

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 Richland Township, Kalamazoo County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit return, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United State Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) The application of an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of board of review.
- 7) Disclose on the application the inventoried net value of the assets of the owner/taxpayer and spouse (or other joint owner) exclusive of the value of the homestead and after deducting all outstanding encumbrances that said net value does not exceed \$10,000.

The following are the federal poverty income standards, which the United States Office of Management and Budget recommends that federal departments and agencies use. The standards are actually compiled and published by the bureau of the Census, which refers to them as "poverty thresholds."

FEDERAL POVERTY INCOME STATDARDS FOR 2007 ASSESSMENTS

The following are the federal poverty guidelines for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2008 assessments.

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Poverty Guidelines</u>
1	\$10,210
2	\$13,690
3	\$17,170
4	\$21,650
5	\$24,130
6	\$27,610
7	\$31,090
8	\$34,570
For each additional person, add	\$ 3,480

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Stafford and supported by Board Member Light.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

AYES: Kaywood, Hinklin, Bussema, Light and Stafford

NAYS: None

STREET LIGHT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE

Bussema contacted Consumers Energy to inquire about a street light that would illuminate the parking area in front of the Fire Department. The response from Consumers was that they could only install one on the pole across the road. That probably won't provide enough light. Further investigation will be done on installing a light on the pole next to the drive, or installing yard lights of a more residential nature.

NEW BUSINESS

PFIZER STORMWATER RUN-OFF

Current Township Ordinances prohibit the discharge of storm water into the sewer system. One of the new facilities at the Pfizer Animal Research farm has a large, unenclosed animal area with a concrete pad. Storm water that comes off that pad would also contain animal waste and that is what they want to put into the sewer. The Ordinance allows for "Special Arrangements for Treatment" and this would be one of those cases.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority ("Authority") owns and operates the public sewers within Richland Township ("Township"), and

WHEREAS, Pfizer Corporation ("Pfizer") operates an Animal Research Facility in Richland Township on M-43 Gull Road, and

WHEREAS, Pfizer Corporation, in 2005, contributed significant funds for two public improvement projects, being a Gravity Trunk Sewer system up Gull Road and a Water Main Project for 31st Street, and

WHEREAS, Pfizer has submitted a request to Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority as part of their MAEAP (Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program) and CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan) programs to improve their farm management practices by controlling storm water run-off with discharge points into the public sanitary sewer recently constructed, and

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo and Michigan DEQ, are supportive of the storm water run-off management plan, subject to the approval of the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority, and

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo, under current practice and regulation, monitors the flow and strength of wastewater discharged into the public sewers in Kalamazoo County from industrial facilities, and

WHEREAS, Prein and Newhof, engineers for the Authority and the Township, have reviewed Pfizer's plans for run-off management and subsequent discharge into the public sewers, and have determined there is adequate capacity downstream for the proposed discharge, and

WHEREAS, Richland Township Ordinance No. 203 in Section 9.N: Other Conditions of Disposal, provides for "Special Arrangements for Treatment", whereby the Authority and the

Township may agree to accept industrial or commercial waste of unusual strength and/or character, subject to payment therefore by the industrial or commercial concern.

NOW THEREFORE, Richland Township based upon the recommendation of the Authority at its meeting on November 13, 2007, and the analysis of its Engineer as set forth in its memorandum dated October 31, 2007, hereby resolves as follows:

1. To allow Pfizer's storm water run-off into the public sewers, subject to continued monitoring and right of refusal by the City of Kalamazoo and the Authority, and payment for the cost thereof by Pfizer.
2. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion was made by Hinklin, seconded by Stafford, to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote, the following members voted "Aye": **Stafford, Light, Bussema, Hinklin and Kaywood.**

The following members voted "Nay": **None**

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted.

ORDINANCE #225 – RESCINDING OF SWIMMING POOL ORDINANCE

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on this ordinance and recommended that the Board approve it. Hinklin/Kaywood moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 225 to amend the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance by the repeal of Subsection X of Section 19 pertaining to regulation of swimming pools; and by the repeal of all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be adopted.

AYES: Bussema, Kaywood, Stafford, Light and Hinklin

NAYS: None

ORDINANCE #226 – SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE

Bussema/Kaywood moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance No.226 to promote the public health, safety and welfare by establishing certain regulations pertaining to the maintenance of swimming pools and to provide for sanctions for the violation of those regulations be adopted.

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

NAYS: None

CHANGE IN STREET LIGHT CONTRACT

Consumers Energy sent the form for change in our streetlighting contract so that they can install 14 lights in the Gilmore Farms development. The contractor will be billed for the installation.

Light/Stafford moved the following:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to authorize a change in the streetlighting contract with Consumers Energy Company to install 14 lights in the Gilmore Farms development.

AYES: Stafford, Bussema, Hinklin, Light and Kaywood

NAYS: None

INCREASE IN CEMETERY CHARGES

Stafford abstained from participation in this matter, due to the family relationship to the excavator.

Rob Stafford has submitted increases in his charges for cemetery work, effective January 1, 2008. Light prepared the new Township rates, as follows:

	<u>WEEKDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY A.M.</u>
Regular burial	\$490.00	\$740.00
Baby w/vault	390.00	640.00

Standard cremation	320.00	570.00
Cremains w/large vault (Outside measurement larger than 13"x13" at base.)	340.00	590.00

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Service scheduled after 2:30 weekdays	\$50.00
Service after 11:30 on Saturday	\$50.00
Service at Noon or later on day prior to holiday	\$300.00
Snow removal or additional ground work	\$100.00/hr.
Use of Hydraulic Hammer (due to frost)	\$50.00

All **Monday burials** must be ordered by 12:00 noon on the previous Friday or burial will be assessed an additional \$200.00.

If the cremains are dropped off at the Township Office, without a specific burial time the charges are as follows:

Standard Drop-off Cremation	\$220.00
Large Drop-off Cremation (13"x 13" or larger)	\$240.00

Light/Hinklin moved to adopt the new fee schedule, effective January 1, 2008. **MOTION CARRIED WITH STAFFORD ABSTAINING.**

MEMBER TIME

Hinklin said she had a request from Allen Edwin, developer of Gilmore Farms, for permission to begin construction of 4 model homes prior to the final approval of the PUD. They would also like to make one section of one of the roads private. In the past, developers have been issued two permits before a plat has final approval, assuming that even if that approval never came, they could build two on a private driveway. It was the consensus of the Board that Allen Edwin should not be given special consideration not accorded to other developers. Hinklin said she would further consult with the Planner and the Attorney.

Hinklin also asked for the Board's feeling about implementing a Zoning Compliance Permit. This would require someone putting up any kind of building, even if it did not require a building permit, to get authorization from the Township. That would insure that any such building would meet setback and other Township requirements. The Board encouraged Hinklin to pursue the matter with the attorney and Planning Commission.

Stafford asked about road contracts for 2008. Bussema said he had given the Road Commission a list of the projects the Board discussed. He asked for estimates before February 1. Stafford said she is working with the Township's web master to implement some survey questions on our website.

Kaywood reminded everyone of the Galesburg Christmas parade in which our fire department will participate. Sparky Meier has spent several hours wiring up the light display on one of the trucks. Members of the department also assisted with the decorating of trees in the Village Green in preparation for Wassailing Night.

Bussema asked Board members to prepare a list of 2007 accomplishments and failures as a measurement tool.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.