

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 1998, 12:00 P.M., WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB

The Meeting was called to order at 12:45 P.M. by Ginger Spencer, President.

Ginger noted we had two guests from Standard Federal Bank, Shirley Kipp and Sharon Doray. Shirley has been with the bank for 18 years and Sharon was with NBD for 21 years before going to Standard Federal. Both ladies gave a brief background statement.

Ginger stated we have a vacancy in the office of Vice President, due to the retirement of Janet Johnston. She recently spoke with Janet and was informed that Janet is enjoying her retirement. The Executive Board met and discussed the vacancy. They made a decision to inform the membership of the vacancy and would like anyone interested to contact a Board Member before next months meeting. At that meeting, we will vote to fill the position.

Ginger said she received an invitation from the Lapeer County Clerk's and Treasurer's for our organization to join them on Friday, September 11, 1998 at Mr. Edwards for dinner and a comedy show. Originally, when they were contacted about the two organizations meeting, we wanted to meet with them for a business luncheon, much like the one we have here today. Ginger said she wrote a letter about getting together at a noon luncheon, and then received a phone call that they still would like to meet for the evening at Mr. Edwards. They need to get the reservations in as soon as possible, so I need to let them know how many would be interested in attending the evening event. There were 6 people interested in attending and Ginger would inform Lapeer County of their attendance.

Committee Reports:

Clerks - Nothing to report.

Treasurer's - Ginger said the screen are open for Special Assessment at the County. You can either call Nancy in Equalization or fax the information to her.

Jeff Cyphert gave a brief report regarding credit card tax payments. Bill 280 allows payments for taxes, water and sewer bills, etc. to be paid by credit card. However, our municipality didn't want to accept credit card payments because we cannot pass along the fees that go with this type of payment. The fees run from 2% to 5% on the gross amount of the bill, and we would lose money with this type of transaction. Recently, at a conference in Chicago with the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association, a company informed us they found a niche in this system. If we entered into an agreement with this company, they will supply a phone number that the residents call and after proper verification, can make a credit card payment, without any cost to the municipality. When the residents are making payment arrangements with the company, they are told there is a convenience fee charged to the card holder. If the person doesn't agree to pay the fee, they can stop the phone process with the company. Mr. Cyphert said he had this reviewed by an attorney and auditors and they found nothing negative about this process. He noted he is not trying to sell for this company, but this is an option to provide for the residents.

Before use of the credit card system, the Statute requires the municipal board to pass a resolution authorizing this type of financial vice and it also must state that the Treasurer is responsible for the credit card service. Mr. Cyphert said he wanted to bring this information back to the group. He then gave a handout with more information to the members.

Guest Speaker: Thomas M. Donnellan, Genesee County Dispute Resolution Corporation

Mr. Donnellan said there are two members at the meeting who sit on the Dispute Resolution Board, Ida Reed and Bill Walworth. Mr. Donnellan shared several stories of mediation cases that he has heard.

He said this type of mediation is a result of legislation passed in the 1980's. A fund was set up, whereby \$2.00 of the filing fee for each civil case in Genesee County, is set aside in a fund. Eventually we were informed that if we did not use this fund for mediation services, the monies would be taken away and given to other counties. A decision was then made to set up a Dispute Resolution Board, which is comprised of people from the private sector, government employees and attorneys. The members of this board are appointed for a 3 year period. The Board Members supervise the expenditures of the money of this board. We are involved with the Genesee County Community Agency. The mediation services are comprised of volunteers and they are committed not to interject the way the problem should be solved. The volunteer mediators have to go through 40 hours of training and then have to go through 10 hours working with someone else as a second chair mediator. Our goal is to have the people involved in a case, come to an amicable agreement that they both can live with. The mediator tries to listen to both parties, because sometimes the actual problem isn't what they originally came in to the mediation process with. Many times we restate some of their phrases and ask the question "How do you feel about that?" Many times we break into caucuses and try to reason with one side or another. The basic question is trying to find out what the alternatives include. When there is no agreement, cases are referred to Judges. When there is an agreement made between the people, the agreement is spelled out in specific detail so there are no misunderstandings.

There is no cost for the mediation services. We can be reached through the Genesee County Community Agency at 232-2185. This process can be used by anyone in the County.

Ginger thanked Mr. Donnellan for this information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ginger said a copy of the Minutes from the Treasurer's Meeting is on the table if anyone is interested or Cheryl will mail a copy with the minutes.

MTA will be held on Thursday, September 17th at Atlas Township. We will be honoring Janet Johnston at that meeting.

Fred Maul of Genesee Township, said a spaghetti dinner will be held on October 2nd to help defray costs of the recall efforts against Newana Visser and himself. The cost is \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML