

/

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 11, 2009
7:30 pm Golden Township Hall

Meeting Called to order by Supervisor Walsworth at 7:35 pm. Present: Fuehring, Cargill, Ackley, Wiegand, Walsworth.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

MINUTES from the July 14th meeting were presented.

Motion by Fuehring, support by Cargill to accept the minutes from the July 14th meeting. All yes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter received from Marcia Thathcher, of the Silver Village Association regarding parking problems in their association. Keith Adams explained that trailers have been parking on a horseshoe area of their road and there are also people sleeping in the trailers. These trailers are blocking the view of residents in the area. The Zoning Administrator has posted violation signs on the trailers and they continue to park there and sleep there. They are requesting "No Parking" signs be posted so the Sheriff Department can request the trailers to move.
-Supervisor Walsworth stated the Township would order the signs from the Road Commission.

Letter received from Gary T. Bell, resident of 493 Lighthouse Drive regarding drainage/parking issues at Golden Township Park Beach.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cargill reported the balances as follows: General Fund beginning balance of \$160,245.88 on July 1, 2009 and ending balance of \$98,553.40 on July 31, 2009. Ending balance on August 11, 2009 of \$80,969.36. The Road Fund beginning balance of \$215,665.56 on July 1, 2009 and ending balance of \$215,802.87 on July 31, 2009. Ending balance of \$186,643.60 on August 11, 2009. Cargill noted that she has never seen the General Fund balance this low. Motion was made by Ackley, support by Fuehring to accept the Treasurer's report. All yes, motion carried.

Treasurer also presented a year to date budget report and recommended the Board review this over the next month.

BILLS were presented for approval:

Motion by Ackley, support by Fuehring to approve check numbers 13263 through 13296 totaling \$22,699.80. Roll call vote Ackley-yes, Walsworth-yes, Cargill-yes, Fuehring-yes, Wiegand-yes, Motion carried.

Cargill recommended approval for the revised work order from the Road Commission. Supervisor Walsworth requested a motion to approve the revised work order from the Road Commission which reflects Golden Township's match as: \$211,952.40. Motion by Fuehring,

support by Ackley to approve the revised work order from the Road Commission totaling \$211,952.40. Roll Call vote: Fuehring-yes, Cargill-yes, Walsworth-yes, Ackley-yes, Wiegand-yes. Motion Carried.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

As submitted

ZONING REPORT presented by Jake Whelpley.

1. Dickman Land Split
Jake explained the split is to allow the owner to separate the home from forestry land for tax reasons. Jake stated it meets the minimum lot requirement and it is zoned ag-residential and recommended approval.
Supervisor Walsworth requested approving the Dickman Land Split as presented. Motion by Fuehring, support by Ackley to approve the Dickman Land Split, all yes, motion carried.
2. Recommended additional Zoning Enforcement. Jake has been receiving a lot of complaints and feels the Township could do a better job of checking on Zoning violations if there was another person available to help him.
3. Spent time this month dealing with noise ordinance issues that he will discuss later in the agenda.
4. Jake stated Planning Commission will meet this month and ZBA may be meeting in September to address a variance request.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Township Park-Silver Lake Channel-letter received
 - Addressed earlier in the agenda
 - Mr. Bell also questioned Jake why sand was removed from the channel last year and hauled away and not put back on the beach. Cargill stated the Drain office is not allowed to place sand that is hauled out of the channel on to the beach as it may be contaminated. They are required to haul it away.
 - Don and Carl visited the park to get some ideas on how to alleviate the situation.
 - After discussion, Board decided to put up a sign to alert visitors of additional parking at the Lighthouse parking lot. Also have parking hours established from 10:00pm until 6:00am. Cargill stated the Drain Office will apply for the permit to dredge the channel as soon as someone steps up who is willing to pay for it.
2. Harrison Road agreement – parking ordinance
 - Discussion regarding Township Board Expectations following the Harrison Road Settlement.
 - Supervisor Walsworth requested motion to establish a Resolution prohibiting parking on Harrison Road within ¼ of a mile east of the Western terminus of the improved portion of Harrison Road from 10pm to 6am and to establish signage reflecting this.
 - Motion by Fuehring, support by Cargill to create this Resolution establishing this “No Parking Zone” as described in the Settlement Agreement. All yes, motion carried.
 - Cargill stated she spoke with the Road Commission regarding the additional requirements the Settlement required. Lance from the Road Commission stated his crews could do the labor for the projects in the Spring of 2010.

