time line, requirements and impacts over the remainder of 2014.

1. Treasurer's Office After April 8, 2014

If you accept Ms. Collett's resignation, you will be without a Treasurer beginning April 9, 2014. The effect of Ms Collett's resignation will also mean that there will no longer be a deputy Treasurer because the deputy Treasurer serves at the pleasure of the Treasurer. Therefore, there will be no one in the Treasurer's office to complete the duties of Treasurer. MCL 41.77(5)

2. Township Board of Trustees' Duties

As stated above, Ms. Collett's resignation will be effective when accepted by the Township Board. This will presumably come on April 8, 2014.

The Township Board must appoint a replacement for Treasurer. In order to avoid going without a Treasurer, you can appoint someone prior to the effective date of Ms. Collett's resignation.

If a township official submits a written resignation from an elective township office, for circumstances other than a resignation related to a recall election, that specifies a date and time when the resignation is effective, the township board, within 30 days before that effective date and time, may appoint a person to fill the vacancy at the effective date and time of the resignation.

The resigning official shall not vote on the appointment. MCL
168.370(3).

Filling the Treasurer's position prior to the effective date of Ms. Collett's resignation will likely require that you have a special meeting and also find someone willing to accept the appointment. I am not certain you will be able to complete these tasks prior to the April 8, 2014 Board Meeting, but I wanted to make you aware of this option. Alternatively, or in combination with this, you could appoint someone at the April 8, 2014 Board Meeting, but again the process of finding a replacement would likely have to begin with a special meeting prior to the April 8th meeting.

3. Appointed Treasurer's Term

Upon appointment, the newly appointed Treasurer will serve until the next general election which is November 2014. This is an important aspect for the Board and for the appointee to understand prior to the appointment. You should be sure to disclose to any potential appointee, and the person you ultimately appoint, that if they would like to continue acting as Treasurer beyond November 2014, then they will have to run for election just as any other candidate.

4. Recommendations

I recommend that you all begin thinking about how you'd like to handle this situation. You should appoint a new Treasurer by or on April 8, 2014 if at all possible so that the Township is not without a Treasurer. That being said, please do not discuss this in a way that would violate the Open Meetings Act. If discussion amongst you is necessary prior to the April 8, 2014 Board Meeting, I recommend that you hold a special meeting to do so.

I am available to help in any way that I can. If you need clarification or have questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Jocks