

requested an addition to the minutes. Clerk Reed asked she provide a verbatim copy of the change she wanted.

There was no motion made to approve the minutes. The February 24, 2015 minutes will be corrected and amendments made verbatim as provided by Trustees Wells and Carroll. The February 24, 2015 minutes will then be reviewed for approval at the April meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of February.

	<u>February 1, 2015</u>	<u>February 28, 2015</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 447,882.95	\$ 439,235.06
General Assistance Fund	\$ 66,462.11	\$ 66,209.90
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 170,014.50	\$ 169,659.27
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 455,855.49	\$ 444,030.02
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 716,900.57	\$ 674,111.33
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 4,843,923.46	\$ 4,614,243.69

There was question as to why there were no disbursements for shelter, utilities, or personal incidentals from the General Assistance Fund for the month of February. Supervisor Barnes said he would look into it.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Carroll; it was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Absent – Hipskind. Motion passed.

BUDGET REPORT

After questions and discussion about several line items a motion to approve the Budget Report was made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Absent – Hipskind. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes read a letter from township residents named Grass. They shared they continue to pay their bills but are unhappy with the imperfect system.

Supervisor Barnes explained the line item in the Sanitary Sewer Fund titled "Swansea Reserve Account" was never an escrow account as it was referred to in minutes of the November 8,

2011 meeting. The amount in that line item was not remitted to a third party as an escrow fund.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Road Commissioner Kernan praised his crew for keeping the roads clear during recent Winter precipitation events. Mr. Kernan invited everyone to attend the budget hearing scheduled for April 6, 2015 to show support for his budget.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Fall – A resident fell at the front door of the township building. An ambulance was called to transport her to the hospital. Supervisor Barnes filed a claim with the insurance company. He has no further information about the incident.
- FOIA Requests – Supervisor Barnes stated there were a few FOIA requests in the last month.
- Sewer Back-up – There was a sewer back-up on Windrift Drive. A claim was submitted to the insurance company.
- Past Due Sewer Bills – The amount due past 151 days is \$108,698. More than \$86,000 of that amount is due from one property owner. It is not expected to be collected.
- Water Shut-off - There were no water shut-offs in the last month.
- OMA Complaints – There were about 17 Open Meeting Act complaints received and responded to in the last month.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen reported Heartland Conservancy has offered to develop a long range plan for the township and Swansea concerning their parks. He reported the exposed, abandoned pipes have been removed from Centennial Park. Volunteer Day last Saturday resulted in a large area of honeysuckle being removed from Centennial Park. The township needs to apply to St. Clair County for a grant for the parks. Mr. Wallen said the Park Board is getting a price for wood chips for the path at Centennial Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Trentman asked if anyone figured the costs before the Swansea sewer agreement was approved. He also said, as he recalls, the line item Swansea Reserve Account was put in an escrow account. He also said Swansea should have a reasonable argument for charging township sewer users more than Swansea resident users. He asked how charging 1.3 times the Swansea user rate was established.

Bob Buechler suggested Supervisor Barnes consider hiring a previous employee when a temporary employee is needed.

Miscellaneous Dude I asked if any flow or usage studies were done to determine how much of the Swansea sewer plant township residents use. He also advised that the request of identifying oneself before making a comment is not required and is a form of intimidation.

Ken Hipkens asked if the minutes and budget information will be posted at the township web site so those who cannot attend meetings can get information. Mr. Hipkens also asked if any board members were present when the decision was made as to what township residents were going to be charged as a result of the new Swansea sewer agreement.

Miscellaneous Dude II (Sam Morgan) expressed his view that the Swansea sewer contract is of an unethical nature. He also expressed concern that comments he made at the February meeting would not be included in the minutes. He also asked for clarification on the reference to the Swansea Reserve Account line item in the Sewer Fund being an escrow account. He also said it would be unfair to township sewer customers who reside in Shiloh if the township dissolved and was incorporated into Swansea as he said the mayor of Swansea has suggested.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Township Transfer of Appropriations – There was no discussion about the Transfer of Appropriations for St. Clair Township as presented to the board. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriations for St. Clair Township. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells. Absent – Hipkind. Motion passed.
- Road District Transfer of Appropriations – It was pointed out the fund title was misidentified on the request for transfer in the Permanent Road Fund. Supervisor Barnes pointed out the fund identification numbers are correct in the document so it is possible to approve the transfer noting the need for change of the fund name. Trustee Wells made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriations for St. Clair Road District with the correction of the fund title in the Permanent Road Fund transfer. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Carroll. Absent – Hipkind. Motion passed.
- Swansea Sewer Agreement – Supervisor Barnes requested thoughts from each board member about reopening negotiations with Swansea. Supervisor Barnes suggested the option of a monthly credit to all township sewer accounts until the \$1.4 million in the Swansea Reserve Account line item is depleted. He also stated the township could look at costs to reactivate three lift stations that would bring 1,500 to 1,800 township sewer customers currently being serviced by Swansea back to the township's sewage treatment plant. A third option he proposed was to give the money in the Swansea

Reserve Account line item to Swansea in a lump sum and have that factored into the amount Swansea charges township users.

Trustee Carroll's suggestion was to reduce the rates for everyone in the township until the Swansea Reserve Account line item is depleted. She also suggested asking Swansea if they would allow an arbitrator to make a decision. She also suggested the board should solicit state legislators to change the law so one municipality cannot gouge another.

Trustee Wells suggested the township make sure all obligations in the sewer contract are being fulfilled before it asks to renegotiate. She questioned the need of an ordinance to collect the \$7.34 transport fee. Trustee Wells suggested taking a closer look at how the transport fee was determined and possibly adjusting that amount. She pointed out that can be done without Swansea agreeing to renegotiating the contract.

- Centennial Park Agreement – There was no discussion or vote on the Centennial Park Agreement.
- Annual Township Meeting Agenda – A proposed meeting agenda was provided in the meeting packet. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the Annual Township Meeting Agenda. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Absent – Hipkind. Motion passed.
- Contribution to Auxiliary Sheriff's Department – Supervisor Barnes noted the Auxiliary Sheriff's Department provided security at the February 24, 2015 meeting. Discussion followed that if an invoice was submitted for service it could be paid but the board cannot donate township funds to any organization. No motion was made in regard to a contribution to the Auxiliary Sheriff's Department.
- Sewer Department Temporary Employee - Supervisor Barnes requested approval of the board to investigate the costs of using Express Employment Professionals, a temporary employment agency, to hire the seasonal worker in the sewer department. Trustee Carroll made a motion to allow the supervisor to contract through Express Employment, if needed, for seasonal or emergency work. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells. Absent – Hipkind. Motion passed.
- Wedding in Centennial Park – Supervisor Barnes received a request to hold a wedding at Centennial Park. Trustee Wells felt it was inappropriate to vote on the matter because it is a public park and permission is not required. Supervisor Barnes made a motion to allow a wedding in Centennial Park on April 4, 2015 as requested. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Absent – Hipkind. Motion passed.
- Sewer Department Truck – Supervisor Barnes received a price through the state for a pick-up truck with a specialized bed. The price quoted from the state was higher than prices he had been quoted from local dealers. The cost will be more than \$20,000 so it

will be necessary to advertise for bids. Trustee Wells made a motion to publish a request for bids for a new pick-up for the sewer department. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Absent – Hipskind. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no business to be discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:27 p.m. Trustee Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk