

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 3, 2008**

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, several firefighters, representatives from the Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network, and a few residents.

GUESTS

Pat Hanavan introduced herself and other members of the Michigan Organizing Project and Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network. They are requesting that the Township contribute \$10,000 to the Kalamazoo County Housing Assistance Fund, which would then be matched by that fund. Several members of the group commented on the importance of contributing to the fund. One of their goals is to provide housing assistance to everyone in the County who needs it and do away with the need for shelters. There is an August deadline to participate in the matching funds from the County. The Board will examine the budget and discuss the matter further in July.

Julie Phillips introduced herself as a candidate for District Court Judge in the August Primary election.

Becky Russon was before the Board to discuss for an incident involving the Pride Care Ambulance crew, housed at our fire station. She apologized on behalf of the company and said they were embarrassed by the behavior of one or two of their employees who caused some damage to the facility. She offered to reimburse the Township for cost of repairs and clean-up. Fire Chief Luedecking said he was involved with the cleanup. He said he was disappointed by the incident but said, over-all, they have had a very good working relationship with the Pride crew and were glad to have them at the station.

Rich Pierson, director of the Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority, talked to the Board regarding the Sewage Disposal System Ordinance and Sanitary Sewer Charges. The intent is to get all the municipalities to have consistent ordinances, and that all charges within a district would be consistent. One of the main differences between this ordinance and the previous one is removing the mandatory hook-up requirement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stafford/Kaywood moved approval of the consent agenda including minutes of the May 7 meeting, financial statements and paying of June bills. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Fire Chief Luedecking announced the resignation of one of the firefighters. Kaywood/Stafford moved accepting the resignation of firefighter Brad Hergott. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Luedecking also mentioned that the Insurance Services Office (ISO) will be visiting the station on July 14. They are the organization who set the insurance rating for residences within the township. The department has done a number of things over the last ten years to try to improve the 7 and 9 ratings we currently have. ISO hasn't updated the ratings in 30 years, and Luedecking is hoping that they will be lowered after this visit.

Parks Director Kristie Maiers said she had information on fencing at the passive park on East D Avenue. Following the letter informing the neighbors about the improvements to be done at the park, one was concerned that dogs would come over on to his property. Maiers had an estimate of about \$1700 for materials to fence the back and side of the property. The first mowing of the path has taken place, and the estimate for creating the parking lot is around \$700.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #228 – ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMIT

This item was discussed in the prior month and Attorney Sparks made changes to the language to exempt small buildings, under 200 square feet, that would not require building permits and would thus not be subject to this Zoning Compliance Permit.

Stafford/Light moved the resolution to adopt Ordinance #228, an ordinance to amend the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance by the amendment of Section 21 to add provisions pertaining to the setting of fees; by the amendment of Section 22 to pertain to Zoning Compliance Permits; and by the repeal of all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance.

AYES: Hinklin, Kaywood, Bussema, Light and Stafford

NAYS: None

LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR PARCEL AT M-89 & M-43

Bussema/Kaywood moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, in accordance with the recommendation and action of the Richland Township Planning Commission, the Township Board hereby approves the amendment of the Richland Township Land Use Plan so as to place all of the following-described real property in the Light Industrial land use classification:

The South three-quarters of the East half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 10, Town 1 South, Range 10 West, EXCEPT the south 725 feet of the East 325 feet.

ALSO EXCEPT the north 664.6 feet of the East 660 feet thereof.

AYES: Stafford, Light, Bussema, Kaywood and Hinklin

NAYS: None

ORDINANCE #229 – REZONING PARCEL AT M-89 & M-43 FROM A-1 TO D-1

Liberty Farms requested the rezoning of a portion of their property at the corner of M-89 & M-43 from "A-1" Agricultural/Residential to "D-1" Commercial/Industrial. As recommended by the Planning Commission, Kaywood/Stafford moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance Number 229, to amend the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance by the rezoning of certain land situated in Land Section 10 from "A-1" Agricultural/Residential to a "D-1" Commercial/Industrial District zoning classification; and by the repeal of all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be duly adopted.

AYES: Bussema, Hinklin, Stafford, Kaywood and Light

NAYS: None

RENEWAL OF ASSESSOR'S CONTRACT

Stafford/Hinklin moved to renew the contract with Assessor Diane Gajor for another year. There is now increase in cost and the only change is an additional day for training or vacation. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ORDINANCE #230 - RESIDENTIAL WASTE REDUCTION ORDINANCE

This ordinance is similar to one already in place that requires waste haulers serving the Township to provide recycling to their customers. This one has slight modifications and is the one being used by several other units in the County. In order to have the County be the supervising agent for our ordinance, we need to have our ordinance match theirs.

Stafford/Light moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance #230, an ordinance to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the Township by regulating the collection of residential garbage and recyclables in a manner that will promote waste reduction; and to repeal all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith, be adopted.

AYES: Light, Kaywood, Hinklin, Bussema and Stafford

NAYS: None

The second part of this transaction is to authorize the Intergovernmental Agreement with Kalamazoo County for them to administer the ordinance. The cost is shared among all participating municipalities, and will be our share of the annual \$1500 cost. Bussema/Stafford moved the authorization for the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the Intergovernmental Contract with Kalamazoo County for the Residential Waste Reduction Ordinance. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATION WITH VILLAGE IN MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Bussema had discussed this matter with Village Police Chief Coles following the Village adoption of the Motor Carrier Safety Act as a local ordinance. Coles indicated that they would like the Township to participate as well, and share the expenses. The Village Police would then have the authority to stop trucks in the Township, presumably before they enter the Village.

There were several comments by citizens in attendance voicing disapproval of such an action. One result of this action, it was expressed, was that trucks would avoid the Village and use roads that were unsuited to heavy loads. One trucker said that if they were being pulled over on Township roads, they would soon damage the edges of the roads and would create traffic hazards while stopped. The Village main arteries are two State highways and an all-weather primary road, all suited to better handle the truck traffic.

Bussema/Kaywood moved that the Township decline to participate with the Village in the Motor Carrier Safety initiative. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #231 – SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM ORDINANCE

Stafford/Light moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance #231, an ordinance to regulate and control the construction, installation, extension, service connection and operation of public sewer mains and public sewer service within said township under the jurisdiction of the Gull Lake Sewer and water Authority; to regulate discharge into public sewer mains; to provide for service charges for persons utilizing such public sewer system; to provide for penalties for the violation of such ordinance; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith, be adopted.

AYES: Kaywood, Hinklin, Stafford, Bussema and Light

NAYS: None

Light/Kaywood moved that the resolution regarding Sanitary Sewer Charges for Richland Township be adopted.

AYES: Stafford, Hinklin, Light, Kaywood and Bussema

NAYS: None

HIRING OF TOWNSHIP HANDYMAN

Kaywood said he had six applicants and has interviews set up with four of them. Stafford/Bussema moved that the hourly rate of between \$10 and \$15 would be determined by Kaywood and Bussema when they chose a candidate for the handyman position. **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.**

As in previous years, it was the consensus of the Board that the Supervisor should have some discretion to limit the amount of fireworks and the times of display.

INCREASE IN FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Due in great measure to the efforts of Jeff and Katie Smit, the Gull Lake Area United Way gave the Fire Department a grant of \$5124 for the purchase of cutter heads for the extrication unit. The previous head had been broken at the scene of a fatal automobile accident this spring. Thank you letters from the Department and the Township will be forthcoming.

Stafford/Kaywood moved to increase the new equipment line of the Fire Department budget by \$5124 to reflect the grant from United Way. **MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION FOR PARTIAL TERMINATION OF A P.A. 116

Hinklin explained that Jim and Linda Campbell have requested a partial termination of one of their Farmland Development Rights Agreements (PA116 Agreement). This is a parcel of approximately 2 acres, with a house, that they want to deed to their son.

Hinklin/Stafford moved the resolution to be sent to the State approving the release of the parcel of land less than two acres, with a structure, from the Farmland Development Rights Agreement.

AYES: Hinklin, Kaywood, Stafford, Bussema and Light

NAYS: None

MEMBER TIME

Bussema reminded those present that the Monday, July 7 Board meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m. with a meeting with the Road Commission.

Hinklin felt the Board had not responded to Park Director Maiers with any direction regarding the passive park on D Avenue, and in particular, about the fencing. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that there was not money budgeted to purchase fencing this year, and that we shouldn't jump ahead with fencing unless problems arise.

Kaywood asked whether the Planning Commission would be addressing the issue of wood-burning stoves. Attorney Sparks mentioned that everyone was watching to see how the Texas Township Ordinance was working before acting. He also advised that it should be handled as a General Ordinance rather than as Zoning Ordinance to give more flexibility. That would make it a matter for the Board rather than the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:50P.M.