

Coe Township Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Board members attending: Steve Simpson, Annie Tague, Paul Riewerts, Betsey Morthland, Mark Kruckenberg, Rick Mitton, Mike O'Hara, and Bev Hansen
Guest attending was: Kenny Reveal

Minutes from the August meeting were read. Paul moved to approve minutes as amended, Mike 2nd, motion passed.

Public Comments:

- none

Supervisor report:

- passed around form from TOI for members who wish to propose suggestions for legislative proposals
- distributed "Trustee's Operations Manual" from TOI
- received a Thank You from the Riewerts family for the flowers for Paul's mother's funeral
- received a form to destroy the old records ... the form has to be filled-out and sent to the state, then the state has to approve the destruction of the records before they can be destroyed
- there was 1 use of the building last month

Highway Commissioner Report:

- sealed some roads last month
- ordered oil for the roads, have some left, will keep the sealer on the trailer for patching this winter
- they used the chipper on some roads, there was some washboarding on one and a learning curve for using it, but overall everything worked well
- going to have to do some tree trimming on some roads, will be a big job
- quite a few ditches need to be cleaned out, also a big job
- going to do some more Road Commissioner training in October
- received laser level, will be checking ditches to make sure the water will run through them
- hired some extra help for the road sealing

Assessor's report:

- 2013 equalization factor for Coe Township is 1.0074
- approximately \$600,000 increase from 2012, about \$1.3 Million increase from 2 years ago

Clerk's report:

- none

Cemetery report:

- meeting was scheduled for September 12th, only 2 people showed-up, there is another board meeting scheduled for Thursday September 19th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of diversification of Township fund investments

Port Byron State Bank has been in the news lately for some problems they're having; Steve and Rick met with the bank president to determine safety of township funds.

We have approximately \$315,000 in the bank, \$250,000 of which is insured via FDIC, the rest uninsured.

We have a \$12,000 CD coming due October 1, 2013. Steve proposed taking some funds out of PBSB and depositing in First Trust in Hillsdale.

Motion was made by Mark to move the \$65,000 Relief Checking Account and the \$12,000 CD coming due in October to First Trust, Paul 2nd, motion passed.

2. Approval of purchase and financing of tractor and ditcher for Road and Bridge

Rick got quotes for ditchers, has decided on one for \$20,650. He has also looked at tractors to run the ditcher, the tractor he's looking at has a loader as well.

He found a used tractor for sale in Sterling, it has a number of hours on the motor but looks good. For this model the loaders are "beefed-up" to do the heavy industrial-type work (hauling gravel, etc.) the township does rather than general farm-work.

Presently the township rents a tractor a couple of times a year for mowing (cost about \$1600).

The final cost for the tractor and ditcher is \$85,000. Road and Bridge can put down \$15,000 so need to finance the remaining \$70,000.

Steve proposed approving the purchase with the loan acquired through First Trust in Hillsdale making 2 payments/year (interest: 2.75%).

Betsey moved to approve the purchase, Mark 2nd, motion passed.

3. Approval of revised mileage/expense reimbursement form

Steve revised the form making an Excel spreadsheet which includes the formulas necessary for computing the total expenditures. He will make changes when state-allowed mileage factors change.

Paul moved to approve the form, Mike 2nd, motion passed.

4. Cemetery board and sexton makeup and compensation

The cemetery board had a meeting September 12th but meeting wasn't official because only 2 members were present.

Chris Bode has asked to no longer be on the board because of possible conflict of interest with his business, but is willing to serve as a consultant (unpaid).

Jim Sallow's receives \$500/year as a sexton for Fairfield Cemetery but does not want to be a board member. He is the only one who determines where the individual graves are marked.

State statute requires 3 people for a cemetery board.

Steve proposes to have 2 sextons, 1 for Fairfield and 1 for Pleasant Point (so there is a backup person for marking the graves). The cemetery board would be 3 members: President, Secretary/Treasurer, Board member. Names were suggested as to who might be interested in accepting the board member positions, pay would be \$500/year with 2 meetings a year on a solid schedule which would be posted on the Township website.

The proposal was tabled until next month to determine who might be interested in the positions.

5. Township Legal Counsel

As an organization it is necessary to have an attorney we can access when we have questions or legal issues that need to be addressed (such as the issues we have been having with culverts).

Although there is a local, East Moline, attorney (Lee & Lee) who do some work with local towns it is not known if they have experience with Township-related matters. Steve contacted a lawyer who has been quite active with TOI, including writing some of the information included in the various handbooks TOI makes available, whose name is Keri-Lyn Krafthefer. She's affiliated with Ancel, Glink out of Chicago. Ancel, Glink is experienced in all facets of township and governmental law. They charge \$185/hour for attorney fees, but also have an individual who is experienced with townships and able to assist with special or administrative issues that do not involve legal opinions (at a cost of \$105/hour).

Steve proposed contacting and using Ancel, Glink to represent the township when needed.

Mike moved to approve the proposal, Betsey 2nd, motion passed.

Paul moved to adjourn, Mark 2nd, motion passed.