

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Board was held on February 2, 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. Chuck Rickett, Saugatuck/Douglas District Library Representative, stated the library will be re-introducing a referendum on the Manlius Township May ballot for residents in the Hamilton school district asking for an extra voted millage to support the library. He presented the Board with a resolution of support to bring the Manlius residents into the library district. **Resolution offered by Wright and seconded by Knikelbine to support Manlius townships desire to enter into the Saugatuck/Douglas District Library.** Resolution declared adopted 5 yeas to 0 nays.
- B. Reggie Smith, 6571 Bradley Road, offered interest in serving on the Fire Board.
- C. Dayle Harrison, 3108 Indian Point Road, spoke in support of a tree cutting ordinance and asked to increase enforcement of environmental violations.
- D. Gerrit Sturru, 6377 Old Allegan Road, agreed with Harrison that clear cutting of trees along the bank of the Kalamazoo River violates the Natural Rivers Act.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Quade asked to add item *9.F. Guidance Question.*

MINUTES

Pertaining to the minutes of 1/5/05. **Motion by Knikelbine/Gudith to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

BILLS AND 2ND QTR FINANCIAL REVIEW

Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to accept general fund, road fund, cemetery fund, and sewer debt bills in the amount of \$17,388.47. Motion to approve bills carried unanimously. Wright presented board with financial reports reflecting six months activity through December and noted several line items will need budget amendments before the end of the fiscal year, but added the funds as a whole are under budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dick Waskin wrote a letter stating his concern over implementing a tree cutting ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Non-Motorized Trail Engineering. Quade recommended utilizing a portion of the general fund contingency dollars to fund the bike path project engineering. **Motion by Wright/Jarzembowski to approve \$26,000 for engineering of a non-motorized trail to run along sections of 64th St, Blue Star Hwy, and Washington St.** Carried unanimously.
- B. Health Insurance. **Motion by Roerig/Gudith to exempt retiree Carole Schreckengust from the policy of discontinuing health insurance at age 65.** Board discussed the newly established policy of terminating retiree insurance at age 65. Knikelbine verified the board policy could be modified at a later date. Motion carried unanimously. Quade reminded Board of the upcoming insurance renewal and the increase of \$173.34 per month. He spoke of several alternatives he researched, but recommended renewing the current insurance at this time.

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. AMR Contract Renewal. Roerig verified the contract is for emergency services in a special assessment district. Knikelbine stated the special assessment has been reduced substantially and the contract to renew ambulance services through AMR for a 3% increase would not affect those residents in the district. Wright verified the 3% increase equals \$142.50 annually. **Motion by Knikelbine/Gudith to approved a three year contract extension with AMR to provide emergency services for the Fennville Area Ambulance District with a 3% increase in cost.** Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Board of Review Appointments. Gudith stated the BOR terms are for two years and individuals sitting on the board need to be re-appointed this year. He added the current members have maintained their education and recommended re-appointing them. **Motion by Gudith/Roerig to re-appoint Jan Shashaguay, Randy Jarzembowski, and Don Maeder to the Board of Review as recommended.** Carried unanimously.
- C. Request for Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend MTA seminar. Wright explained she recently appointed Lori Babinski, Office Administrator, as her Deputy Clerk and asked for board approval to attend a two day clerk's educational seminar with her deputy. **Motion by Gudith/Jarzembowski to approve Wright and Babinski's attendance to the MTA Clerks seminar.** Carried unanimously.
- D. Clearbrook Drive Water Looping Engineering. Quade stated looping of water mains is advantageous to everyone on the system and improves overall water distribution. He added the water project fund has enough money to pay for the engineering of a water construction project on Clearbrook Drive to 64th Street thereby creating a continuous loop of water main from Blue Star to 64th to 134th and back to Blue Star. **Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to approve \$8,000 from the Water Project Fund for engineering design and permitting to construct a water supply system extension on Clearbrook Drive.** Carried unanimously.
- E. Special Census Resolution. Quade presented numbers showing a significant population increase in the township, which if proven through a mid-decade census could result in an increase in state revenue sharing for the township. He added his cost estimate for the census would not exceed \$5,000. **Resolution to request a special census from the State was offered by Gudith and supported by Jarzembowski.** Board discussed the particulars in taking a census and agreed June would be a good month for it. Quade added the State would train our census takers. Roerig called the question and the resolution was declared adopted 5 yeas to 0 nays.
- F. Guidance Question. Quade asked the Board about the unused land owned by the Township around the dog park and 911 tower, stating he could try for a 50% preservation, design, and management grant. Board discussed the advantages of having a preservation study due to wetlands being part of the property. Quade will proceed and have a resolution ready for the March meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission. Jarzembowski reported denying reimbursement for bike path construction to Blue Skies Nursery, approval of Dancing Horse Vineyards, and approval of the Clearbrook Golf Course restaurant expansion.
- B. Road Commission. Roerig attended the County resurfacing meeting in Allegan and reported Old Allegan Road reconstruction is slated for 2006. He stated the reconstruction will be very costly and the County is asking the Township pay \$35,000/mile for engineering. Roerig added he will hold public meetings before any construction takes place, but noted the construction is necessary as it is considered the worst road in the County.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported they lease a bus to Can-Do Industries and are looking at leasing another after replacing bus #16. She added the Authority reviewed the annual audit and approved a grant application.

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- D. Fire Authority. Wright submitted a final report detailing the grant purchases of \$86,144.22 in air packs and other personnel equipment. She noted the fire barn wall construction has been completed to Homeland Security specifications and submitted the 2004 summary of calls which totaled 499 calls.
- E. Web Site/Newsletter Update. Roerig noted updates to the web site are now being performed with office staff, but would remain as a contact for web site feedback.

AUDIENCE

Reggie Smith asked when hi-speed internet might become available. Roerig reported they are still working on an interested ISP. Gerrit Sturris asked about a business in a residential area, Gudith will check with the Zoning Administrator to ensure the business has a valid home occupation permit.

There being no further business, **Motion by Gudith/Wright to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC
Township Clerk