

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
7:30 P.M. GOLDEN TOWNSHIP HALL

Meeting called to order by Fuehring at 7:30 p.m. Present: Ackley, Cargill, and Wiegand. Don Walsworth absent.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Minutes from the August 12th regular meeting were presented.

Motion by Ackley, support by Cargill to accept the minutes as amended from the August 12th meeting. All yes, motion carried.

Kathy Forbes made a presentation, she is running for the Oceana County Road Commission seat.

No correspondence was presented.

The Treasurer's report was given with the balances as follows: \$104,604.50 in General Fund and \$13,095.76 in Road Fund.

Motion was made by Ackley, support by Wiegand to accept the Treasurer's report. All yes, motion carried.

Bills were presented for approval:

Motion by Ackley, support by Cargill to approve check numbers 12803 through 12847 totaling, \$24,365.31. Roll call vote Ackley, Cargill, Fuehring and Wiegand all yes. Walsworth absent. Motion carried.

Zoning report was given by Jake Whelpley.

- This summer there was a youth group that came into the county and did some work for low income families. They built decks, put on doors, etc. They did three projects in Golden Township for decks. They requested the \$25.00 fee per permit be waived. No other townships charged them for permits. Request the fees be waived for these permits.

Motion by Cargill, support by Ackley to waive the \$25.00 fees for decks built by out of state church group for low income families. All yes, motion carried.

- Planning Commission took advisement to review the section on definition of primary use. They created some new language and will be put on the next round of Zoning Ordinance amendments.
- Zoning Board of Appeals met August 19th on two items. One was a fence issue that has been going on for about a year or so. The owner asked for a variance on the fence height. The ZBA denied the variance. Notification of the decision was sent to owner. He has 30 days to appeal the decision in Circuit Court. If he chooses not to appeal he must bring the fence into compliance. The second item was for an addition to a dwelling in Silver Lake that is 5 feet from property line instead of six. The ZBA approved this variance as it was a continuation of an existing setback line.
- Jake had a call from Sheriff this morning about a liquor license application he had received. The Pit Stop Gas Station has requested to sell take out liquor. Does the township have any problems with them getting that license? The township hasn't had any problems and per discussion from previous board meeting doesn't have an issue with this license.
- The Rec Plan continues to progress. Jake contacted West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission about doing some maps to assist with Rec. Plan. He sent them blue line maps with Golden township properties and also the properties under consideration out in Silver Lake. The maps will cost \$115.00. They will come on a disk so they are printable as needed. West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission will keep these on their computer in case there are changes needed. The maps are important to the Rec Plan as the DNR requires maps to enhance your case.

Motion by Wiegand, support by Cargill to purchase maps from for \$115.00 to help support the Recreation Plan. Roll call vote: Wiegand, Cargill, Ackley, Fuehring all yes. Walsworth absent. Motion carried.

- The contract from Fleece and VanderBrink was received. The Administrative person was changed from the Township Supervisor to the Township Board. The contract was signed and returned to Fleece and VanderBrink.
- Murray land division presented.

Motion by Cargill, support by Ackley to approve the Murray land division. All yes, motion carried.

Old Business:

The trees are cut and half of the parking lot is done at Golden Park. Asphalt repair still needs to be done. Connie spoke with John Foss and he stated that the County may be able to put in asphalt in return for stump grinding that the township paid for. Connie had a call from Tammy Carey about grants from the Community Foundation. Tammy says there is about \$5000.00 per year to be spent in Golden Township from the Community Foundation Fund. Tina will contact Tammy regarding the grant funds available and what needs to be done for this.

Tina found a map that had all the Mears lights listed from Consumers Power. All the Consumers lights are located in Mears. Don will continue to do research regarding street lights at Upper Silver Lake Association.

New Business:

The new Planning Commission Act took effect on the 1st of September. Under the new Planning Commission Act the Planning Commission must be reauthorized. At that time the Board has to designate how many people are going to be on the Planning Commission and how many meetings a year they will hold. Jake received a copy of the sample ordinance for this. He will research this and get a working copy to the Board as soon as possible. Under the new act, planning commissioners remain in their jobs until they are replaced. The members that are currently on the planning commission will remain until the ordinance is passed. The board will put this on hold until the ordinance is up to date. The board has until 2011 to get this must be completed, but the process will be initiated in 2009.

Jake had a call from a resident out by lighthouse complaining that dogs were on the beach. She was wondering if the board could put up signs "saying no pets on beach". The board had a sign put up about a year ago saying "Pick up after your pets" and it didn't work. No one is present to represent this issue.

A bid of \$1300.00 was received from Northtown Line Painting for painting bike path on 56th Ave. to replace the poles that were put in when work was done. The bid is for new lay-out to new asphalt; measure, mark out, chalk, and stripe 1500 feet length pedestrian/ bike path as specified. Paint new diagonal parking spaces in front of corner buildings as specified. Two coats application of traffic paint to new asphalt. It was questioned if the road commission would pay for part of the painting of the lines since the posts were put in unauthorized by Township. John Foss authorized installation of posts to delineate the bike path. Connie will talk to the Road Commission about paying for part of the additional striping which should have been done when work was finished.

