

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted the reason for the special meeting was to interview candidates for appointment to the Harbor Commission and no action will be taken.

Members Present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Jane Wright, Trustee Chris Roerig and Trustee Damien Jarzembowski.

Members Absent: Treasurer Pat Knikelbine.

Also Present: Planning Commission Chair Jim Hanson.

Wester opened the special meeting to public comment. Hearing none, Wester closed that portion of the meeting at 6:00 and asked for the candidates to introduce themselves and speak of their attributes.

Jonathan Phillips, 2854 62nd Street, stated he has boated on the river for 15 years and has an interest in preserving it. Phillips currently is a Realtor and has 8 years experience in Engineering. He added with the right group of people he believes they will be able to get the grants needed to dredge the harbor and is willing to volunteer his time and effort to do that. Wright asked what field of Engineering he was in and he responded Mechanical Engineering.

R.J. Peterson, 116 Riverside Drive, stated his goal is to have waterfront properties go from the private sector to the public sector, noting the way to do this is through an Authority. He added as an Authority you would be eligible for grant money otherwise unavailable. Peterson stated the objective of the Harbor Commission should be to look at ways an Authority could bring in money to maintain the harbor the way roads are maintained. Roerig asked if changing the designation from a recreational harbor to a commercial harbor would improve funding possibilities. Peterson replied no, more money is available from a recreational standpoint. (Jarzembowski arrived at 6:15) Roerig stated a resident contacted him regarding the deterioration of the breakwater. Peterson agreed, stating funding for repairs and the creation of a public fishing pier was slated if the property adjacent to the channel became public. However with the sale of the property to McClendon those plans were abandoned. Roerig reiterated the significant deterioration and the need to contact the appropriate agencies for repairs.

Dayle Harrison, 3108 62nd Street, stated he has attended all of the Harbor Committee meetings and has worked extensively with the EPA through his Kalamazoo River Protection Association. He added looking at this harbor issue it is really a \$30 million problem. Harrison then directed his comments towards zoning and the creation of a special assessment district to fund the dredging maintenance. Wester commented a special assessment district would be hard to form with current economic conditions. Harrison agreed it is a complicated issue. He spoke at length and described his experience with writing small grants and budgeting.

Dick Waskin, 6576 Heron Ridge Road, stated he has sat on the Heron Bay Board for 12 years which owns over 2000' of harbor frontage. He added he is a boat owner, a Realtor, and acquainted with all three municipal boards. Waskin stated he has been active in forming groups for the purpose of raising funds and has grant writing experience. Waskin added he believes dredging is a necessary maintenance issue as the harbor is the life blood of the community and supports our tourism industry, noting the Harbor Commission will have to establish both long term and short term goals and ultimately seek funding. He stated one of his personal goals would be for the Township to ultimately gain some public access to the harbor.

Jim Hanson spoke for Joe Milaukaus reporting Milaukaus would be very interested in an appointment, and would act as the Harbor Commission member sitting on the Planning Commission.

Board thanked all applicants and **Wester stated having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned.** Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date