

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 9, 2006 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Jeff Bither, Supervisor at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call of members showed as follows:

Present:	Jeff Bither, Supervisor	Martha Chambers, Clerk
	Diana Langshaw, Trustee	Owen Murray, Trustee
	Jon Scott, Trustee	Sid Durham, Trustee
Absent:	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer	

Members of the Planning Commission were present to discuss the zoning district changes they have been working on. Rebecca Harvey, P/C planner handed out Zoning District summaries showing the changes that are proposed for the Ordinance which they feel will more align the ordinance with the long range plan. The R/A district has been divided into two districts – agriculture and rural residential which makes the zoning districts go from 6 to 7 proposed. The zoning district descriptions have been changed to better describe what the district is designed to do. The third change is in uses in the district; nothing was removed; development options were added. Lastly, the rewrite changes the dimensional standards which will change lot sizes.

Harmon stated that the P/C would like to have a public input in July, a public hearing in August with the Township Board receiving the plan in ordinance form for approval at the September Twp. Board meeting.

Bither and Chambers stated that the Board needs time to digest the new proposal and feel that September is too soon. Murray stated that he viewed the proposed new ordinance as a work in progress and he would like to see input from the public. Scott stated that he has a concern with mandates and feels the developer should have more options open to him if he does a good development. Scott stated that rural can mean different things to individuals. Farming is a business and if we have an Ag Preservation district, who is going to pay for the land. Farmers have held farm land in trust giving the public defacto open space preventing development; Scott fears that the proposed zoning will change the rules for the farmers and that the Township needs to be careful of this. Scott fears that changing lot sizes from one acre to larger parcels is changing the rules and will create a higher bar that people have to attain in order to live in Ross Township and he questions the fairness of this.

Consent Agenda Approval:

Motion by Murray to approve the Consent Agenda as amended which includes the minutes of 4/11/06 as amended, the Treasurer's Report, bills paid for April and payable for May, 2006. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

Committee Reports:

Fire Dept.:

Durham reported that the Fire Dept. Board did not meet in April.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report from AGS dated 5/2/06. Abushmaies/Bedford has submitted a Rezoning request. Animal Control has issued a ticket to the Hunt Club; there are still problems and we may pull their Special Exception Use permit and send the permit back to the Planning Commission to review. A letter was

sent to the Powell's because of unlicensed vehicles. A letter was sent to the Fischer property. A letter was sent to St. Ann's Church regarding the lighting. A letter was sent to Schnotalas on 40th Street.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the police report for April from Kal. Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. Scott asked if more could be done regarding the B & E's that are happening on his and others construction sites. It was stated that the format on the police report should be improved.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Sherman Lake Special Assessment for Y-Camp Contract:

Rich Pierson reviewed the contract for the Y-Camp Special Assessment for Sewer on Sherman Lake. Ross Twp. will borrow the funds to finance the sewer project for the Y-Camp, the township will collect the money and GLSA will make the payments and interest

Motion by Murray to approve a Special Assessment Contract between Ross Twp., the Y-Camp and GLSA to create a special assessment district for the purpose of financing the construction of a force main sewer at the Sherman Lake. Y-Camp. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call of members showed: Murray - aye, Langshaw - aye, Durham - aye, Bither - aye, Chambers - aye, Scott - aye and the motion carried.

Approval of 2006 road dollars:

Motion by Chambers to accept the following proposed roads (1) CD - 46th to 48th, chip seal in the amount of \$19,361.00. (2) "B" Ave. west of 45th St., overlay in the amount of \$29,792.00 and (3) Burlington - Norris to E. Gull Lake Dr., wedge in the amount of \$6,942.00 for a total amount of \$83,454.00 (see attached proposal). The motion was seconded by Murray and carried.

Fee Schedule:

Motion by Durham to accept the proposed application fee schedule changes with the exception of prepaid mailings be \$5.00 not \$2.50 effective June 1, 2006. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

New Business:

Cemetery Vandalism:

Over Easter Weekend, three kids went into Yorkville Cemetery and rolled six urns down the hill, damaging four and breaking two. Bither priced the urns at \$15.00 each. Bither questioned whether the Board wants to prosecute the kids or not. Durham stated that since the kids are only 14, prosecution is harsh and there is another way to make them responsible for their actions called "status diversion" which is done thru the juvenile courts without a finding of guilt. The status diversion requires the kids be put on probation and they will be required to meet with a probation officer regularly.

Motion by Durham to go forward through the juvenile courts requesting the three 14 years go thru status diversion. The motion was seconded by Murray and carried.

Stoney Creek #5 Tentative Preliminary Plat approval:

Motion by Murray to give approval for the proposed Stoney Creek #5 Tentative Preliminary Plat. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

Planning Commission Resignation & new appointment & Board of Review appointment:

Motion by Genung, second by Bither to accept the resignation of Ray Wolfram from the Planning Commission and to appoint Jeff Price as Wolfram's replacement along

with approving the appointment of Joe Johnson to the Board of Review; the motion carried.

Gull Lake Ministries:

Gull Lake Ministries is proposing to make sidewalks. Bruce Dean from AGS has reviewed the plans for sidewalks and finds them in compliance with the court order for Guidelines and Regulations for Operation of a Religious Bible Conference in Ross Township. The Kalamazoo County Road Commission is also agreeable to the installation of the proposed sidewalks.

Motion by Scott to approve the proposed sidewalks for Gull Lake Ministry. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk