

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
SAND LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING
FOR WEED CONTROL RENEWAL
JOINT HEARING WITH CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
MAY 21, 2014**

A joint hearing of the Franklin Township Board and Cambridge Township Board was held at the Cambridge Township Hall for the proposed renewal of the Sand Lake Weed Control. Cambridge Township Clerk Rick Richardson brought the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by Franklin Township Supervisor Bob Platt bringing Franklin's Board to order. Present for Franklin: Supervisor Bob Platt, Clerk Sue Whitehead, Treasurer Terri Moore, Trustees Dan Van Valkenburg and Mike Kelley. Also present: Twp. Attorney Phil Schaedler and Twp. Assessor Tim Voorhees.

Resident Mr. Blank then gave a prayer. Clerk Richardson gave the background on the current Special Assessment District. Property owner and former Sand Lake Board President Doug Gross spoke and felt there are flaws in the current treatment process. Gross also felt that back-lot owners should also be included in the assessment district and that a lake manager was also needed. Gross stated he was not against a special assessment district for weed control, however, he thinks that changes need to be made to the current plan. Attorney Schaedler noted that he represents both of the Townships of Franklin and Cambridge. Schaedler stated in 2011 he wrote a letter to the Sand Lake Board informing them that 51% of the Sand Lake property owners had approved a 5-year weed control plan and that the Sand Lake Property Assoc. Board could not change the plan by a vote. In order to alter the plan 51% of the property owners would need to adopt a different plan of action if that is what the owners wish after the 5-year weed control ends. Schaedler informed those present that the Township Board's only collect the special assessment funds; they do not decide how the program is structured. The Township Board's have been asked by the Sand Lake Property Assoc. Board to consider renewal of the weed control special assessment. The actual treatment contract is between the Sand Lake Board and PLM.

Sand Lake Board President Terry Flood spoke in favor of renewing the current treatment plan for a proposed \$100 per year for 5 years and only requiring the front lot (water-front) property owners to be in the assessment district.

Sabrina Gross with property on Pentecost Hwy spoke against an automatic renewal and felt that the water quality has been impacted in a negative way since the treatment process has been in effect. Gross would also like to see changes made to the current treatment program which would allow more oversight. Property

owner Mike Smith spoke against an automatic renewal and indicated that he was in favor of having a different lake management company and felt that the current program is flawed. A PLM representative stated that the company's employees are highly educated and also use many other types of treatments besides chemicals for managing lakes. Property owner Dow Parsons spoke in favor of the renewal and felt that a lake manager would be expensive. Parsons stated that the lake management plan that is currently in place is approved by the DEQ and is on file. Parsons said he was present for each treatment in order to provide oversight. Property owner John Salisbury who is the Chairman of the Lake Management Committee and also a North Shore Representative feels that the renewal needs to move forward in order to continue the weed control funding. There is enough funding to cover 2014. Irene Petree with property at 5535 Delbert Ct. was concerned about the fish and weeds, however, she stated she wanted the lake to be healthy and was in favor of renewing.

Twp. Attorney Schaedler said that any surplus amount that was 5% or more at the end of the program must be returned to the residents. Anything under 5% the township would absorb. Doug Gross then asked what the total protest amount was. Whitehead stated 23.66% was received in protest. Richardson said Cambridge had received 14% protest out of the 20% required. Gross encouraged the Cambridge Board to vote to not renew the special assessment district and to start over with new petitions to change the program structure.

Supervisor Platt informed those present that the protest at 23.66% had exceeded the required 20% in Franklin Township and the board could not continue any further with a renewal. Clerk Richardson of Cambridge Township Board moved to approve the renewal of the Sand Lake Weed Control SAD for \$100/year for 5 years. Johncox supported and motion carried 3-0. Richardson moved to approve the assessment roll for the Sand Lake Weed Control renewal, supported by Johncox, and motion carried 3-0.

Having no further business the hearing was declared adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Sue Whitehead
Franklin Township Clerk