

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 2, 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 Joseph Kaywood  
Trustee Teressa Stafford

Also present were Attorney Kenneth Sparks and a few members of the community.

**GUESTS**

Firefighter Jeff Smit commented that the Board no longer discusses the various department reports. He would like to have more details of those reports. Light said that the reports she receives electronically will be forwarded to the website. We will also try making copies of the reports and having them available at the meetings.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Kaywood/Hinklin moved approval of minutes of the September 10 meeting, the September financial statement as sent, and the paying of October bills. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORTS**

**Park Director Kristie Maiers** said she has declined the offer from the schools for one of the portable classroom buildings. She approached GL Little League and Youth Football to see if they would share in the cost of moving and setting the building. Neither group was able to contribute anything at this time. Stafford/Light moved that the Township decline the offer from Gull Lake Schools for the donation of a portable classroom building. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Maiers also requested the authorization to begin work on updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan. She will prepare a survey to place in the December newsletter. Maiers will prepare some costs for the November meeting. Hinklin/Kaywood moved to begin the update of the Five-Year Recreation Plan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Stafford/Light moved to accept and post the reports as received. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board received a letter from Attorney Ortega, representing WJ Stafford regarding the action taken against his truck repair and painting. The letter states that Stafford has ceased doing repair and painting on vehicles for pay or other consideration.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINE POLICY**

There was discussion and changes were made to the Discipline Policy, some suggested by the Board, some by the Attorney. The policy will be re-worked and returned for the November Board meeting.

**FIRE APPARATUS/DRIVER DESCRIPTION**

Bussema and Luedeking worked through some changes on this description just today. Bussema recommended that this item also be tabled until November, giving Board members time to read, question and comment before the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL**

Representatives from Burnham & Flower and the Ted Hartleb Agencies were present to discuss their proposals for the Township's insurance coverage. Trustee Stafford abstained from any discussion on the matter, as she is an employee of Burnham & Flower.

The renewal of the policy currently with Burnham & Flower is due October 15. The coverage being discussed is for liability, wrongful acts, property damage and officials' bonds. Both parties presented information and answered questions from the Board. Although Burnham & Flower was able to lower their premium about \$8000 from the previous year, the Hartleb quote was still about \$3000 below that. There were numerous questions on the comparisons of the two types of coverage.

Kaywood/Light moved to stay with the Burnham & Flower Agency at this time, but to invite continued competitive bids in future years. **MOTION CARRIED 3-1, with Stafford abstaining.**

### **MEMBER TIME**

Stafford asked to confirm that the joint meeting with the Village is October 24 at the Community Hall. She also asked that the November meeting date be changed on the website. Stafford also indicated that to complete her Township Governance Academy course, she would be putting survey questions out to the website each month for feedback from the public.

Kaywood reported on information about a light in front of the building. The concern is that the parking area in front of the fire bays is not well lit. A streetlight might not solve that problem as well as a parking lot light placed farther back from the road. Kaywood will investigate the cost of installing one of the pole lights that were donated to the township.

Kaywood asked Chief Luedecking about a past discussion about adopting the National Fire Code. The problem discussed earlier was the enforcement of some parts of the Code that are particularly stringent. Luedecking asked Attorney Sparks whether we would be allowed to adopt only portions of the National Code and was told that could be possible.

Kaywood brought up the subject of making all township owned property non-smoking areas. Three other members of the Board said they would not be interested in pursuing such an ordinance.

There was again some discussion of authorizing the fire department to have up to 30 members. More investigation will be done as to the costs associated with adding additional members.

Bussema asked each Board member to complete and submit the "What Makes a 'Great Township'" form to him. This was an item discussed at the MTA workshop and Bussema wanted to use it as a discussion point for this Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.