

December 13, 2011

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: Bob Platt, Sue Whitehead, Nancy Wibbeler, Dan VanValkenburg and Doug Sherman. Absent: none. The minutes from the last meeting were changed regarding Ordinance #11-2 to read: R-1/AG Zoning to C-1 (Commercial). The Treasurer reported income of \$293.33 (int.) and expenses of \$19,932.13. The board reviewed a budget summary. Whitehead moved to amend the budget and transfer from the contingency fund to the following accounts: \$2,000-Legal and Audit and \$500-Electrical Inspector. Sherman seconded and motion carried. Sherman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills submitted for payment. VanValkenburg seconded and motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The board decided to continue to use the existing furnace at the old township hall. VanValkenburg moved to survey the old twp. hall without the tennis court area and lower the asking price of the building. Wibbeler seconded and motion carried.

A proposed zoning amendment ordinance (District Regulations) that was tabled from the previous meeting was discussed at length. Zoning Officer Bruce Nickel felt there are laws already in place and any new regulations, such as covering medical marijuana issues, would be unenforceable. Wibbeler felt the proposal was too broad and pointed out that medical marijuana was not mentioned in the wording of the proposal. Whitehead moved to send the proposal back to the Twp. Planning Commission to be more specific in the wording of the proposal in order to address the issues that concern the township. Wibbeler seconded and motion carried. The board appreciated the time and effort that the Planning Commission and Twp. Attorney put forth towards the proposal. The proposal if passed would have prohibited all enterprises and purposes that are contrary to federal, state or local laws or ordinances.

Supervisor Platt stated that 8 miles of the 10 miles that was bid through the Lenawee Co. Road Commission for gravel has been applied. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the shape of the gravel roads. Howard Kapp and Katherine Klumpp were present with complaints regarding the roads. Kapp resides on Pawson Rd. and Klumpp had concerns about the bottom of the hill on Taylor Rd. near the Service Rd. intersection. The board agreed the gravel roads were in rough shape.

Nickel updated the board of the status of a draft for a Dangerous Building Ordinance he is working on that is still in the early stages.

Resident Greg Wise asked about the twp. website. Nickel responded the website is in the process of being changed to a new server that will allow easier updates to the website.

NEW BUSINESS

John Krueger, Owner of Tipton Tree Farm, is donating 12 trees for the grounds of the new township hall. The twp. will cover the expense of moving the trees. Motion by VanValkenburg, for approval of moving the trees at a cost of \$180 per tree. Sherman seconded and motion carried.

Supervisor Platt recommended the following appointments for a new Construction Board of Appeals for Franklin Township: Vern Fry (Mechanical Engineer)-Franklin Twp., Jason Hess (Bldg. Contractor)-Franklin Twp., Todd Dailey (Civil Engineer)-Cambridge Twp., Wade Pelham (Bldg. Contractor)-Rome Twp., Mike VanSickle (Electrical Contractor)-Rome Twp. Wibbeler moved to approve the recommendations. Sherman supported and motion carried. The purpose of the Construction Board of Appeals is to hear appeals resulting from a disagreement with the Building Official or the need for approval to grant permission on a building project for something that does not meet a code. Cambridge Township, Rome Township and the Village of Onsted will also utilize the same board members.

Sherman moved to authorize the Clerk to sign a Consumers Energy Resolution allowing upgrades to the light at M-50 and Tipton Hwy. Wibbeler seconded and motion carried.

The annual Lenawee Co. Road Commission/Franklin Twp. meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012 at 9 a.m.

The board wishes to thank Gordon & Son Well Drilling for the metal pipe that was donated for the drop-box at the township hall.

Whitehead read updates concerning county issues from Co. Commissioner Chris Wittenbach who could not be in attendance.

Public comment was heard and having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Sue Whitehead
Franklin Township Clerk