

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD JULY 14, 2009 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 Owen Murray, Trustee
 Jon Scott, Trustee Sid Durham, Trustee
Absent: Diana Langshaw, Trustee

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Chambers to approve the Agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded by Murray and **carried**.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

Reports:

Fire Report:

Durham reported that the Fire Board met last week. One of the items of business was to open sealed bids for the fire truck of which there was one which was rejected due to the low bid. The Board decided to keep the old white truck for historical reasons and for parades. The Board had some concerns regarding the 4th of July fireworks at the Park and the Chief will arrange a meeting with Mike Mulholland to discuss the matter. Murray requested that the Board get some feedback after the meeting.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Violations Report dated 7/1/2009 from AGS (see attached Report).

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the Sheriff's Dept. Police Report for May and June, 2009.

Planning Commission Report:

Scott reported that the P/C is working on suggestions from Craig Rolfe regarding the Zoning Ordinance. The P/C members would like to get a better picture on the condition of the Township roads; they would like to pair up a P/C member with a Township Board member; divide the Township into sections and each group drive and rate the condition of the roads in that section. When completed the groups will meet to look at the roads and figure out a long term plan for managing the data and putting it into a form that everyone can look at.

They also discussed putting together a long term plan for recreation. We need to identify areas and activities that would be meaningful to the Township. If the Township has a plan in place, if funds or grants become available for recreation, the Township stands a better chance of making it happen.

Public Comments:

Jackie Showerman lives at 12412 D Ave. stated that they have a rental next door and the renters are making a mess of the Bay area with illegal parking, drunkenness, loud and lewd behavior, they throw up and pee on Showerman's property and in the lake, they trespass, open their fenced yard letting the dogs out. Showermans have tried to discuss the problem with the owner, J.B. McKay and he will not do anything to help.

MariAnne Marshall lives at 12324 D Ave. and has a party house across the street from her. The owners party and are drunk all night, they throw up and pee in the street and lake, and they are loud. Marshalls call the police and they take two to three hours to respond and when they get there, the police tell them to quiet down and go inside but no tickets are issued and no arrests made. Marshall questioned what the Township Board can do to help with the situation down there.

Another Bay resident, Jean Hanson repeated the same stories of illegal parking, trashing the area and drunken, loud behavior. The residents gave the Board pictures of the messes on their lawns and streets.

Murray requested that Bither contact the Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe and discuss any suggestions that he might have to enforce any Ordinances that we may already have. The Board requested that Bither contact the sheriff to see what our enforcement options are; maybe we can change our deputy's hours so they will be available when these incidents are happening. It was the consensus of the Board that more enforcement is needed in the Bay area and that these residents deserve better. Durham requested that this problem be on the agenda for the August board meeting.

Marta LeRoy questioned if the DEQ has reviewed and given an estimate on the costs of replacing the 43rd Street bridge. Travis Barthomew from the Road Commission stated that he is meeting with the DEQ at the 43rd St. bridge on Wednesday so there should be input on cost at the August board meeting.

Chris Chojnowski from Gull Vista Plat collected signatures from residents of the plat who do not want to have the plat chip sealed. They would like to see an alternative to the chip seal, they do not feel the chip seal is needed and feel it is a hazard because of the loose stones to children, cars and property. Gail Venner stated that Gull Vista Plat has had a flooding issue; they have just gotten the drains cleaned out; now residents are concerned that the drains may fill up with stones and create another flooding issue.

Travis Barthomew stated that after the stone is applied they come back and sweep and vacuum the street to pick up the loose stone. The roads should be maintained every five to six years, budget permitting. As for other options, there are a few that KCRC is experimenting with such as surrey seals, micro seals and fog sealing, however chip seal is the most cost effective maintenance seal out there. There are experimental options available; however if the the option doesn't work, who will pay for the fix.

Motion by Scott that Bither attend the next Road Commission Meeting to see if there is any possibility of the KCRC Board substituting the roads in Idlewild for the chip seal project set for the roads in Gull Vista Plat. If we can do Idlewild, we do and if we can't then we do the roads in Gull Vista. The motion was supported by Durham (being a resident of Idlewild, Murray abstained from voting) and the motion carried.

General Appropriations Act Resolution:

Motion by Durham to approve the General Appropriations Act Resolution for Ross Township as amended which will set the millage for 2009-2010 for general operating at .6519 and for the fire millage at .4664. The motion was seconded by Scott; there was a Roll Call Vote and the motion unanimously **carried**.

Yarrow Liquor License Approval:

Motion by Durham to approve a Resolution requesting a change in name for a liquor license changing the existing license from Yarrow, Inc. as Co-Licensee and add

Yarrow Golf & Conference LLC as Co-Licensee in 2009 Resort B-Hotel licensed business issued under MCL 436.1531 (4) with dance-entertainment permit, located at 10499 N. Forty-eighth, Augusta, Michigan 49012, Ross Township, Kalamazoo County. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call Vote showed Genung, Murray, Chambers, Bither, Durham and Scott with all ayes and the motion unanimously **carried**.

Dangerous Structure:

An Ordinance Violation Hearing was held June 24, 2009 with Hearing Officer, Desmond Jones, Jeff Bither, Tom Guthrie, Ordinance Enforcement Inspector and Bert Gale, Building Official in attendance on the Michelle Love property located at 10039 N. 40th Street. The ruling of the Hearing Officer was that there has been a lack of response from the owner to cleanup the property and make it safe and because of the conditions of the buildings, they shall be demolished and removed. The demolition and clean-up will be done by October 31, 2009. Bither has done a title search. A hearing is scheduled for the August Board Meeting to authorize the Township Attorney to set a court date for this property and take the next legal step for the cleanup/demolition of this property.

Member's Comment time:

Scott suggested that the Board set up a Committee to set a policy for our roads. Scott would also like to see a Parks/Recreation Committee.

Durham stated that CIR will be at the Ross Township Park from 10:30 to 2:30 Friday. The park will be closed to give handicapped individuals the opportunity to participate in water sports. Durham stated that the Township needs to have a Fireworks Site Plan in place before next year setting provisions for size of fireworks which will determine the distance of the setbacks, determine what type of fire gear the guys should wear, there should be no alcohol allowed and we need to have someone available to enforce the ordinance.

Murray has a concern about changing policies that could set a precedent. Murray feels the Planning Commission needs to work on public vs. private roads.

Chambers discussed the bid from the Signwriter for a sign for Day Cemetery.

Motion by Durham to accept the Signwriter bid in the amount of \$983 with installation of \$110 for a 1.5" cedar routed sign for Day Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Murray and **carried**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk