

August 11, 2009

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: Platt, Whitehead, Wibbeler, VanValkenburg and Sherman. Absent: None. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read. The Treasurer reported income of \$48,462.70 and expenses of \$48,585.69. Two additional bills were submitted for approval: Nancy Wibbeler-\$220 (Postage) and Mary Jo Miller-\$14 Hrs. x \$10/Hr.= \$140 (Dep. Treasurer). Sherman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills submitted for payment. VanValkenburg seconded and motion carried. The board agreed to pay the Visa in advance if the due date falls close to a board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Platt gave an update regarding the proposed new township hall. The following bids were submitted for a driveway approach off of M-50:

1. Michigan Paving - \$25,500

2. Slusarski Excavation - \$14,860

VanValkenburg moved to accept the Slusarski Excavation bid for \$14,860 for the driveway approach. Sherman seconded and motion carried.

Cohen Park update. The supervisor contacted Mr. Cohen's attorney and informed him that the township is interested in the donation of both parks.

NEW BUSINESS

Whitehead will forward to the twp. attorney a METRO Act permit renewal request from Verizon Communications for contract review.

Motion by VanValkenburg, supported by Whitehead, to table a proposed outdoor wood-fired furnace ordinance the Planning Commission has been working on. The board will review and bring any questions or comments to the Sept. meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Many Evans Lake residents were in attendance with concerns over the rental of the “yellow house” and advertisements for the property at 18 Evans Trail. Sherry Johanson, owner of Hideaway Cove and Terry Parker, owner of Evans Lake Resort felt that the rental house was being operated as a resort even though it is not commercial property. The commercial business owners stated they are required to pay business taxes and insurance, however, the property in reference is zoned residential and is not being held to the same standards. Zoning Officer Bruce Nickel was present and stated the township has not found a violation within the twp. ordinance. Nickel has made several on-site visits to the property due to complaints. Nickel will contact the Co. Drain Commission concerning sewer issues. Resident Byron Richardson had questions concerning commercial recreational property. Supervisor Platt informed the lake residents that the township is aware of the situation and is reviewing with the township attorney.

Pawson Road resident Howard Kapp commented that if 10 acres is required to have animals, then the requirement of 40 acres (farm) is too high of an acreage requirement in order to be allowed to burn year-round with an outdoor wood-fired furnace.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Sue Whitehead
Franklin Township Clerk