

**HAYES TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES
March 16, 2016**

The special meeting of the Hayes Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Ethel Knepp at 7:00 p.m. at the Hayes Township Hall, 09195 Old US 31 N., Charlevoix

Board members present were Marlene Golovich, Paul Hoadley, Jim Rudolph, Ethel Knepp and Robbin Kraft. Audience members were Annie Kantola, Omar Feliciano, Jerry Simpson, Warren Nugent, David Zipp, Michelle Biddick and Tom Darnton.

Supervisor Knepp asked to be joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Supervisor Knepp explained that this meeting was to take public comment on a \$150,000.00 grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for an access road and boat launch at the Hayes Township Park – Camp Sea-Gull. Ethel explained that this is a \$1,176,800.00 dollar project with committed funds from the DNR Waterways, the Charlevoix County and the Hayes Township general fund.

Clerk Golovich explained that currently the park has a paved golf cart path that is unsafe for vehicle traffic. The proposed access road will open the park up for access to all areas as well as to the boat launch. The park has challenging terrain that only the fittest can traverse. With the proposed new access road individuals with varying physical abilities will have access to all areas of the park.

Paul Hoadley asked if we could get funding for just the road and not include the boat launch. When the township purchased the park with grants from the MNRTF the public made it very clear they wanted to have a boat launch on the north shore of Lake Charlevoix. The funding from the DNR Waterways and Charlevoix County was applied for with the boat launch included. If we applied for grant money now for just the road we would lose the money from Waterways and Charlevoix County as well as going against what was/is the wishes of the public.

Paul asked about the proposed fishing pier and whether it was part of this grant application. There are cost savings benefits having the boat launch and the fishing pier built at the same time but funding for the fishing pier will be sought from the Great Lakes Fisheries Fund and is not part of the L&WCF grant application.

Warren Nugent stated that we already have a road down to the lake. It is true there is a paved trail down to the lake but it is unsafe for vehicle traffic. Warren also stated that he is in favor of the park but has never been in favor of the boat launch. He does not support the Township committing general fund money to this project.

Tom Darnton stated that this is more than just a boat launch. It is about the main artery to use the whole park and provide a safe way to get to the water. The current road is in bad shape with an entrance that is on a curve and unsafe. The new road and boat launch will allow everyone to use the park according to the adopted park masterplan.

Anne Kantola stated she absolutely agrees with Tom ~~Danton's~~ **Darnton's** comments. This is a rare opportunity for collaborative support and it is more than just a boat launch. This will create access to the whole park. The community has always supported a boat launch.

Dave Zipp asked if the townships committed money was from the general fund. Yes it is but a group is working on applying for additional smaller grants to help offset that amount.

Jerry Simpson stated that this is a long term project and everything will not happen all at once.

Warren Nugent stated he is not against applying for the grant but is against using township general fund money. He stated that he is worried that the township will not be able to afford the maintenance.

Jim Rudolph stated he was also worried about the amount committed by the township. If this project is done right this road will last much longer than any of the other roads the township funds and maintains. Currently the park is widely underused because of the limited access for people with limited physical abilities. The topography is very steep and lots of people are unable to make the walk up that slope. The township needs to provide a safe road to the lower levels and the lake so the park can be used by everyone.

Robbin Kraft made a motion, supported by Ethel Knepp to move forward with the grant application.

Yays: Paul Hoadley, Jim Rudolph, Ethel Knepp, Robbin Kraft, Marlene Golovich

Nays:

Motion carries

RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT – Jim Rudolph stated that he is working on a grant from the DNR's Recreation Passport Grant Program. Funds for this grant come from sale of the Recreation Passport which replaced the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (window sticker) for state park entrance. The township is requesting \$45,000.00 with a \$15,000.00 township match to put new, safe foundations under three of the existing waterfront cabins and make all three cabins ADA compliant. Work needs to be done in the bathrooms, doorways need to be widened and entrance ramps built. Electric and plumbing will be brought up to code where necessary. Jim stated that he has been working with Scott Parker who has been invaluable in helping with the

planning. Jim will be meeting with Jim Moore from Disability Networks to assess the work that needs to be done to make the cabins ADA compliant. Some of the work can be done by volunteers which will help offset costs. The grant is due April 1, 2016.

Anne Kantola stated that there is a real need in our area for access to time on the lake. These cabins will give opportunity for non-waterfront property owners to spend affordable time on the lake with their family and friends. It is a great opportunity to enjoy the area recreation opportunities.

Marlene Golovich made a motion, supported by Jim Rudolph to move forward with the grant application.

Yays: Paul Hoadley, Jim Rudolph, Ethel Knepp, Robbin Kraft, Marlene Golovich

Nays:

Motion carries

FUND RAISING – A small group of residents are developing a fund raising plan to raise money for the Hayes Township Park – Camp Sea-Gull. A crowd funding campaign is being developed as well as an outreach program to area businesses for donations or matching dollars for the crowd funding. This group is seeking help from the parks and recreation committee and anyone else that would like to volunteer. The group will make a presentation at the next P&R committee meeting.

DONOR RECOGNITION – The P&R committee is working with Eagle Scout, Keon Taylor, to develop a kiosk to put park information as well as a place to display the names of past and current donors to the park. Paul Hoadley is working with Keon and will ask for design ideas for approval by the Board.

CAFETERIA BUILDING – Warren Nugent stated that there is still time to decide what happens to this building. He stated that currently the plan is to remove the building. The township received a generous donation to develop a park masterplan and is not willing to spend additional money to develop a new plan that includes keeping the cafeteria. Tom Darnton stated that a lot of work went into the current park masterplan and the cost of renovation and maintenance on a building of this size is huge. Little Traverse Conservancy is holding two events at the park this summer (June 25 and August 2). They will be utilizing the cafeteria building.

VOLUNTEER DAYS – Paul Hoadley asked if the power can be turned on so he can get the security cameras up and running. Projects for the volunteer days include; taking down the road fence and cleaning up along the roadway, cleaning out the cafeteria, raking leaves, moving dumpsters, putting out garbage containers, cleaning and removing slippery steps. It was suggested the township needs to purchase a power washer.

KUBOTA 4X4 AND TRACTOR – Hayes Township did not receive grants from the GTBB or the County for their needed maintenance equipment. GTBB did give the

Township \$53,000.00 for the Greensky Hill Church renovation. The Township will reapply to GTBB for the tractor and are working on getting clarification from the County regarding the lack of funding for maintenance equipment.

EASTERN AVENUE BEACH- The lawsuit regarding ownership of Easter Avenue Beach has been settled. The Township will be moving forward with beach improvement plans.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Marlene Golovich
Hayes Township Clerk

Minutes approved as corrected April 11, 2016