3. Reynolds Road abandonment request

- David Byrne requested an update on his request for abandonment.
- Board is waiting for written recommendations from Ed McNeely. Board will contact Mr. Byrne as soon as they have more information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Park-Silver Lake Channel: sign "State Park around Corner..."
 - As presented above.
 - Don sent letter to Sheriff last week to request additional enforcement for parking problems.
2. 4H Building use discussion
 - Presentation by Mary Dawson regarding 4H activities. They have worked with school age kids with an after school program and summer activities. They have also done community dinners.
 - 4H group has had computers donated and requested an additional classroom for the computers and for activities for the older children and adults.
 - Request is for 2 classrooms, 8 outlets, 50 degrees throughout the winter, high speed internet.
 - Plan to begin after school program September 15, 2009.
 - Board discussed moving all Township activities toward west end of the building and community activities toward the east end of the building. Also keeping separate groups in classrooms that are next to each other.
 - Tentative plan to put 4H group in their present classroom and the one immediately next to them for this winter. Temporary heating options were discussed for this year. Board will discuss more in depth a long term heating solution for the building.
 - Tentative plan to put Assessor in first classroom and move the Board Room to the West end of the building.
3. K. Walsworth retirement letter read, in recognition of his recent retirement and many years of service to the Oceana County Road Commission.
4. Noise ordinance change-agriculture
 - Complaint filed against Riley Orchards, by their neighbor, for excessive noise from their farm equipment early in the morning.
 - Jake stated all agricultural activities are exempt from the Golden Township Noise Ordinance because The Michigan Right to Farm Act supersedes all local ordinances.
 - Jake recommended an amendment to the Golden Township Ordinance stating an exception to the Noise Ordinance is the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

-Motion by Ackley, support by Cargill to amend Golden Township Ordinance #6 to state that an exception to the Ordinance is anything included in the Michigan Right to Farm Act. All yes, Motion carried.

-Mr. Riley added that they intentionally try to spray when residents are not driving around and when the wind is not blowing the spray toward houses. They go out of their way to be considerate to their neighbors. They also tried to discuss this issue with the complainant and had no luck.

5. Brining requested from N. Shore Drive to the Wave Club in anticipation of more traffic there during the Apple Festival. Wiegand to phone Lance at the Road Commission to request this brining sometime before the Apple Festival the weekend of Sept. 12th, 2009.

6. Request for \$300 to network Treasurer's two computers, to enable Deputy Treasurer access to all programs on the Treasurer's computer, not just the Tax program.

-Motion by Ackley support by Fuehring to approve up to \$300 to network the Treasurer's computers. Roll Call vote: Walsworth-yes, Cargill-yes, Fuehring-yes, Ackley-yes, Wiegand-yes. Motion Carried.

7. School Property

-Walsworth reported Golden Township was the sole bidder for the property that was for sale near Silver Lake. Golden Township's offer of \$125,000 was accepted. Dale Lathers graciously offered to pay the first \$100,000 from the Bill Lathers fund and the Township will be paying the remaining portion.

8. Silver Lake Park Property DEQ Grant Request update

-Jake reported Golden Township is one of the finalists for the grant. Jake met with a DEQ representative, who happened to be from Pentwater, and his conversation with her was very encouraging. Jake, the Silver Lake Chamber and several business owners sent in letters of support. Fleece and Vanderbrink also sent local articles and pictures of the park, and the area, to the DNR to let them know how this park would enhance our area. All the information will be presented at the DNR meeting in November to determine who will be receiving the grant money. The grant covers a significant portion of the cost of the property. Business owners at Silver Lake have committed to funding the remaining portion of the cost of the property. The Township will be the owner of the property, but will not be directly paying for the property.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Resident Dr. Roseman discussed the possibility of a millage for Law Enforcement in coordination with the Fire Millage.
 - Discussion regarding the high cost of fire protection and the fact that it uses up a significant portion of the General Fund.
 - Discussion regarding the fact that additional law enforcement could help with fireworks enforcement, parking violations, zoning violations, etc.
 - Discussion regarding the possibility of putting a millage request on the ballot for Fire protection and Law Enforcement.
 - Discussed the fact that the Board would like input from the public.
 - Plan to schedule a Public Hearing (Possibly November) to discuss Fire Protection and Law Enforcement with residents and get their opinion about whether a millage is something they would support.

Meeting adjourned 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina Wiegand
Golden Township Clerk

