

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2004**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Board was held on October 6, 2004 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, Dan Shanahan, and Chris Roerig.

Absent: None.

AUDIENCE

- A. Aaron Catlin from the engineering firm Fleis & Vandenbrink spoke in regard to the recently completed Riverside Drive sewer project giving explanations for why the project was delivered late, but adding it remained on budget.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

Pertaining to the minutes of 9/1/04. **Motion by Gudith/Knikelbine to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

Pertaining to the minutes of the special meeting of 9/1/04. **Motion by Gudith/Roerig to accept as presented.**

Carried unanimously.

BILLS

Wright requested to add an additional bill to the list for approval. **Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to accept general fund, road fund, and cemetery fund bills in the amount of \$77,684.47.** Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Douglas Health and Environment Committee. Committee Chair, Suzanne Dixon, spoke in regard to the committee's efforts and invited the Township to participate by appointing a representative to join the committee. Board agreed township involvement would be constructive and will look toward residents interested in contributing to their efforts.
- B. Woodland Realty. Gudith read a letter from Glenda Forsten that suggested the township look into purchasing a 53+ acre parcel on Wiley Road currently under lease by MSU in conjunction with the Village. Board agreed the idea to have the acreage available for the public is a good suggestion, but acknowledged the General Fund does not have the funds necessary to support it.
- C. Interurban. Director Cherie Giller wrote that Pat Knikelbine, representative to the Interurban Board, has expressed a desire to remain if the Township Board reappoints her to an additional term. **Motion by Gudith/Roerig to reappoint Pat Knikelbine as representative to the Interurban Board for a second four year term which will expire 10/1/08.** Carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. BS&A Software, Building Permit Program. Township Assessor, Alan Jefferies, explained the benefits of a computer program that would track building permits and inspections, as well as interface to the assessing program thereby assigning accurate property values. Board discussed the advantages with Jefferies and Township Administrative Assistant, Lori Babinski, acknowledging the \$2,995 cost is acceptable. **Motion by Wright/Knikeblin to approve the purchase of the BS&A Building Permit Program, with the cost of \$2,995 to be paid from the Construction Code Inspection Fund.** Carried unanimously.
- B. TriCommunity Comprehensive Plan. Gudith presented the plan stating all members have received a copy and asked for input and/or corrections to the draft. Gudith added the draft will be a subject of a special joint meeting between the Board and the Planning Commission to be held on October 13th.

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2004**

- C. Ordinance Regarding Airboat Noise. Gudith stated State statutes regulating airboat noise prohibits any local ordinance governing the same subject, unless the ordinance is first approved by the DNR. He then offered a written ordinance that would establish maximum sound levels. Board discussed the ordinance and Wright asked if any residents affected had a chance to review the ordinance language. Knikelbine asked if the ordinance would be enforceable. Additional discussion ensued with Township Constable, Ken Giles, and Board agreed to review the issues further.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sambroek Woods Phase II, Request for Extension. Builder Skip Williams requested the Board grant a retroactive extension of the final preliminary plat from 2/28/04 to 2/28/06. Board discussed the State's need for the extension. **Motion by Gudith/Wright to allow extension of the final preliminary plat approval of Sambroek Woods Phase II retroactive from 2/28/04 to 2/28/06.** Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Chris Wiley Lease. Gudith explained Dr. Chris Wiley holds a lease for space in the township building for his dental business that is due to expire in three years and is asking what the Township's plans are for renewing the lease. Wright stated a need to expand the township office space as well as granting more space to the State Police post. Roerig suggested if Wiley could relocate his office to the back of the building, he could add-on to the building giving all parties more space. Board discussed options with Wiley and agreed that architectural designs be obtained to determine feasibility.
- C. General Fund Millage Renewal. Gudith noted the memo from Township Manager Phil Quade which related the history of the general fund millage. It examined the fact the general operating millage has been reduced by the Headlee amendment from its original 1.07 mills to the current 0.5135 mills. Board discussed the township's need for more services as the area grows and acknowledged the necessity of renewing the general operating millage with a vote of the people. Board agreed the need exists to ask for a renewal of the millage, but showed a concern for timing of the request. Roerig suggested waiting until the end of the fiscal year in June to substantiate the request with year end financial figures. Board agreed more discussion is necessary.
- D. Ponderosa Nursery, Christmas Decorating. Wright stated they are the same people who decorated the building last year. Gudith stated they have done a nice job in the past. **Motion by Knikelbine/Gudith to approve hiring Ponderosa Nursery to decorate the township building for Christmas at a cost of \$260.00 with Dr. Wiley paying for ½.** Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Update Mileage Reimbursement per I.R.S. **Motion by Roerig/Wright to conform to the new mileage reimbursement rate set by the I.R.S at .375/mile.** Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission. Shanahan reported the North Point development located between the township building and Douglas Gas & Oil has been approved and construction will be starting immediately.
- B. Road Commission. Roerig reported construction of 131st and 62nd is in progress, and that the tree removal was generally accepted as necessary by residents. He added the finished road will be much safer.
- C. Interurban. Kinkelbine reported Barb Baker, the Village representative, will not be seeking a reappointment so the Village will be looking for a new representative. She added the Board approved a 3% across the board salary increase.
- D. Fire Authority. Wright reported on the Fall Open House that was held for the public on Sunday, stating the open house kicked off Fire Prevention Week. She added it was the largest turn out ever with 630 dinners being served. The department is continuing Fire Prevention Week with appearances at the elementary school. Roerig verified the Chief has asked to begin drawing on his retirement as of the first of the year. Shanahan asked what time requirements will be on the Chief if he is successful in his write-in candidacy for County Commissioner. Wright stated the Commissioners position would not be full time.

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2004**

- E. Web Site/Newsletter Update. Roerig asked for any information on Carole Baumbach and/or Phil Quade to be used for the next newsletter in December. Knikelbine asked to post the flu clinic date on the website. Board discussed the possibility of the flu clinic being cancelled due to a shortage of the vaccine and decided to wait on posting the date until it can be confirmed.

AUDIENCE

Gudith recognized three Saugatuck High School students present in the audience, Emma Slaghuis, Heather Hungerford, and Lisa Ehorn. Board thanked them for their attendance. Ehorn asked when the North Point strip mall will be constructed. Shanahan stated they have begun clearing the property and construction should not take long.

There being no further business, **Motion by Gudith/Roerig to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC
Township Clerk