

**Town of Buffalo  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 12th, 2016  
Immediately following the Public Hearing @  
Buffalo Town Hall**

Present-Charles Corso, Jan Banicki, Ryan McReath, Jean Rataczak & Laurie Beahm

Others Present-17

The Regular Town board meeting was called to order at 7:13 immediately following the public hearing.

Motion to approve the agenda by Jan Banicki.

Second by Ryan McReath.

IN FAVOR- 3 OPPOSED- 0 Motion Carried

The board reviewed the July 2016 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes from August 2016 by Ryan McReath. Second by Jan Banicki.

IN FAVOR- 3 OPPOSED- 0 Motion Carried.

The Clerk and Treasurer gave their financial reports. Motion to approve the financial reports as read by Jan Banicki. Second by Ryan McReath.

IN FAVOR- 3 OPPOSED- 0 Motion Carried.

The board reviewed the 3 building permits presented.

The board reviewed the vouchers presented. Motion to approve the vouchers by Ryan McReath. Second by Jan Banicki.

IN FAVOR- 3 OPPOSED- 0 Motion Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Donna Richards explained the proposed ATV trail with assistance from Ryan McReath.

Questions were brought up from concerned citizen Tiffany Lodohlz regarding the route going past observatory hill. Fred Wollenburg stated that he has had issues with ATVs in the past. He feels that this is a bad idea. He does feel that this is a nice recreational past time but is concerned about the areas like Muir Park & Rustic Road. Also is wondering if we can keep it under control. Gary Bluhm stated that he is against the ATV road routes. David Larkin stated that he has the pleasure of having neighbors that respect ATVs. He has also had bad experiences with other ATV riders. He would not favor letting people from outside the township in to ride on the township roads. He feels this is the wrong way to go. Charles Corso asked about how noise problems are handled. Donna Richards explained that the Route Master can turn in plates and the people would be ticketed. Ryan McReath asked how many miles in Marquette County. Donna Stated that there are over 300 miles of routes right now. Fred Wollenburg asked what type of insurance a driver of an ATV has to carry. In case of an accident due to farm traffic and all of the hills etc. He mentioned an accident near his home. Donna told him that the accident near his home was on private property. The insurance is the same as a car. Gary Bluhm asked about the noise. He stated that they are noisy even with the stock mufflers. Are the club members going to be on our roads governing people who want to come and screw around our roads? Donna stated that other people have asked the same questions. In almost 5 years there have been none of these issues. Gary stated that ATVs are not designed for riding on the roads. Tiffany Lodohlz stated that we have something different here. We have John Muir Park. She stated that it is a very sacred place and we need to protect it. Donna stated that she loves John Muir Park also and it would be nice to be able to head there and walk around the park. Charles Corso stated that the board should call a public hearing on September 29<sup>th</sup>. David Larkin objected to moving to a public hearing because not everyone has their facts together. Ryan McReath stated that a public hearing is good to let everyone speak about what they want. Fred Wollenburg asked to wait a while because he feels it is premature. He has only seen a few people that want this. He feels that all of the pros and cons need to be looked at. Peggy Wilson asked about the

public hearing and if everyone would get a chance to talk about how they feel. Joie Woodard said that people have enough time to get people to come and state how they feel. The Clerk mentioned that maybe it would be a good idea to talk to the other township chairman's and maybe the police who know what they have to say about how it is going in other towns. Donna stated that all of their information is on the County website. Mary Sanfillipo stated that she drives all over the county and has hardly seen any ATVs. Ryan McReath made a motion to have a public hearing regarding this issue. Second by Jan Banicki. Charles Corso asked what a good date was to make everyone happy. The board voted to have the public hearing on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. All members in favor 3-0 Fred Wollenburg asked if the out of township people would be given the same rights to speak. The board stated that the only other people to speak would be the people the board directs questions to but that anyone. The clerk asked if anyone can send an email. The board said that they could send an email with their feelings just like other public hearings. The board would read the emails at the public hearing. They will not have a vote because they are not there but the board would take all of the letters in to consideration. Joie asked even though those peoples letters would not count for a vote she asked if the board would take those letters in to consideration. She was told yes.

The Chairman asked the clerk to read the ordinance for the update to the Comprehensive Plan. The clerk read the ordinance. After being read the board held a roll call vote to decide if they were in favor of passing and signing the ordinance as read. Jan Banicki-yes Ryan McReath-yes Charles Corso-yes. The clerk asked the chairman to sign the ordinance. The clerk signed as witness.

