

**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 7, 2008**

Supervisor Bussema called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

Also present were representatives from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, several firefighters, and interested citizens. Attorney Kenneth Sparks arrived before 7:00

REPORT FROM ROAD COMMISSION

The meeting time was moved to 6:30 to accommodate the annual visit from the members of the Road Commission. Joanna Johnson, Managing Director, Jeff Maddox, Chairman and Dennis Berkebile, Vice Chairman spoke about projects done in Richland Township and throughout the County. They addressed questions about cleaning up storm debris, speed limit changes and gravel roads. Maddox said they expect there will be a slight decrease in the Par Funds for next year, but not drastic. They encourage all units to make their choices for 2009 projects by March 15, 2009 to get the best prices for asphalt.

GUESTS

David Artley spoke about the Kalamazoo County Assistance Fund. He wanted to clarify that the deadline for the matching fund contribution was August 31. He commented that he felt that the Township was not mandated to contribute to the fund, but had a moral imperative to do so.

Cheryl Lanphear, 9525 East EF Avenue, addressed the Board with her concern about the paving of East EF Avenue. Her family would like to see the road remain all gravel. Other members of the Holroyd family also spoke about leaving the road alone. They like to ride bikes and horses and walk along the road and feel that putting a solid surface will cause increased speed and traffic. Supervisor Bussema remarked that he lived on Greer Drive and the same chip sealing was done on that gravel road about 10 years ago. He felt that speeds actually decreased and it made it a much safer traveling surface. He also told the residents that the contract for this project has already been made and the chip sealing will take place.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bussema/Stafford moved approval of minutes of the June meetings with a correction of the date of the Joint Village/Township meeting, June Financial Statements, as sent and the paying of July bills. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Kaywood/Stafford moved to accept the department reports as sent. **MOTION CARRIED.** There was again discussion of how the reports could be better disseminated. Bussema said he is working on getting a lap top and projector system so the audience can see the reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #232 – SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM ORDINANCE

The Boards approved a Sewage Disposal System Ordinance in June, but some minor corrections and changes were made to it. Thus, the previous Ordinance was not published and did not go into effect. The Board now needs to adopt this new Ordinance and readopt the rate schedule with a changed date of effectiveness.

Hinklin/Stafford moved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Ordinance #232, 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: Stafford, Light, Bussema, Hinklin and Kaywood

NAYS: None

RE-ADOPTION OF SANITARY SEWER CHARGES RESOLUTION

Stafford/Light moved that the resolution regarding Sanitary Sewer Charges be re-adopted with the effective date of September 1, 2008:

AYES: Kaywood, Hinklin, Bussema, Light and Stafford

NAYS: None

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM MICHIGAN ORGANIZING PROJECT

There were several members of the Michigan Organizing Project on hand to support the request that Richland Township Contribute \$10,000 to the Kalamazoo County Housing Assistance Fund for the primary purpose of providing vouchers to help people obtain housing in the community. Hinklin said she was perplexed that the group has been to Richland Township three times, and with a deadline of August 31 for the matching funds from the County, they have not been to any of our neighboring townships. Stafford expressed the position that the Board had discussed at budget time, that as much as individual member of the Board might feel the moral obligation to contribute to the cause, the Township did not have that duty. Light also said she felt the Township taxes were not the right source for this funding. Stafford/Kaywood moved that the Board decline the request from Michigan Organizing Project to make a contribution to the Kalamazoo County Housing Assistance Fund. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

GILMORE FARMS SEWER AGREEMENT

Rich Pierson, Gull Lake Sewer Authority Manager, asked that the Township Board ratify the agreement between Gilmore Farms Development, L.L.C. and the Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority, as our agents, for the Sewage Disposal System at the Gilmore Farms housing development. The agreement addresses financing of the improvements, the duties of the Township Board relative to the Ordinance and establishment of Connection Fees and Charges, and acknowledgement of the Connection Fee reimbursement arrangements.

