

## September 8, 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 \$101.33 (Int.) and Expenses of \$23,413.34. Additional bills submitted for approval: Co. Treasurer-\$39.70 (Tax Tribunal), Co. Equalization-\$6,241.23 (Annual Contract for Tax Software). Motion by Sherman, supported by VanValkenburg, to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills for payment. Motion carried.

**FIRE PROTECTION HEARING:** Sand Lake Fire Chief Mark Wilson reported that 184 calls had been made so far this year. Two fire trucks have been sold and one new fire truck purchased. A new steel roof has been placed on one of the fire stations. The dept. is still manned weekdays to offer better response time and to issue burn permits. Sand Lake also contracts with Manchester Twp. There is no longer a night siren except for tornados. The dept. also seeks grants and does fundraising to help cover insurance, payroll and other costs. Whitehead moved to levy 2.5 mils for 2009-2010 fire protection. Wibbeler seconded and motion carried.

**Consumers Energy** representatives Barb Mitzel and John Hall were present. Hall is with the Forestry Dept. and gave a presentation on the forestry operations. Hall informed those present that trees in power lines, and the company needing access to equipment are the main reasons for tree or limb removal. The dept. will be doing line trimming in the twp. over the next month.

**Tecumseh District Librarian** Gayle Hazelbaker spoke regarding the library's annual report, the loss of state aid, and informed everyone about a user survey prize drawing that is available at the library and on the library's website. Since the economic decline library use is up 14%.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Proposed new township hall update: A preliminary bid estimate for a new twp. hall from Kriehoff-Lenawee for \$795,000 was discussed along with all of the other options again. To get a true amount of what it would cost to build a new township hall the board felt the project needed to be put out for bid. Wibbeler moved to continue on with the design completion and then bid the project out. Sherman seconded and motion carried.

Whitehead reported that Twp. Attorney Schaedler found all of the paperwork from Verizon Communications to be in order for a renewal of a Metro Act Telecommunications Right-of-Way Permit. Whitehead moved to renew the

permit and Wibbeler seconded. Roll call vote: VanValkenburg-yes, Sherman-yes, Wibbeler-yes, Whitehead-yes, Platt-yes. Motion passed 5-0 unanimously.

Board discussed a proposed Outdoor Wood-Fired Furnace ordinance that was tabled from the previous meeting. Wibbeler questioned how the ordinance could be enforced if the Zoning Officer was not allowed to go on private property? Sherman did not feel the ordinance was enforceable. Whitehead stated that indoor wood burners and fireplaces were not regulated and the proposed ordinance was too controlling. Sherman moved to deny the Outdoor Wood-Fired Furnace ordinance proposal. Wibbeler seconded the motion. On unanimous voice vote motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor Platt updated the board that Cohen Park (2) would be donated to the township free and clear. Some stipulations would be that it would always be maintained as a park and nothing permanent could be built on it.

Building Official Bruce Nickel informed the board that there was not any new information regarding the “big yellow house” on Evans Trail that was discussed at the last meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jenny Stines a resident of E. Whelan Rd. was present with complaints concerning water run-off from a field and the road into her yard and driveway. Stines showed pictures to the board outlining the problem. Supervisor Platt will contact the Co. Road Commission for ditching solutions.

Sherman moved to approve any twp. board members who wish to attend a Zoning Workshop on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Palmyra Twp. VanValkenburg seconded and motion carried.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Sue Whitehead  
Franklin Township Clerk