

**NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MARCH 16, 2009
REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Kidwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 320 Bell Road. Goodwin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler.

Public Hearing: A hearing was held to receive comments regarding the D.N.R grant application for the 11 acre park property purchase at 1502 South Third Street. Harry Thibault, from the park board, presented the project and answered questions. Michael Bailey, township trustee, presented several letters of support for the project. In the township Master Recreation Plan the need for additional ball park and soccer fields was recommended. The property is adjacent to the Niles Township Community Park (Odd Fellows Park), which adds to the benefit of the purchase. All comments from the public were positive.

Cooper motioned to close the public hearing, Durm-Hiatt supported.
All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda: Durm-Hiatt motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of a web-site demonstration, supported by Kidwell.
All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes: Ringler motioned to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2009, regular meeting. Noble supported.
All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence and Announcements: Durm-Hiatt announced: the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive April 3-5, 2009, the Berrien County 4-H spring plant sale March 30 through April 22, and Berrien County housing study meeting March 31 at the County Administration building in St Joseph.

Clerk's Report: General O&M \$38,070.01, Fire O&M \$27,231.06, Sewer O&M \$16,071.35, Water O&M \$6,361.05, Fire Capital Improvement \$6,980.23, Capital Improvement \$4,666.25, Sewer City Charge \$94,733.00, Health Benefit \$596.75, Special Assessment \$2,969.35. **Grand Total \$197,679.05**

Cooper motioned to approve the clerk's report. Goodwin supported the motion.
ROLL CALL AYES: Goodwin, Kidwell Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt.
NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Comments from the Public: Mr. Baldwin commented on the response of the Berrien County Road Commission (Congress, Madison, and Brick). Shane Daniels of Matthew Road, expressed his appreciation for the Fire Department in a recent fire at his home. He also questioned the police contract expense.

Sergeant Campbell from Berrien County Sheriff Department presented the police report for January.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Resolution 09-01 D.N.R. Grant Application: Following discussion, Ringler motioned and Noble supported to approve Resolution 09-01 with the addition of township obligation for closing costs, and the clerk's signing rather than the supervisor. Goodwin offered an amendment to include the property description and address to the motion, Bailey supported the amendment.

ROLL CALL Ayes: Kidwell, Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin.
NAYS: None.

Ringler motioned to approve Resolution 09-01 with attachment, Noble supported.

ROLL CALL AYES: Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell.
NAYS: None.

Web-site demonstration: Tammy Youngs gave a demonstration of a township web-site that she prepared. No action taken.

Committee Reports:

Bailey: Gave a follow-up on the grant application and public hearing.

Goodwin: None.

Ringler: Announced job opening at the D.P.W.

Kidwell: presented FEMA IS-00300 certificate for Tammy Youngs and Kidwell, a certificate for Robert Ruff for completion of Instructor training for Construction Codes and Building Safety. Kidwell, also, presented the fire report for February.

Durm-Hiatt: Process has begun for the May 5, 2009, school elections, absentee voter applications will be going out soon.

Noble: reported on streetlight out on Christiana and Niles- Buchanan.

Cooper: None.

Bailey motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Goodwin supported the motion.

All voting in favor

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Durm-Hiatt, Clerk

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL