

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 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	Sid Durham, Trustee
	Jon Scott, Trustee	
Absent:	Diana Langshaw, Trustee	Owen Murray, Trustee

PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET 2008-2009

The Public Hearing for the Budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year was opened by Bither. Copies of the proposed budget were available to the public. Public comment time was called but there was none. The Board accepted the budget as proposed.

Motion by Durham to close the Public Hearing; the motion was seconded by Chambers and **carried**.

Approve Agenda:

Motion by Chambers to approve the agenda as amended (adding under Old Business "C" Notice mailings to all residents on rezoning; under New Business "J" Approve audit contract for 2008/2009, "K" Maple Hills Golf Course Liquor License transfer and "L" Review proposed Fire Dept. Budget. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Chambers to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed which includes the Treasurer's Report, the bills paid for February and the bills payable for March; also the minutes of 2/12/08 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Genung and was **accepted**.

Reports:

Fire Dept. Report:

Genung reported that the fire payroll has been completed for March with the new pay increase of \$11.00 per hour.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the Enforcement Report from AGS dated 3/3/08. Bedford/Abushmais were issued a citation and have a court appearance date of 3/13/08 at 9:00 A.M.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the police report from the Sheriff's Dept. for February.

Public Comment:

Roy and Ann Kemppainen were present with a complaint that no enforcement is being done on his neighbor. Kemppainen stated that an entertainment platform that is 18 by 22 was built not a dock.

It was the consensus of the Board that Bither will contact the township attorney to determine what has been done and what, if anything can be done by law.

Marty Dodge from the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce was present to discuss the committee that has been established called "Committee to Turn Michigan Around". They have petitions available for signatures in order to get a question on the November ballot regarding a part-time legislature.

Old Business:

Cemetery Bids:

It was the consensus of the Board that we should stay with Rob Stafford and we will look at bids again next year.

Notice Mailings to all residents:

It was the consensus of the Board that all property owners in the township should be noticed because the new proposed zoning changes will affect every property owner in the township.

Motion by Genung to mail all property owners in the township a notice of the Public Hearing on the proposed rezoning in Ross Township. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Revisions to Sewer Ordinance:

Rich Pierson from Gull Lake Sewer Authority was present to review the changes that he is proposing to the Sewer Ordinance which include change from mandatory connection to non-mandatory; add grinder pump diagrams and language dealing with grinder pumps; clarify connection fee language; and clarify policy on payment of connection fees with installments. Copies of the proposed ordinance were left with board members and Rich will be back in May or June asking for approval.

Action on Public Hearing:

Motion by Durham to approve the Ross Township Budget for 2008-2009; second by Genung. Roll Call of members showed: Durham – aye, Bither – aye, Chambers – aye, Genung – aye and Scott – aye and the motion was unanimously **approved**.

Motion by Chambers to approve salary resolutions for 2008-2009 as follows: Trustees in the amount of \$1,800 each per year and the Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk at \$42,500 each per year. The motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call vote showed as follows: Scott – aye, Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye and the motion was unanimously **approved**.

Approval of Board Meeting Dates:

Motion by Chambers to approve the Township Board meeting dates for 2008-2009 as proposed (see attached). The motion was second by Genung and **carried**.

Decision on updated Dangerous Buildings Ordinance:

Durham and Scott had some questions on the proposed Dangerous Buildings Ordinance and would like them clarified with the township attorney so the Ordinance was tabled.

Proposed split of Lot 40 LaBelle Terrace:

Motion by Genung to approve the split of Lot 40 LaBelle Terrace with the stipulation that both Parcel A and Parcel B can only be used for parking or an accessory building, no principle structure may be built as both lots are unbuildable according to the Ordinance.. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

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 the Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe, retain the audit services of Siegfried, Crandall PC, 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 **carried**.

Treasurer's Computer:

Motion by Durham to give the Treasurer's old computer to the assessor since the motherboard is about to go and the computer is of no value. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Transfer of Liquor License:

Motion by Durham to approve a request by Vandenberg 10th Hole Management, Inc. to transfer of the liquor license by adding Emma J. Vandenberg, Timothy W. Vandenberg and Karen Vandenberg as new stockholders from existing stockholder, Gordon Vandenberg. The motion was seconded by Scott and was unanimously **approved**.

Lawn mowing contract approval:

Motion by Durham to accept Lawn Perfect as the Township's lawn mowing contractor for 2008-2009. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

Planning Commission Training:

MSU Extension is offering a training seminar for seven Wednesdays beginning April 23rd through June 4th; the fee is \$385 per participant. At this time, at least one member of the P/C would like to attend. Bither talked to Barb Callahan at the Par Plan and they will refund the \$385 if all the classes are attended and upon completion of the course. The Township would need to pay the \$385 up front and we will be reimbursed when the course is completed. We will wait to see how many members of the P/C are interested in attending.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk