

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
At the OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL
August 8, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Desmond Pike called the meeting to order, in attendance were John Feuerstein, Joe Borek, Paula Byrne, and Desmond Pike, Lynda Sower was not present. Desmond followed with an opening prayer and then all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the August 8th agenda with additions, moved by Paula Byrne supported by John Feuerstein to accept the agenda with the addition of E – Public Gathering and F – Otisco Cemetery trees, passed 4-0

Public Comment regarding July 11th Board Meeting minutes, Desmond Pike recognized resident Kristie regarding a comment concerning the previous minutes (June 13). “I can’t even understand what the point is,” “what the paragraph’s supposed to say and then at the very end for the public comments, at the end of the meeting the fact that I even made a public comment was not even included and yet Jeff Hunter is quoted so I think there’s some skewing as to how each person is being recorded instead of being uniform.”

Desmond summed it up, “What you’re saying is that you feel that since Lynda took the minutes, they were slanted in her favor. I don’t even remember verbatim what I stated in my comments. I think actually some of it was quite positive but I find the fact that I’m not even included as having spoken. It’s a little uneven reporting. We say these people spoke or we give details on everybody. Paula, would you accept the minutes, were they totally accurate?” Paula Byrne responded, to send it back noting that on page two Lyle’s last name is spelled incorrectly. Making a Motion that we send the July 11th meeting minutes back to Lynda Sower for clarification in the public comment sections, supported by John Feuerstein, a roll call vote was taken, Paula Byrne, yes; Joe Borek, yes; John Feuerstein, yes; Desmond Pike, yes; passes 4-0. Updated minutes for review next month.

Payables and Payroll. Max Gibbs made the new podium for the hall for \$200. Motion by Paula Byrne supported by John Feuerstein to approve the payables and the payroll and the \$200 for the podium. No further discussion. All in favor, passes 4-0

Treasures report None, taxes are being collected.

Township Deputy 42 calls for service. New Deputies hired, 3.

Assessors report - printed report available, Larry Mercer Deputy assessor, thanked the board for the opportunity.

Cemetery Committee meeting on the Aug. 15th a working meeting to figure out who some of the people are that are in the graves that were located using the ground penetrating radar and additional cemetery business, meeting 7 PM Township Hall.

County Commissioner David Hodges not present.

go in there during the winter like the trash cans and garden hoses and cleaning around the hall. Joe Borek will get pricing for 2 or 3 different sizes of sheds and come up with a list of what would be stored.

Emergency Repairs The sinkhole that keeps reappearing on the old Richmond property has been filled in numerous times where their house once stood and was bulldozed in. Joe Borek has had to ask permission to get the gravel to fill the hole a number of times. It had been the best way to get the gravel and the quickest way to fill the hole in so that people wouldn't fall in. Joe Borek would like a resolution to the Appropriations Act for maintenance that if the sinkhole forms that he can call an excavating company and have them deliver a load of fill for the sinkhole, rather than having to take it to the Board for approval.

Two possible permanent solutions were discussed, one is to continue to fill the old house foundation void with gravel as needed; knowing that one day it will be full. The second is to excavate the old homestead completely and fill the hole in and cover it with concrete.

As it has been filled year after year, it is likely getting close to being full. The expense of digging out the entire house and filling the void and capping it could be much more costly. In the meantime, if it is cordoned off and marked with yellow tape to keep people away it should be relatively safe until a permanent solution is agreed upon.

Public gathering permit for Eric and Anetra Whalon presented for Board approval and to request the Board waive the fees. This is an annual party being held August 19th from 5 to 10 PM and the entire neighborhood is invited. Motion by Joe Borek supported by John Feuerstein to waive the fee and the escrow for the public gathering application for Eric and Anetra Whalon for their Community party. Passes 4-0

Otisco Cemetery Trees Wittenbach Tree Service was hired to remove trees at Otisco Cemetery. An arborist was hired to determine which trees should be removed. It is noted that land owner to the south feels that some damage was done to their property and that they should be compensated. It is the opinion of Joe Borek that it should be the responsibility of the company who cut down the trees that their liability insurance should cover the damages, not the Townships. Supervisor Pike has been working with the Township insurance company for a settlement which has been proposed. No payments have been made as of this date.

Public Gathering Ordinance John Feuerstein would like to amend the Public Gathering Ordinance or rescind it altogether. To make a change requires going through the Planning Commission to be formally discussed. The Planning Commission will be asked to review it.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Borek supported by Paula Byrne, all in favor aye, passed 4 - 0

Respectfully submitted,
Laura J Staats