

October 14, 2008

The regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Supervisor Platt, who then led the flag pledge. Present: Platt, Whitehead, Wibbeler, VanValkenburg and Sherman. Absent: None. The minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer reported income of \$40,077.33 and expenses of \$46,910.76. One additional bill submitted for approval: John Hancock-\$168.12 (3rd Qt. Pension Fees). Motion by Sherman, supported by Whitehead, to approve all bills submitted for payment. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Platt reviewed the proposed Lake District Overlay Zoning Ordinance amendment that the Planning Commission addressed at their last meeting. The amendment addresses certain residential areas around Evans Lake and Sand Lake that were platted years ago for seasonal housing and over time have been converted into year round residences. The township would recognize and preserve the unique characteristics of this new "Lake District Overlay Zone" through special regulations allowing greater flexibility in site standards while protecting public health. The County Planning Commission will now review it.

Supervisor Platt informed the board that the appeal of a circuit court order has been decided by the Michigan Court of Appeals and has ruled in favor of War-Ag Farms. The court felt that once a business has license approval from the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture then no other local approval is required. The township attorney will advise whether to appeal the ruling.

Head Start has informed the township that they are not interested in purchasing Tipton School. There was a discussion regarding locations of a township hall. The board felt since the township already owns 22 acres on M-50 near the post office, it would be an additional expense to purchase additional land for a different location. Sherman moved to concur with the Building Committee's recommendation to move forward with plans for a proposed new township hall. Wibbeler seconded and motion carried.

Bldg. Insp./Zoning Officer Bruce Nickel stated that all of the minutes he has at this time have been posted on the township website. Minutes from previous years will be added eventually.

Nickel has sent letters to three property owners regarding junk cars and dilapidated buildings.

NEW BUSINESS

During public comment internet options available in the township was discussed.

Howard Kapp of Pawson Rd. requested the gravel roads be scraped due to washboards. The supervisor will contact the Co. Road Commission.

The board will hold a special meeting October 15th at 7:30 p.m. to meet with Engineer Todd Dailey to discuss a floor plan for the proposed new township hall.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Sue Whitehead
Franklin Township Clerk