The Chairman read the decision from the Board of Appeals regarding the request from James & Laurie Briggs. The board of Appeals denied the request for a multi family residence on the property.

The Chairman explained about the business signs in the township. The chairman explained that in our ordinance now there is a charge for signs in the township. He stated that we have not collected anything. He recommended that the board delete this from the ordinances. Charles also stated that it could be readdressed later if it becomes a problem. Fred Wollenburg stated that he thought it was a good idea. It is to hard to draw the line between all of the different signs in the

township. Jan Banicki made a motion to remove the sign fees from the ordinances. Second by Ryan McReath. Motion Carried.

Charles Corso stated that the board met on August 25<sup>th</sup> to work on the 2017 budget. The clerk recommended to the board to endorse the budget prior to the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The clerk will get back to the board on when they can do this.

Laurie Beahm spoke about new poll workers. She explained that there was a need for more workers. She wished to nominate Lynn Schwochert, Dave Soma, and Mary Sanfilippo for election worker positions. Jan Banicki made a motion to accept the nominations. Ryan McReath Second. Motion Carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Charles Corso made mention of the accident involving a vehicle hitting the recycling center fence.

Charles Corso mentioned about the seven Amish homes that were broke in to. Charles Corso explained that the board would be attending a meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> regarding a statewide meeting related to transportation related issues.

Charles Corso gave the meeting date of September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. for the Montello Joint Fire District.

Charles Corso explained that the board would have to vote to set up a fund for upcoming new election equipment. He also explained that they would have to move the money for the difference for the remainder of the fire truck fund. Ryan McReath made a motion to over \$20,000 to and election equipment fund and \$41,955.22 to the fire truck fund. Second by Jan Banicki. Motion Carried. Jean Rataczak asked the board how they wanted to handle the CD that was coming due. Jan Banicki made a motion to leave the money in a CD.

Charles Corso reminded everyone with the upcoming election that all signs need to be 33 feet from the center of the road.

Charles Corso stated that please remember if you are requesting a permit that you need to allow the board members access to the property.

Charles Corso read the dates for some possible upcoming training for the board members. Jean Rataczak stated that she was not interested in any of the items on the Agenda. Laurie Beahm stated she could not attend. Ryan and Jan said they would look at the dates.

## CITIZEN AND BOARD CONCERNS

Gary Bluhm stated that he felt the board crammed the public hearing for the ATVs down the people's throats and he felt this was inconsiderate.

Tiffany Lodholz asked why they quit working on the 16<sup>th</sup> road RR bridge. She was wondering if they were going to blacktop it soon. Charles Corso stated that the bridge was done. It was found out that it was never supposed to be black topped in the beginning.

David Larkin expressed his apology to the board for his outburst. He stated that there is no way people in the township can express their feelings in 2 minutes. He stated he was not against ATVs he was against how some people use them. He reminded the board that our area is very special. He feels that maybe our area is not an appropriate area for our area. David explained that he cannot be at the meeting. Ryan McReath explained that He should send an email regarding his feelings. Jan Banicki stated that the public hearing needs to be held in order to get everyone's opinions. The Clerk explained that the board has been very generous letting people speak during the meeting. She explained that the only time they need to let everyone speak is under citizen and board concerns. She wanted everyone to understand that there needed to be a public hearing.

MaryAnn Hanson asked if this had been discussed at any other meetings. It was told that it was originally brought up in July. It was on the Agenda's for both August and September also. Tiffany Loholz asked if the board would consider and wait until a later date. The answer was no. Joie Woodard asked if people could call the board members. She was told yes. Joie asked about the Amish buggies and how they are marked if there are any rules for them to be marked so they can be seen? Charles Corso explained that the sheriff's dept has met with the Amish and told them they need to be marked. Fred Wollenburg explained that the National Heritage Land Trust will be doing some tree trimming work at John Muir Park. Ryan McReath asked if the neighbors needed to be notified. Fred Wollenburg said he would notify a couple of the neighbors.

Charles Corso stated the dates of some upcoming meeting. The Clerk asked that everyone watch the postings and the website for the dates because there might need to be some changes.

Motion to adjourn by Jan Banicki. Second by Ryan McReath. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNED