

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL  
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

**MINUTES**

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members present:** Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Jane Wright, Treasurer Pat Knikelbine, Trustee Chris Roerig, and Trustee Damien Jarzembowski.

**Members absent:** None.

Wester opened the regular meeting and asked for public comments. Michigan State Trooper George Duncan reported on the 2007 activity of the MSP Saugatuck Detachment. He stated they now have 8 troopers permanently assigned to the detachment and are broadening the scope of law enforcement to include an undercover drug detective. Duncan added they responded to 439 calls for service within Saugatuck Township, more than any other municipality, due to the close proximity of working out of the township office. Duncan then left to respond to a call in Laketown Township. Fritz Royce stated he supports the township's participation in the joint harbor commission. Liz & Dave Engel presented a letter of support to participate in the joint harbor commission. Bill Rowe, Mark Mikolitis, Dick Waskin, and Jonathon Phillips all echoed their support of harbor commission participation. Hearing no further public comment, Wester closed that portion of the meeting at 7:12.

**Approval of Agenda:** Wester asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda. Hearing none, he brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
  - i. ALLIED WASTE SERVICES through XTREME CLEANING  
Total to be paid \$13,544.66
  - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited  
(check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
  - i. March 5, 2008 Regular Board Meeting

**Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Jarzembowski to approve the agenda as presented.** Carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Anita Nielsen, Air Quality Concern with Outdoor Wood Boilers. Wester stated the letter cites a situation with a neighbor that has been alleviated. Jarzembowski questioned if the odor nuisance from smoke has indeed been alleviated. Wester will continue to monitor the situation.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. Public Comment Policy. Wester stated the Michigan Township Association recommends adopting a formal public comment policy that limits the time individuals can speak. He noted that at the previous meeting the Board could not come to a consensus on the topic and asked for additional input. Board discussion took place with some question as to whether we want to adopt

any policy as it could inhibit open discussion and limit the ability to understand fully what was being said. Wester stated he would inquire as to why MTA recommends the policy and bring the issue back next month.

**New Business:**

- A. Joint Planning Committee, Proposed Resolution of Support. Wright stated as part of the 2005 Tri-Community Comprehensive Plan each community should support the Joint Planning Committee and each Planning Commission in their efforts to implement the Tri-Community Comprehensive Plan. She added the proposed resolution states such support. **Resolution 2008-01 was offered by Wright and supported by Roerig to be adopted as presented.** Carried unanimously and Wester declared the resolution adopted.
- B. Joint Harbor Commission. Jim Hanson, Planning Commission Chair, reported that he and Harold Thieda, Chair of the City of Saugatuck Planning Commission have been working on a grant application through Partnerships for Change that would provide \$20,000 for communities seeking to preserve natural features shared across municipal boundaries. He stated the harbor commission would be a fit for such a grant but would require a 35% local match of funds. Hanson added that if the grant is received the funds could be used for legal services to prepare an intergovernmental agreement to create the Harbor Commission which is what the City of Saugatuck is requesting the Township share equally in. Wright stated a pledge from the Township equal to 1/3 of the 35% local matching funds for the \$20,000 grant could satisfy the legal service needs and eliminate an unknown commitment. Roerig stated the harbor does have an impact on the community as a whole, but questioned what percentage of the cost is obligated to the township taxpayers. He added that it is important the commission is successful, the township has representation on it, and the community knows we are in this together. Discussion took place and there was a **motion by Wright, seconded by Jarzembowski to pledge up to, but not to exceed, \$2,333.34; the equivalent of 1/3 of the 35% matching funds for an anticipated grant award through Partnerships for Change; to go towards legal services for the formation of the Harbor Commission.** Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Child Abuse Prevention Month, Proposed Proclamation. Wester read a letter from the Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center which stated 3 children a day die from abuse and noted April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. He then presented a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Saugatuck Township which urges all citizens to dedicate their energies to cherishing Allegan County children and protect them from harm. Board agreed to the spirit of the proclamation and Knikelbine added her disgust over individuals who would harm children. **Motion by Wester, seconded by Jarzembowski to adopt the proclamation as presented.** Carried unanimously.
- D. Al Ellingsen, Request for Share of Educational Conference Expense. Wright stated the Building Inspector is required to attend an annual educational conference to maintain his license and each year requests reimbursement from the 4 municipalities he inspects for. She reported he is asking for \$180 from Saugatuck Township. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Knikelbine to approve reimbursement up to, but not to exceed, \$180 for Al Ellingsen to attend his educational conference.** Carried unanimously.
- E. AMR Ambulance Service Contract Renewal. Knikelbine stated the contract renewal is for ambulance service in a special assessment district for a portion of Southern Saugatuck Township. She stated the proposed renewal allows for the same service with a 6% service fee increase for each of the three contract years. **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Wright to approve the proposed contract with AMR as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.
- F. Discussion on Planning Commission Legal Specialist. Roerig stated there has been discussion regarding different specialists who might be required to review the forthcoming plan from

Saugatuck LLC. He added a legal specialist knowledgeable in the area of real estate zoning might be included and suggested township resident Steve McKown. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Jarzembowski to accept Steve McKown as the legal specialist for the Saugatuck LLC PUD review process.** Wester stated a concern appointing a township resident whose loyalties may be blinded. Roerig responded McKown had no current conflicts of representation and the fact he is a resident makes him confident he will fight on our behalf. Knikelbine voiced a concern about McKown due to his vocal position during two prior meetings pertaining to Saugatuck LLC and would prefer a non-resident. Discussion took place and Wester called the question. Motion passed 4 to 1 with Knikelbine voting no.

- G. Road Millage Renewal, Discussion on Ballot Language. Roerig stated it has been proposed that we include in the road millage renewal proposition language, maintenance of non-motorized trails. He voiced concern over jeopardizing the passing of the millage renewal if the language is changed. He added that after 127<sup>th</sup> Ave is done most of the roads in the township will be paved and at that point he would suggest dropping one of the two road millages. Wright stated the non-motorized trail is a very popular structure and maintenance of it is critical. She added money is tight in the general fund as that millage is less than ½ of a mill and utilizing part of the 1 mill road fund makes fiscal sense. Roerig stressed the language should limit the funds for non-motorized trails to maintenance such as plowing and mowing and not for expansion of the trail system. Wright suggested that if expansion is desired, the time to ask the voters would be after one road millage is dropped then propose a stand-alone ¼ mill for non-motorized trail use. Board discussed and agreed to have the Township Attorney review the language and address it again during the next meeting in May.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- A. Planning Commission. Jarzembowski deferred the report to Jim Hanson who reported on the latest actions of the commission including anti-funneling on waterfront property.
- B. Interurban. Knikelbine reported February was a slow month due to the bad weather and ridership was down 12.8%.
- C. Fire Authority. No Report.
- D. Supervisors Report. Wester stated the McClendon party that was scheduled for May has been cancelled. He also reported on another issue regarding a family that moved in on 64<sup>th</sup> Street and neighbors were bothered by the large number of people in the home. He stated the Zoning Administrator performed a site inspection and found no violations. Wester also noted residents can use the recycle card received in their tax bills to dispose of up to 4 tires a year.
- E. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns distributed a synopsis of planning for the new Allegan County Jail and discussed the prudence of moving it to the Dumont complex.
- F. Road Commission. Roerig reported on the public meeting held the previous night for residents of 127<sup>th</sup> Ave. He stated most people left the meeting satisfied with how the County would proceed with the paving of the street so the project will begin and that is the last long stretch of unpaved road.

Public comment was offered. Andrew Leach stated he took the new owner of Fennville Recyclers to Mrs. Bounds place on Old Allegan Road and they will be discussing the possibility of cleaning up her yard. He added there was a mention of pollution and carbon from wood stoves, and he clarified that there is no net increase in carbon from wood stoves unlike the burning of fossil fuels. He cautioned against getting too restrictive with wood stoves. Jarzembowski stated the problems discussed were not with all wood stoves but rather a type of outdoor wood boiler that burns green wood. Gerrit Sturris stated he lives near the outdoor wood boiler that created the smoke nuisance and it was offensive in the summer. Roerig stated Wester is remaining vigilant monitoring the OWB in residential areas. Jim

Hanson thanked the Board for supporting the Harbor Commission and pledging funds for legal services to form the commission. Fritz Royce encouraged the Board not to adopt a formal public comment policy and appreciated the appointment of Steve McKown. Royce also asked what the township is doing to reduce their carbon footprint. Wester noted the township has gone green with new T8 technology in the light bulbs. Dave Engel pointed out that if the Township helps the Cities with their harbor problem, then down the road they might help the Township with both ends of the harbor. Hearing no further comments, public comment was closed.

**Wester stated having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned.** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

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Date

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Bill Wester, Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date