

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2004**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Board was held on January 7, 2004 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gudith, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Dan Shanahan.

AUDIENCE

Bill Sikkel, County Commissioner, spoke on county activities until 7:20.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

Pertaining to the minutes of 12/3/03. **Motion by Roerig/Knikelbine to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

BILLS

Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to accept general fund, road fund, cemetery fund, and sewer debt bills in the amount of \$14,729.22. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Al Ellingsen, 2003 Building Permit Summary. Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator, Al Ellingsen, presented the 2003 building permit report, noting there were no commercial projects for the year and the number of permits issued were down compared to last year.
- B. Dick Waskin, Groundwater Ordinance 2003-17. Waskin summarized opinions from a group of realtors, builders, and developers that came from the informational meeting held 12/29/03. He noted several problems with the language that caused deviation from the intent of the ordinance. Discussion among the Board and members of the audience took place where it was agreed the approved language of the ordinance did not reflect the intention of the ordinance. **Motion by Roerig/Knikelbine to repeal Groundwater Testing Ordinance 2003-17, establish ad-hoc committee to review the language and suggest changes, and re-address the revised ordinance at the February 4th meeting.** Additional discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Air Boat Noise Regulation. Gudith reported the attorney opinion given that states the township has no recourse in controlling noise created by the fan of an air boat. Discussion took place as to other options of negotiating with air boat owners during a February 2nd meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Procedures for Requesting Attorney Opinions. Discussion among the Board took place as to procedures to follow before contacting an attorney.
- B. Road Construction Work Order. Roerig presented the Board with the 2004 request for bids for two projects. The first being 126th Ave from Blue Star to its west end, and second being 62nd St from Old Allegan to 131st and 131st from 62nd to its west end. He explained both projects were petitioned to be performed by the residents, adding these projects would deplete the road fund dollars for 2004. Roerig noted a 1.0 extra voted road millage will be expiring this year and we will need to add a proposal to renew the millage during the

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August primary. **Motion by Wright/Knikelbine to approve the 2004 road construction work order as submitted by the road committee.** Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Inspectors Request for Rate Increase. Wright stated the plumbing, electrical, and mechanical inspectors were requesting a \$2/inspection increase. Board discussed the current fee structure charged to builders, history of increases, and costs associated with processing the inspections. Gudith speculated what other townships pay their inspectors. Additional discussion ensued. **Motion by Knikelbine/Roerig to approve an additional \$2.00 per inspection effective February 1, 2004.** Motion was defeated in a 2 to 2 split decision with Gudith and Wright voting against the increase. Gudith stated he would like information from other townships and to address the agenda item at February's meeting.
- D. Resolution to Amend the Sewer Assessment Roll. Knikelbine stated due to the organization of a condominium subdivision within Goshorn Lake Cottages the sewer assessment roll would need to be revised to reflect the new parcel numbers assigned to the cottages and increase the R.E.U.s from 17.5 to 24. **Resolution to amend the sewer assessment roll as presented was offered by Roerig and supported by Knikelbine.** Roll call vote: Roerig-aye, Wright-aye, Knikelbine-aye, Gudith-aye, Shanahan-absent. Resolution declared adopted.
- E. Manger's 5/1/04 Resignation. Gudith noted Township Manager Phil Quade's request to retire on May 1st, adding this was not unexpected and the township will need to begin actively searching for a new manager to replace Quade. Board discussion took place as to possible alternatives as well as transitioning to a new person.
- F. Dog Park Water Service. Wright reported receiving an invoice for installing water at the dog park that is in excess of the budgeted amount by \$236.60. She noted the township had approved paying for the water service out of the general fund and asked if the Board would wish to amend the budget to allow for the overage, or request the amount be paid from donated funds. Board discussed the previous commitment to the Parks Committee. **Motion by Roerig/Gudith to approve an additional \$236.60 for dog park water service to be paid from the general fund parks department.** Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission. No report.
- B. Road Commission. No report.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported driver Reggie Smith asked to provide a bus for Sunday morning church service which the Board approved on a 6 month trial basis.
- D. Fire Authority. Wright noted the new ISO ratings are now in affect and individual homeowners should contact their agents to see if they qualify for a decrease in premium. Board discussed the department's program of giving free smoke detectors to individuals in need.
- E. Web Site/Newsletter Update. Roerig asked what progress is being made with IServe and installing the wireless internet antennas on the 911 tower. Wright will ask Quade to look into the status.

AUDIENCE

None.

There being no further business, **Motion by Gudith/Wright to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC
Township Clerk