Stafford/Kaywood moved to approve the Sanitary Sewer Extension Agreement between Gilmore Farms Development and Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ESTABLISHING RECEIVING BOARD FOR TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

Light said that she had been informed that the Township Board needed to authorize the use of Receiving Boards at elections on a yearly basis. The Receiving Board works on election night to accept the information from each precinct and make sure it is complete before transporting to The County Clerk's Office.

Kaywood/Stafford offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Public Act 256 of 2004 (MCL 168.679a.) provides that the legislative body of a city, township or village may authorize the establishment of one or more local receiving boards at elections in which the ballots are counted and certified at the precinct; and

WHEREAS, the said Public Act specifies the board of election commissioners as the public body responsible for establishing and making appointment to local receiving boards; and

WHEREAS, the said Public Act grants local receiving boards the authority, with the election inspectors, to correct errors and discrepancies in the Poll Books and to ensure the proper sealing of ballot containers; and

WHEREAS, the corrections made at the request of a receiving board preserve and protect the integrity of the election process; and

WHEREAS, the records of a receiving board provide the local clerk valuable information regarding the effectiveness of election inspector training and future training needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board hereby authorizes the establishment of receiving boards for elections conducted within Richland Township at which ballots are counted and certified in the precinct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Election Commission shall establish receiving boards by appointing qualified election inspectors thereto for each election in which receiving boards will be used; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Richland Township's receiving boards shall operate under the provisions of Public Act 256 of 2004 (MCL 168.679a.), any amendments thereto, and any rules promulgated by the Secretary of State for the conduct and operation of local receiving boards.

AYES: Kaywood, Light, Stafford, Hinklin and Bussema

NAYS: None

ORDINANCE #233 – SIGN ORDINANCE

Attorney Sparks summarized the changes and additions made to the previous sign permit ordinance. There are extensive definitions, and regulations addressing LED signs, including time and temperature signs, wall signs, sign illumination, temporary, real estate and political signs, gas station signs and sign permit procedures.

Stafford/Light offered the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT Ordinance #233, an Ordinance to amend the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance by the amendment of Section 1.C pertaining to the definitions of "Advertising Sign Board", "Billboard" and "Sign"; by the amendment of Section 19.D pertaining to sign regulations; and to repeal all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith, be adopted.

AYES: Hinklin, Stafford, Kaywood, Light and Bussema

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION FOR GRAD BASH LOTTERY

There was a request from the Gull Lake Grad Bash 2009 Committee for approval to have a raffle as a fund raiser.

Light/Kaywood offered the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the request from **Gull Lake Grad Bash 2009 Committee** of Richland, Michigan county of Kalamazoo, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license, be considered for **approval**.

AYES: Kaywood, Light, Stafford, Bussema, Hinklin

NAYS: none

MEMBER TIME

Hinklin mentioned that Jeff and Katie Smit have organized a pig roast and picnic for Fire, Police and Ambulance personnel throughout Kalamazoo County on July 19th. Someone will need to spend the night of the 18th in the park to tend to the pig. Kaywood/Stafford moved to allow an overnight stay in the Township Park on July 18. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Kaywood said he spoke with a resident who passed on some information about wood-burning furnaces. He asked that if the Board was thinking about restricting the burners that we look at the information he provided.

There was a discussion about the current Little League contract and agreements for the concession stand and utility vehicle. There have been a couple incidents this year that defied the terms of those agreements. The Board directed Maiers to write a letter to Little League regarding the breach of contract and notice of the expiration of the two agreements.

Maiers informed the Board that Drew Blakely, who won the Aquafina Pitch Hit & Run at our Park, will be going to Yankee Stadium to compete in the finals before the All Star Game.

Kaywood asked for clarification on whether the Township can expend funds for honoring employees. Bussema asked Sparks to help locate some information from MTA regarding that matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.