

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

September 9, 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, special minutes from 8-20-14 and the Sand Lake weed control hearings minutes (8-20-14) were approved as read. The Treasurer reported income of \$11,592.89 and expenses of \$29,676.17. Kelley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills submitted for payment. VanValkenburg supported and motion carried.

The board suspended the regular order of business in order to hold the Fire Protection Hearing. Sand Lake Fire Chief Mark Wilson presented an overview of the department which included some new rescue equipment that will help stabilize vehicles in an emergency. Wilson stated that the department continues to have a contract with Manchester Twp. This past year the department trained in the event of a grain bin rescue. Presently there are 27 members and the department averages 240 calls per year. 85% of the calls are for medical reasons. Wilson said upcoming improvements for the department will be revamping the jeep used for grass fires, and Wilson hopes to lower the ISO rating which is presently at 9. The annual budget is \$335,000. Whitehead moved to levy 2.5 mils for fire protection for the township for 2014-2015. The board returned to the regular order of business.

OLD BUSINESS

The Tipton apartment building on the corner of M-50 and Tipton Hwy will be up for bid at the County's scavenger sale on October 7th at 10 a.m. at the old courthouse. Depending on the outcome of the sale the board was in agreement for Supervisor Platt to seek additional demolition bids for the building.

Building Official Bruce Nickel updated the board regarding the township website that recently has undergone some changes in the web design. The website has not been available due to a formatting issue. The new improved website should be up and running soon.

Planning Commission Secretary VanValkenburg stated that the winery on U.S. 12 is still in the process of obtaining certain requirements. The Commission is continuing to update the township's zoning map.

Nickel updated the board that the variance request for the Dangerous Building (Preston) property located on Pentecost Hwy was approved August 27th and the deadline for demolition had been set for August 28th. Kelley moved to

extend the demolition deadline to the November board meeting (11-11-14). Whitehead supported and motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Division Applications:

1. Beth Preston and Kathleen Hunter with property at 7623 Pentecost Hwy (FR0-131-1400-00) requested to split one parcel consisting of 5.00 acres from the parent parcel. The Land Division Committee recommended approval of the split. VanValkenburg moved to approve the land division as presented. Whitehead supported and motion carried. Approval of the land division does not mean zoning compliance.

2. Rick and Rita Melchert with property at 5700 Pawson Road, Tipton (FR0-108-3750-00) requested to split three parcels of 32.25 acres, 4.72 acres and 32.25 acres from the parent parcel. The Land Division Committee recommended approval of the splits. Whitehead moved to approve the land division as presented. Moore supported and motion carried. Approval of the land division does not mean zoning compliance.

Angela Stamper and friends presented a pickleball demonstration. Stamper requested that the board convert the old tennis courts behind the prior township hall into pickleball courts. Stamper provided the board with information. Supervisor Platt said the township no longer owns the parking lot next to the courts, however, the board was in favor of the courts being used for an activity such as pickleball that would provide recreation for township residents and the surrounding community. The board would have to work out the logistics of parking and get a cost estimate before any decision could be made.

Resident Howard Kapp voiced concerns regarding the property at the corner of M-50 and M-52 due to noxious weeds and the barn in disrepair. Nickel said it is zoned AG property and he is aware of the issue and will review further.

Attorney Jonathan Poer introduced himself as a candidate running for District Judge in the upcoming November 4th general election.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sue Whitehead
Franklin Township Clerk

