

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 5, 2007**

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Supervisor Alan Bussema called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Those present: Supervisor Alan Bussema  
Clerk Jackie Light  
Treasurer Wanda Hinklin  
Trustee Teresa Stafford  
Trustee Joseph Kaywood

Those absent: None

Also present were Township Attorney Kenneth Sparks and a few residents.

**GUESTS**

Jeff Smit, Fire Captain, announced that the department was able to acquire two more AED's due to the contributions made in memory of former firefighter Bob Robinson. The donations enabled the department to purchase one defibrillator and that meant that the AED Fund of Kalamazoo County would match the purchase. Smit discussed that eventually he would like to see an AED at the Park and in several more locations around the Township.

Firefighter Rick Grosser presented information regarding a program to allow employees to become members at the Borgess Health & Fitness Center. He stressed that firefighters, in particular, are being subjected to more and more physical challenges with the amount of equipment they need to carry. He felt he could recruit more than 10 firefighters to participate in the program, which would result in a large discount for the membership. There is an initiation fee and a monthly membership fee. Board members suggested that Grosser try to gather similar information from the YMCA camp at Sherman Lake. The Board discussed that perhaps an incentive system could be established to be able to offer a benefit of this type.

Paul & Sharon Fisher, Mailing & More, addressed the Board on their concerns about advertising sign ordinances. They have been visited by the Ordinance Enforcement Officer in regard to their free-standing sandwich board sign in front of their business. With that sign, they exceed the square footage allowed. They feel the ordinance is too restrictive and not enforced equitably. They asked that the Township review the ordinance.

Fire Captain Smit discussed the report from the quarterly meeting with PrideCare Ambulance Service.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Stafford/Hinklin moved approval of the Consent Agenda covering the May minutes, June financial statement and paying of June bills with a clarification of the minutes that the Township was only paying lodging for Stafford to attend the Governance class in June. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORTS**

Reports from Parks, Fire Department, and Ordinance Enforcement along with minutes from Sewer Authority, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission were mailed or emailed to Board members. In addition, Bussema announced the Sectional winners from the Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run competition held at our Park in May. The three winners will compete at Comerica Park on June 9.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Light announced the invitation to the picnic at Prein & Newhof offices on June 15.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE #223 – CONDITIONAL REZONING IN SECTION 13 FROM “A-1” TO “D”**

This Conditional Rezoning is the first the Board has seen under the new legislation. This rezones a small portion of a parcel from “A-1” to the “D” Regional Commercial District so that Gull Lake Marine has a driveway to access their property from East D Avenue. The Statement of Conditions offered and agreed to by the property owner and the Township becomes part of the Ordinance and will be filed with the County.

Stafford/Kaywood moved the following resolution:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT** Ordinance #223 to rezone certain land in Land Section 13 from an “A-1” to a “D” zoning district classification, with an attached Statement of Conditions, be adopted.

**AYES: Kaywood, Hinklin, Bussema, Light and Stafford.**

**NAYS: None**

The Supervisor declared the Ordinance adopted.

### **ORDINANCE #224 – AMENDMENTS TO PARK ORDINANCE**

Previously, Park Director Kristie Maiers had asked for amendments to address people putting advertising flyers on vehicles at the Park and putting up signs not related to park activities. Attorney Sparks was asked to prepare ordinance amendments that would address these issues.

Stafford/Kaywood moved the following resolution:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that Ordinance #224 to amend the Richland Township Park Regulation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 193, as amended) to add provisions regulating the placement of pamphlets, brochures, flyers and similar documents upon vehicles parked within park premises and the posting of placards, notices and signs upon any building or other permanent structure within park premises be adopted.

**AYES: Stafford, Light, Bussema, Hinklin and Kaywood**

**NAYS: None**

The Supervisor declared the Ordinance adopted.

### **OVERNIGHT USE OF THE PARK**

The firefighters have requested permission for a few members to spend the night in the Township Park on July 20 in preparation for a pig roast and picnic on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They have invited firefighters, EMS workers and police from several agencies throughout the area to come and participate in the fun. Stafford/Light moved to allow overnight use of the park for the firefighters picnic on July 20-21. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **FIREWORKS PERMITS**

Stafford/Kaywood moved authorizing the Supervisor to issue fireworks permits provided the applicant could show proof of at least \$1,000,000 in liability insurance coverage. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **HAMILTON FARMS EXTENSION**

Hamilton Farms received Final Preliminary Plat Approval (Step 2) for their Subdivision in 2005. Steve Cerven, First American Homes, has requested an extension of that approval, which would expire in July. He asked for a period of no less than two years from the expiration date. Stafford/Bussema moved to extend the Step 2 approval for Hamilton Farms Phase I until July 5, 2009. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MEMBER TIME**

The July Board meeting has been changed to Monday July 9.

Kaywood asked about the meeting scheduled by Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the traffic light at M-89 and M-43. Bussema said the meeting will be June 14 from 3 to 7 p.m. at our Township Hall.

Kaywood asked whether Light was going to continue to attend Sewer Authority meetings instead of the Supervisor. The Sewer Authority Board was originally only the Supervisors of the four townships. That policy was changed several years ago and now the representative can be any elected official. Light said she would continue attending for the time being while Bussema is learning his way around the job.

Kaywood commented on the minutes emailed to Board members and others. He wondered whether he and Stafford could see them first and make corrections and comments before they were sent to others. Attorney Sparks said that the Clerk sends out the draft of the minutes as she writes them and corrections or additions can only be done in a public meeting. Light said she would add some sort of message to the email that the minutes being sent are a draft and not the official minutes until approval at the next meeting.

Light mentioned that representatives from AFLAC insurance had been in and would like to present information to the Township about programs in which employees could participate. They will bring in further information which will be distributed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.