

MINUTES OF TITTABAWASSEE TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 13, 2019 - 5:30 P.M.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICE 145 S. SECOND STREET
FREELAND, MICHIGAN**

1. Regular meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Rick Hayes, Supervisor.
2. Opening - Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Members Present: Rick Hayes, Tracy Reimus, Wayne King, Tom Metiva, Paul Vasold, Carl Neuenfeldt, Robert DuCharme **Roll Call**

Members Absent: None

Staff: Marc McGill, Brandy Federspiel, Phil Shaver, Mike Jaynes, Julie Nagel, Dennis Green, Ryan Gnotek **Staff**

Guests: Mary Vasold, Leigh Green, Karen Lebel, Tony Gnotek, Jessica Greenwald **Guests**
4. Karen Lebel, 11379 Moorfield- Voiced her concerns with the new Midland Library rates and how Tittabawassee Township residents will now have to pay a fee to use the facility. The Township manager determined the following prior to the meeting: **Public Comment**

Summary: The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library (GADML) sent a “Library Service Area Changes” notice out. That notice says in part the following:

If you do not live in an area that supports the GADML, the changes we are making will directly affect you, as your Library card will expire on September 1, 2019...If you do not live in an area that supports the GADML your Library card will expire September 1, 2019.

Michigan Library Law states that all Michigan residents should have access to library services. If you live in an area that does not support the GADML, check with your Township Supervisor or local municipality to identify the library system available to you.

Patrons outside of the GADML legal service area will still be able to: Attend any GADML programs, Enjoy GADML materials while visiting the Library, Request GADML materials through MeLCat from you home library.

Service Areas for Neighboring Libraries

Public Libraries of Saginaw

- *City of Saginaw, City & Township of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton, James, Kochville, Saginaw Township, and Tittabawassee Township.*

To date less than ten (10) residents have contacted the Township to ask if the Tittabawassee Township Board could do something to enable those residents to continue to use GADML without having to purchase the non-service area annual membership at \$125/year. Such non-service area annual membership serves an entire household.

The following are Question and Answer formatted information pieces:

1. Q: How is Tittabawassee Township a part of the Public Libraries of Saginaw?

A: Tittabawassee Township has been part of the Saginaw Public Libraries for over 30 years.

2. Q: How much does The Township contribute annually to the Saginaw Libraries?

A: This amount is undetermined but is funded via both traffic tickets and our share of population via State Library Funds. Neither the Public Libraries of Saginaw nor County of Saginaw who controls and process traffic tickets keeps breakdowns on a per township basis. It is estimated at under \$10,000 annually.

3. Q: Would what Tittabawassee Township pays to Saginaw Libraries, have anything to do with what Tittabawassee Township would have to pay GADML (if feasible).

A: No. GADML via the City of Midland (if feasible) would come up with an agreement and it would NOT be based on what we currently generate for funding for Saginaw Libraries.

4. Q: Does GADML currently have agreements with Townships outside of Midland County?

A: No.

5. Q: Does GADML have agreements with Townships within Midland County?

A: Yes. It has agreements with 12 townships and they are interrelated. A part of the interrelationship is population and continued membership. Larkin Township with a population of about 5,500 citizens pays nearly \$80,000 per year.

6. Q: Is it known what an agreement would cost annually between

GADML and our Township?

A: No.

7. Q: Is there an estimate of what an agreement would/could cost annually between GADML and our Township?

A: Our best guess estimate is between \$160,000 and \$320,000 per year. This is based on a budgeted amount Larkin Township pays (\$80,000 annually) which has less than half of the population of Tittabawassee Township. Additionally the current townships are interrelated and 20 years old. It is very unlikely GADML/City of Midland would put us in that mix. Those 12 township likely use much more than 6% of the libraries cost today which was negotiated some 25 years ago.

8. Q: Could Tittabawassee Township do a millage vote like the City of Midland does to generate funds for a GADML agreement?

A: YES.

9. Q: Has Tittabawassee Township attempted a millage vote like the City of Midland to fund libraries?

A: YES. Yes on August 8th 2000, the township put on the ballot a 2.0 mill levy for purposes of funding libraries (its own). This vote failed with 465 yes votes and 852 no votes. Or 65% of voters said no.

10. Q: Was this millage attempt well supported?

A: YES. There was a 14 member Tittabawassee Township Library Advisory Committee. These 14 members and their help created and mailed to all residents a two sided tri-fold brochure encouraging a yes vote. They put out signs and did all the normal campaign things.

11. Q: What would an average \$200,000 home have to pay on a 2.0 mill levy annually in property taxes if this would have passed?

A: \$400 annually. Over three (3) times the new membership rate at GADML.

12. Q: Could the township just pay from its General Fund \$160,000 to \$320,000 to belong to the GADML?

A: No simple answer. First an agreement would have to be made. Then the amount of the agreement would have to be cut from existing services. Such a cut would amount to elimination of the Township Fire/Rescue Department AND the whole Township Parks and Recreation Department. The Township General Fund does not have any extra funds it does not already use annually anywhere near these amounts. Either a millage or cuts.

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| 5. | Moved by King, seconded by Remius to approve the agenda as presented. | Approval of Agenda |
| | Motion Carried | |
| 6. | Moved by Vasold, seconded by Reimus to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting July 9, 2019 | Approval of Board Meeting Minutes |
| 7. | Moved by DuCharme, seconded by Metiva to pay bills with checks #51375 through #51582 | Approval of Checks |
| 8. | <u>Reports</u> | |
| | A. Committee Reports | |
| | 1. Minutes in packet. | Planning Commission |
| | 2. Will be meeting Wednesday August 21, 2019. | DDA |
| | 3. Minutes in packet. | Park Committee |
| | B. Officers of the Township | |
| | 1. No Report. | Supervisor |
| | 2. No Report. | Clerk |
| | 3. Treasurer Remius inquired about a possible full time position that is being created. She expressed her concern with this and where the funds for this position would be coming from as at the last labor negotiations it was expressed that the township was dialing back on certain things. Township Manager committed that the Personal Committee is meeting to determine if a possible position will come th the board's vote or not. | Treasurer |
| | 4. No Report. | Trustees |
| | C. Department Reports | |
| | 1. Report in packet. | Manager |
| | 2. Report in packet. | Police Department |
| | 3. Fire department is up on calls from this time last year. Chief Shaver made a presentation with a LUCUS 3 mechanical CPR device. He will be asking for donations in order for the fire department to purchase one of these machines. | Fire Department |
| | 4. Report in packet. | DPW |
| 9. | <u>Unfinished Business</u> – None. | |
| 10. | <u>New Business</u> | |

A. Moved by Neuenfeldt, seconded by Remius to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve request by SS Development for a Final Plat approval for a thirty-five (35) lot residential subdivision on Parcel 29-13-3-09-4003-012 (North Meadows II).

**Approved Final Plat
P-19-01 North
Meadows II**

Vote: Yeas – 7 Nays – 0 Absent – 0

Motion Carried

B. Chief Green presented Officer Ryan Gnotek with a lifesaving award.

**Lifesaving Award
Presentation**

11. None.

Other Business

12. None.

**Extended Public
Comment**

13. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Adjournment

Robert DuCharme, Clerk