

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**  
**August 12, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Platt who then led the flag pledge. Present: Supervisor Bob Platt, Clerk Sue Whitehead, Treasurer Terri Moore, Trustees Mike Kelley and Dan VanValkenburg. Absent: none. The regular minutes and special minutes from 7-31-14 were both approved as read. The Treasurer reported income of \$43,064.80 and expenses of \$27,057.52. One additional bill was received. Whitehead stated that Ken Bortel had accepted the position of Township Gardener. Bortel's hours to date: 8 Hrs. x \$12.50/Hr.=\$100. Kelley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills presented for payment. VanValkenburg supported and motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Supervisor Platt informed those present that the Tipton apartment building that was up for bid at the August 5<sup>th</sup> County tax sale did not sell. The Board has discussed the possibility of purchasing the building as a community clean-up project. At this time the Board is seeking demolition bids in the event that the building is torn down in the future by the township.

The Board will be holding a Special Assessment Hearing August 20, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a Special Assessment Roll Hearing at 7:45 p.m. The Board has been petitioned by the Sand Lake Property Owners Association that weed control be performed on Sand Lake by special assessment of water-front properties.

VanValkenburg gave a Planning Commission update regarding the proposed winery on U.S. 12. At the last meeting signage and parking lot issues were discussed.

Bob Garland was present and inquired as to whether the Board would be inclined to extend the August 29<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Dangerous Building regarding the Preston property at 7623 Pentecost Hwy if the proposed variance failed on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Platt stated that the Board would work with the property owners to make some type of short extension if need be.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1-Land Division Application: Jack and Rita Wolf Trust, with property at 8901 Elton Hwy, Tipton (FRO-129-1150-00) requested to split one parcel of 3.004 acres from the parent parcel. The Land Division Committee recommended approval of the application. VanValkenburg moved to approve the land division as

presented. Whitehead supported and motion carried. Approval of the land division does not mean zoning compliance.

Jesse Knick of Whispering Lakes H.O.P.E., Inc. was present requesting that the corporation be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses. Knick explained the purpose of Whispering Lakes is to raise funds by private fundraising to assist individuals and families in transitioning from shelters to home ownership. It also provides funds for education and training in order to gain permanent employment. Whitehead moved to adopt a Resolution for Charitable Gaming License through the State of Michigan Gaming Control Board for Whispering Lakes H.O.P.E., Inc. to be recognized as a nonprofit organization. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: VanValkenburg-yes, Kelley-yes, Moore-yes, Whitehead-yes, Platt-yes. Motion carried 5-0 unanimously.

The Board reviewed a proposed Public Inspection of Records Policy that outlines public inspection and viewing of records during usual business hours, and states that Franklin Township will accommodate reasonable requests for inspection of records during non-business hours. Whitehead moved to approve the Public Inspection of Records Policy effective immediately. Moore supported and motion carried.

Resident Ken Bortel was introduced as the new Township Gardener. Bortel is a Master Gardener and in his position will maintain the hall's landscaping among other tasks. Bortel stated the township has a beautiful hall, and in the fall he would like to make improvements to the lawn.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> salt brine application was discussed. The estimate from the Co. Road Commission is \$31,198 (roughly \$19,000 for brine and \$12,000 for a scraping). Kelley was interested in a scraping only; due to the salt brine not being very effective. Resident Kathleen Klumpp said if the weather were to turn dry it could get quite dusty without the salt brine. It was decided that Platt would contact the Road Commission foreman for a cost of scraping only the roads that were in the worst shape at this time. Plus an estimate of following up with salt brine on those roads.

Public comment was heard concerning the township land on the east side of the hall. Platt said it had been mowed in the past and suggested planting it to some type of native grasses. A walking trail in the future was also discussed.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Sue Whitehead  
Franklin Township Clerk