Motion by Cargill, support by Ackley to approve the bid of \$1300.00 from Northtown Line Painting for new lay-out to new asphalt; measure, mark out, chalk, and stripe 1500 feet length pedestrian/ bike path as specified. Paint new diagonal parking spaces in front of corner buildings as specified. Two coats application of traffic paint to new asphalt. Roll call vote: Fuehring, Cargill, Ackley, and Wiegand all yes. Walsworth absent. Motion carried.

Planning Commission held a public hearing on the rezoning of Hart Public Schools parcel #64-006-028-100-01 and parcel #64-006-029-200-04 from resort residential to resort commercial. They have recommended that the Board approve the rezoning of both parcels. There was only one person who spoke against this rezoning.

Motion by Cargill, support by Ackley to approve rezoning of Parcel #64-006-028-100-01 and parcel #64-006-029-200-04 from resort residential to resort commercial. All yes, motion carried.

The Carpenter's Daughters would like to use the gym on November 8, 2008 for a craft bazaar. They have asked if we would have tables by then. Connie spoke to the place where we purchased the file cabinets for the vault and told them to let us know if they got any tables in. She will call them again and see if they have any used tables available. Look into pricing for purchasing straight tables for use by people who rent the hall.

Anne Newman has approached the township about using the hall monthly for exercise classes and other ongoing events. Should there be a set fee for a monthly or weekly activity such as exercise class? The township will research this further.

Mary Dawson from the Community Center group made a presentation. This group has been holding meetings to discuss possible uses for township building. They feel that the children in this area would benefit from an after school program, possibly two days a week. This would include probably 1st through 8th grade and they would like to use one room for a computer room. Another use would be as a meeting place for organizations such as Big Brothers/ Big Sisters or Girl or Boy Scouts. The group would also like to host a once a month meal for parents to help them learn to

provide healthy meals, etc. They would like to know what the township's plans are for this building in the near future. Per Carl, this building will eventually be a community center. Right now the board is trying to find a way to keep the building open all winter. The board has received some estimates on changing the way the building is heated. Right now the plan is to close the far end of the building to conserve heat and lower the costs. The board will not know what is needed until further study is done. After Don Walsworth is back the board will try to conduct a work session to address these issues. Until then no ideas for building use can be decided on. Once all these issues have been resolved the board will let everyone know what has been decided.

A group of business owners in Silver Lake presented a petition regarding the amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section 4.33. The group is asking that the amendment for section 4.33 paragraph 3 be returned to the Planning Commission to be readdressed. The current ordinance doesn't give much in the way of enforcement and it doesn't address anything about tents. Pictures were presented of Labor Day and some of the issues they are concerned about. Dan Kolosci questions "No other town or city around here allows this all the way up to Traverse City. Why do we?" Jake explained that in the definition of RV in our zoning ordinance an RV is described as a portable dwelling unit. A tent would fall into that category. Tina questions if there are six tents on a lot, is that enforceable right now even if there is a house on the property? Yes, they should have a campground permit from the health department. But the health department will not enforce that if it is a family or friends situation. With this ordinance amendment, there are more points to enforce. Ted Ferwerda points out the board is allowing this on the lake. Where does the septic go for these situations? Ted Beattie feels that we should work on enforcing rules already in place instead of creating more rules to take away our rights. Jean Henk says there should be a way to set up reasonable criteria for this issue. Mike Henderson pointed out that these pictures are from Labor Day weekend. You don't see this every weekend only on the big weekends like Labor Day and 4th of July. Helen Lefler states that the Planning Commission has been approached about this a lot. The Planning Commission tried to address this issue in two ways. First by limiting the number of RVs allowed and second by addressing the lengths of time RVs are allowed. The Planning Commission has spent many months on this issue. There is a certain time frame for repealing an amendment to the zoning ordinance and that time has elapsed. The Township Board can ask the Planning Commission to review this section 4.33 of the zoning ordinance. Enforcement is a big issue with this request. Golden Township has one staff member in the zoning department. Jake reports that historically the Zoning Administrator job has been a part time job. It is still a part time job, but the parts are getting bigger. Enforcement has not been done as well as it should. If he gets a complaint, he goes out and checks it out and then follows up on it. Typically there is not much success with getting enforcement through the court systems. Golden Township has gotten to a point that it needs more than part time work for this. Jake doesn't want a full time job. Grant Township has always had an enforcement officer. This person does all the enforcement and investigation to any complaints received by the zoning administrator. Jake feels that Golden Township needs an enforcement officer. There are many people in the area who are qualified to do this job and it is time for this to be implemented.

BS & A Software has a cemetery program. Since Golden uses BS & A for payroll and other programs for the Township, we are considering using BS & A software for the cemetery. The program currently used is difficult to use at times.

Motion by Cargill, support by Ackley to allow Tina to order BS & A Cemetery software after more investigation. Roll call vote: Cargill, Ackley, Fuehring, and Wiegand all yes. Walsworth absent. Motion carried

Public input:

Brian Klepper asked about noise ordinance. As he understands it, the noise ordinance is based on decibel level. This makes it difficult to enforce. The sheriff's office enforces this for the township. Brian requested changing it to a general noise level, without having to test decibel level? The current ordinance says that if you are emitting noise that is disturbing to the neighbors, then it is a violation. Again there is a question of enforcement. Jake has asked Ed McNeely about adjusting the noise ordinance.

Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina Wiegand
Golden Township Clerk