

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2008**

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Supervisor Dean Blanchard called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

Those absent: Trustee Joseph Kaywood

Also present were Township Attorney Ken Sparks and several others.

**GUESTS**

Pat Hanavan, Shirley Hebert and several other members of Michigan Organizing Project/Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network spoke to the Board regarding the Kalamazoo County Housing Assistance Fund. The County and City of Kalamazoo have each contributed \$250,000 to the fund, and the County will match up to another \$250,000 of contributions from other units. The group urged Richland Township to consider a \$10,000 contribution in the next budget year.

Firefighter Jeff Smit commented that the Chief, Assistant Chief and Park Director should be part of the budget workshop process.

**MINUTES**

Hinklin/Stafford moved approval of the January minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Stafford/Light moved approval of January financial reports as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**PAY BILLS**

Stafford/Hinklin moved to pay February bills. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORTS**

As part of the Parks report, Director Maiers asked that the Board consider purchasing PVC water pipe to extend irrigation to fields 4, 5 and six. By purchasing now, we could avoid a 20% increase projected for March. The project itself will be about \$5800. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board not to proceed with this project at this time.

Maiers also asked that the fee for field and pavilion use at the park be increased. Stafford/Light moved to increase usage fees at the Township Park from \$25 to \$30 for the pavilion and fields. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The organizers of Kite Fest in June have asked permission to spend the night in the Park during the festival. This has happened the last two years and has caused no problems. Hinklin/Stafford moved to allow the Kite Fest organizers to camp overnight in the Park during the festival in June. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Assistant Fire Chief Andy Campbell asked that a new firefighter be added to the role. Patrick Doran came here from Colorado where he was a Fire Battalion Chief and an EMT. He still needs to take exams here in Michigan or be exempted because of his Colorado certification.

He is currently working for one of the local ambulance services. Hinklin/Stafford moved that Patrick Doran be hired as an entrance level firefighter. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **TAX APPRAISAL CONTRACT**

Assessor Gajor met with appraiser David Borak concerning the tax appeal for Spruce Lane Apartments. Mr. Borak presented a contract for his services for \$4000. Stafford/Hinklin moved approving the contract with David Borak for \$4000 and pursuing reimbursement for a portion of that expense from the Village of Richland. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT**

Gilmore Farms has requested a change in the Land Use Plan. They want a portion of the property that is presently in the Agricultural land use classification to be changed to Light Industrial. The Planning Commission must distribute the proposed amendment to all the surrounding jurisdictions for their comments. Stafford/Bussema moved to authorize the Planning Commission to distribute the amendment to the Land Use Plan to surrounding jurisdictions. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **ORDINANCE #227 – MINING AND SIGN REGULATION AMENDMENTS**

Attorney Sparks explained the ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission. They have spent many months working on changing the earth moving and mining regulations in the ordinance. The second part contains changes to sign regulations. Sparks had submitted some alternative language to help clarify part of the sign wording. In discussion, a further clarification was added to the height of a sign “from the ground”.

Stafford/Hinklin moved the resolution to adopt Ordinance #227 to amend the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance by the Amendment of Section 34.C.2, 4.C.1, 9.C.1, 11.C.1, 13.C.1 and 15.C.1 pertaining to earth removal, quarrying, gravel processing, mining and related mineral extraction commercial operations; by the amendment of Section 18.C pertaining to earth removal, quarrying, gravel processing, mining and related mineral extraction commercial operations; by the amendment of Section 19 pertaining to earth moving and/or filling operations; by the amendment of Section 19.D pertaining to sign regulations; and to repeal all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance, with the alterations in Section 19, as discussed.

**AYES: Staffrod, Bussema, Hinklin and Light**

**NAYS: None**

### **DISCUSSION OF TRUSTEES BEING FIREFIGHTERS**

Hinklin said she has heard that there are firefighters interested in running for Trustee positions on the Township Board. She said she wanted to make sure that if any firefighters were elected, they would not be surprised when they were required to resign from the department. The statute is clear that a Board member must resign from the Fire Department upon being elected. The Board then has the option of assigning additional duties, with additional compensation, to that member, and that can include being a member of the Fire Department. Attorney Sparks also read part of the law that says a department member may be asked to take a leave of absence during the last 60 days of the campaign for election.

## **ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Bussema has requested that he be assigned additional duties to perform maintenance at Township facilities. The Board has discussed hiring a part-time maintenance person, but that hasn't happened. Most of the time there is minimal work to be done. Bussema would do these tasks after regular office hours and on weekends. It will be further discussed at budget time and Bussema will come up with specific duties and pay scale.

#### **CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR CLEANING SERVICE**

Hinklin said that Two Moms and a Mop have submitted a contract for a second year, with increases of \$10 for each of the cleanings. Some of the firemen commented that they would not recommend extending the contract, let alone increasing the pay, when the performance has been less than desirable. Hinklin said we have not been completely happy with the service. She will talk with the cleaning crew again and see if there is improvement. We will not renew the contract, but will continue on a month-by-month basis and consider some other service.

#### **VIDEO SERVICE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

Light said she received a proposed Video Service Local Franchise Agreement from AT&T. We have 15 days to review it and determine if the application is complete. Attorney Rob Thall is the one in Bauckham Sparks office who generally handles the franchise agreements. Stafford/Light moved that the Supervisor will work with the Attorney to determine the completeness of the application from AT&T for a franchise agreement. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **MEMBER TIME**

Bussema said the Little League will be reviewing the contracts in the next few days. They should be returned to the Township before the March meeting.

Stafford asked about the street light at Bridle Trail. Hinklin said since it was installed long after the plat was approved, she wasn't sure whether the Township had any jurisdiction over it. Sparks said he would look over the portions of the Ordinance that pertain to lighting standards.

Stafford submitted a report on Council of Governments. She will try to attend those meetings in the future.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.