

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2008 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 Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
 Martha Chambers, Clerk Diana Langshaw, Trustee
 Jon Scott, Trustee

Absent: Owen Murray, Trustee Sid Durham, Trustee

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the minutes of 11/13/07 and 12/1/2007, the bills paid for December and the bills payable for January, 2008; also the December Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Chambers and carried.

Approval of the Agenda:

The Agenda was amended, adding under Old Business – (B) Residential Rewrite/Ag Preservation District and (C) Cemetery Charges. Motion by Chambers to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Genung and was accepted.

Reports:

Fire Dept:

Genung reported the Fire Board will be having a meeting in the next week. The grant that the Fire Board applied for from FEMA for air paks was denied.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Michele Love was in non compliance when AGS inspected on 1/3/08 and was fined. The Bedford/Abushmais property is still in non-compliance; they were denied relief from the ZBA. AGS wrote them a letter dated 12/27/07 of notification that they are in violation of the Zoning Ordinance and the violation must be removed within 10 days or further action will be taken by the Township. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Township Attorney to proceed with legal action.

Motion by Chambers to authorize Supervisor Bither to contact Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe and advise him to go forward with legal action on the Bedford/Abushmais property. The motion was seconded by Genung and was unanimously accepted.

Public Comment:

Ron Slagall, CEO of LifeCare Ambulance Service was present to review the quarterly report on LifeCare calls and membership through December 31, 2007.

Darrick Lynn Scott-Farnsworth was present to request that the Township Board approve a Resolution in support of Michigan HB 4564 which will give equal parenting arrangements in custody disputes when a divorce occurs.

Motion by Scott to pass a Resolution in support of Michigan HB 4564 which supports equal parenting. The motion was seconded by Chambers and carried. Bither requested that Mr. Scott-Farnsworth submit wording for a Resolution that he would like to see approved.

Residential Rewrite/Ag Preservation District:

The Planning Commission has several large properties which are mainly tax exempt that they would like to make an "AG District". Genung would like to know exactly what the restrictions on this new AG District would be. Chambers wants to know the reason why the P/C wants the new AG Zoning District and why these certain properties would be included. Scott feels that for consistency all properties need to be noticed that are within 300' just as all rezoning has been required to do in the past.

New Business:

Approval of Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2008 Assessments:

Motion by Genung to accept a Resolution for the 2008 Poverty Guidelines in conjunction with the 2008 Board of Review. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call of members showed: Bither – aye, Chambers – aye, Langshaw - aye, Genung – aye and Scott – aye. The motion carried with all ayes.

Approval of Outside Contracts for 2008-2009:

Motion by Chambers to allow the Township Treasurer to use the banking depository of her choice and to approve contracts with Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe, retain the audit services of Siegfried, Crandall P.C., the engineering services of Prein & Newhof and to have the Supervisor be responsible for the Sheriff's Dept. deputies, the township employees and the township park. The motion was seconded by Genung and was unanimously accepted.

Allocation of Cable Franchise Fees:

According to Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe, the money that comes in for cable franchise fees are generated because the cable is using Ross Township's right of ways. By motion the Board can re-allocate these funds to be used to maintain the township right of ways i.e. "roads".

Motion by Scott to allocate cable franchise fees that were generated by use of Ross Twp. right of ways to maintain and improve Ross Twp. roads. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried.

Planning Commission Appointment:

Bither has appointed Sandra Kiger to the Planning Commission to replace Bob Cox.

Comments:

Bither wants to offer flexible hours to both deputies and it was the consensus of the Board that this should be available.

Approval of increase in cemetery charges:

Motion by Genung to increase all fees for the cemetery at \$50 over what the outside contractor charges the Township for his fees. Also to give the Clerk permission to increase cemetery fees to \$50 over what the contractor charges whenever an increase may occur. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk

