

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
MAY 4, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Board was held on May 4, 2005 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gudith, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Henry Gudith, Jane Wright, Pat Knikelbine, Chris Roerig and Damien Jarzembowski.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Manager Phil Quade.

AUDIENCE

- A. County Commissioner Randy Brink spoke regarding ballot language for the upcoming August election and other county issues until 7:07.
- B. Fire Board Chair Bill Kaye presented the 2005/2006 fire budget to the Board. Proposed budget to be funded with a 1.2932 millage rate. He noted the rate is an 11% reduction over the current year. **Motion by Wright/Jarzembowski to approved the 2005/2006 fire budget as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Mark Kinnaman of The Local Observer stated he was present to address any questions the Board may have in regard to his communication asking to bid on publishing the township's public notices.
- D. Cheryl Kaechele of The Commercial Record stated she was also present to address the bid for publishing notices.
- E. Dayle Harrison requested street lights on Blue Star Highway and additional help for Zoning Administrator Al Ellingsen.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Roerig asked to add under *Correspondence, Item D.* Reggie Smith, Emergency access to Lakeshore Drive.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gudith/Knikelbine to approve the minutes of 4/6/05 as presented. Carried unanimously.

BILLS, FINANCIAL REVIEW AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion by Wright/Gudith to accept total expenditures of \$22,498.19. Carried unanimously. Board discussed the financial statements that reflected $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year's activity. Wright noted the general fund total was at 73%, and shows 2% under expended. Quade presented a list of budget amendments that would adjust department level totals. \$35,000 was for past legal fees from the Wolters Realty appeal. **Motion by Wright/Roerig to accept the budget amendments as presented.** Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Sgt. Dean Kapenga, Search & Rescue Contribution Request. Gudith explained the Allegan County Sheriff Department's request of \$100 per township to purchase 3 GPS units for their Search & Rescue team. Gudith asked how it would benefit Saugatuck Township. Wright stated Fire Chief John Blok has indicated

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- they perform search and rescue and do not charge for the service. Jarzembowski asked if the department is fully capable of the service. Board discussed and decided to get more information from the fire department. **Motion to table the request of \$100 to Allegan County Sheriff Search & Rescue Team by Jarzembowski/Knikelbine.** Motion to table carried unanimously.
- B. Dick Waskin, Resignation to Tree Committee. Gudith stated the reason for Waskin's resignation from the committee was his disagreement to the restrictive and comprehensive tree cutting ordinance being proposed by the Planning Commission and no action was needed.
- C. Local Observer & Commercial Record, Proposal to Publish Public Notices. Gudith asked for questions from the Board. Wright stated both papers were proposing to be the newspaper of record for the Township for the same price and the only question she had was which paper would be more effective. Board discussed pros and cons of a local only circulation as opposed to a subscriber list. Gudith requested Board consider the proposals and address at the next meeting.
- D. Reggie Smith, Emergency Access to Lakeshore Drive. Smith was present to explain the fire department's desire to establish a route around the washout area for emergency purposes only to enable quicker response time to residents south of the washout. Board discussed options and Quade agreed to send a letter to those residents affected inquiring as to their interest in the idea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Tree Cutting Moratorium. Steve Darple and other planning commissioners presented an ordinance, prohibiting tree cutting in the commercial and industrial zones to the Board and requested adoption. Discussion took place and several audience members spoke in support of the moratorium. Board made several changes to the ordinance and Gudith called the question. **Resolution offered by Jarzembowski and supported by Gudith to adopt a tree cutting moratorium for vacant lots in the commercial and industrial zones for a period of 4 months or until the Planning Commission can develop, and Board adopt, a tree ordinance.** Roll call vote resulted in resolution being adopted 4 to 1 with Knikelbine voting no.
- B. Employee Policy and Handbook. Wright stated Quade has submitted two changes, but she would like to submit further changes to the vacation and holiday schedules. Board discussed and agreed to review at the next meeting with additional changes.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution of Adoption of Comprehensive Plan. Gudith explained the resolution would adopt the Tri-Community Comprehensive Plan that the Planning Commission previously adopted and was created as a joint plan for Saugatuck City, Douglas City and Saugatuck Township. Wright applauded the efforts involved in developing the plan. **Resolution to adopt the Tri-Community Comprehensive Plan with amendments as presented was offered by Wright**

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- and supported by Jarzembowski.** Roll call vote: Gudith-yes, Wright-yes, Knikelbine-yes, Roerig-yes, Jarzembowski-yes. Resolution declared adopted.
- B. Inspector's Fees. Quade stated Township Inspectors have received an increase in their per inspection rate from \$32 to \$34 from other area municipalities and recommended increasing our rates to \$34. He also recommended increasing the fees charged for inspections from \$35 to \$39. Jarzembowski stated the amount was not out of line. **Motion by Knikelbine/Wright to adopt new Inspector's rates of \$34/inspection and fees charged of \$39/inspection.** Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Denison Property Resolution. Jarzembowski read the entire resolution which supported the efforts of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to acquire, for public use and preservation; all of the combined "Denison" properties lying North of the Kalamazoo River and offered the Township's services as facilitator for the possible acquisition. **Resolution was offered by Roerig and supported by Gudith.** Roll call vote: Wright-yes, Knikelbine-yes, Roerig-yes, Jarzembowski-yes, Gudith-yes. Resolution declared adopted. Phil Miller, Co-Chair of Save Our Shores, thanked the Board.
- D. Repurchase of Cemetery Lots. Quade presented a policy to re-purchase unused graves at a rate of \$120/grave. **Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to adopt a policy of repurchasing unused graves for \$120/grave with the agreement of the deed holder.** Roerig verified the cost to repurchase would come from the Cemetery Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission. Jarzembowski reported on the April 25th and 27th meetings.
- B. Road Commission. No Report.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine presented the Township's resolution supporting the Interurban's 25th Anniversary and invited everyone to attend the appreciation day on Friday, May 6th between 8:30 and 10:30 am.
- D. Fire Authority. No Report.
- E. Web Site and Newsletter Updates. No Report.

AUDIENCE

Gerrit Sturuss reported on the DNR meeting to hear issues of noise from air boats on the Kalamazoo River. He stated there was a good turn out of people and everybody had their say. He remained hopeful controls will be put in place. Gudith stated we should hear back from the DNR within 60 – 90 days.

There being no further business, **Motion by Gudith/Knikelbine to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC
Township Clerk