

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
JUNE 3, 2006 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Jeff Bither, Supervisor at 9:00 A.M. Roll Call of members showed as follows:

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

Motion by Langshaw, second by Murray to approve the agenda as amended; motion carried.

Motion by Langshaw; second by Durham to approve the consent agenda as amended (the minutes of 5/9/06 were amended). The consent agenda consists of the Treasurer's Report for May, 2006, the bills payable, the bills paid and the 5/9/06 minutes.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the AGS Ordinance Enforcement Report dated 6/1/06. Abushmaies/Bedford is on the agenda for zoning approval; there have been no recent complaints about noise at the Hunt Club; Powell's have received a letter regarding unlicensed vehicles on the property, Bither will follow this closely. A letter has been mailed to Fischer with no reply; St. Ann's Church light issue is resolved. AGS inspected the Schnotala property on 40th St. and found no vehicle; checked 7690 N. 41st St. and found no vehicle. The complaint of a horse being kept on less than one acre, AGS checked and found no horse. Properties to be checked after 6/2/06 are as follows, French on Ft. Custer Dr.; Thompson on 48th St.; Cini on 37th St.; Buckner on Greer Dr.; Stevens on 37th St.; Gull Lk Marina and Lady Gull Diva.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. report from May. The Board voiced their concern with the reports that we are receiving and Bither will discuss this with Captain Schull.

Public Comment:

Richard Gonivricho who resides at 14280 S. Kellogg School Road has lodged a complaint against Don Huskins on 40th Street.

Old Business:

Sherman Lake Sewer:

Rich Pierson from the Gull Lake Sewer Authority gave a quick overview of how the Sherman Lake Sewer project came in to being after the last approximately 20 years of petitions and meetings with no progress. The sewer project is now being spearheaded by the need for a sewer system at the Y-Camp and the large amount of dollars they are willing to invest to get sewer which will benefit residents on Sherman to receive sewer whether it be a gravity or pressure system.

Petitions for gravity sewer have been received, the percentage of signatures with the Y-Camp is 55% without the Y-Camp the percentage is only 22%. At a public hearing residents were advised that gravity sewer would go forward only if sufficient public support was shown by signed petitions otherwise the board would go with a pressure (grinder) system.

Motion by Murray to approve the Resolution for the Sherman Lake Sewer Project which will be the pressure (grinder) sewer system; the motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call of members showed as follows: Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye, Langshaw – aye and Murray – aye. The motion carried with all ayes.

A public hearing needs to be held for the Y-Camp, probably in August.

Approval of Ordinance 171:

Because there were so many questions concerning this ordinance and the Right to Farm Act, it was the consensus of the Board to table Ordinance 171 until the July meeting. Langshaw and Durham agreed to go over the ordinance and write in the changes that need to be made then we will fax back to Craig Rolfe to tweak.

Motion by Durham, second by Murray to table Ordinance 171 until the July Board meeting.

Approval of Ordinance 172:

Motion by Murray to approve Ordinance 172 with the exception of Section IX Amendment of Section 9.34. Section 9.34 to be referred back to the Planning Commission with instructions that 9.34 retain the existing wording “fair market value”. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried with all ayes. The Board would like to see the Ordinance sent back to the Township Board by the September meeting.

Rezoning Approval:

Motion by Durham to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve the re-zoning of parcels #3904-30-415-010, 3904-30-415-020 and 3904-30-415-030 property located at 6291 N. 37th Street from R-1 to R-A Rural Ag. The motion was seconded by Murray and carried.

Application Fee Schedule:

The fee schedule was changed last month; however the office felt that \$5.00 for #14 prepaid mailings and agendas/minutes was too much; after discussion it was decided to change the fee for this item to \$2.50. Item #13 – the fee for faxing assessment cards remains at \$5.00; however now they must be prepaid before the fax because we have had so much trouble with no pays.

Motion by Langshaw; second by Murray to change the fee schedule on #14 prepaid mailings and agenda/minutes to \$2.50 and #13 fee for faxing assessment cards to \$5.00 plus the faxing must now be prepaid before we send the information. The motion carried.

Approval of Resolution for Yarrow Liquor License:

Motion by Murray to approve a Resolution to add Hotel Investment Services, Inc. as co-licensee in 2006 to the liquor license for Yarrow, Inc. The motion was seconded by Genung. Roll Call Vote showed as follows: Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye, Langshaw – aye and Murray – aye and the motion carried.

Fence Request:

Dan Rackowitz’s property is located next to the Ross Twp. Park. Mr. Rackowitz is requesting the Board to approve letting him construct a 6’ fence on the lakeside of his property. The Board discussed that we do sympathize with Rackowitz because of the many people using the park and the noise; however it was the consensus of the Board to deny this request because of all the other right-of-ways and properties that have the same problem and we do not want to set a precedent.

Member's Time:

Genung reviewed the Cable franchise fees from 2002 - \$23,262.53, 2003 \$23,125.50, 2004 - \$24,708.47 and 2005 they would have received \$26,424.55.

Murray questioned whether the Board should re-visit our decision to withdraw from Cable Access, whether we want to participate as a community perhaps paying less than the 5%. Murray and Durham visited Cable Access for a tour and were told that some Ross Twp. residents were turned away from using the facilities because Ross is no longer participating. Murray stated that if the Township keeps the franchise fees we should keep the funds separate and be able to show how it was spent, so if the public asked where the dollars went we can show them.

Langshaw would like to see a turnaround being required for all driveways some time in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk