

Allegan Township Board Meeting
April 2, 2007
7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Pledge and Invocation

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Supervisor Schulz, Clerk Hough, and Trustee Smith were present.
 - B. Trustee Rutgers and Treasurer Waanders were absent.

- III. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - A. Smith/Hough made motion to approve minutes as read, passing with aye vote.

- IV. Reports
 - A. Becky Rininger, Drain Commissioner
 - 1. Allegan County is working on Bear Swamp Drain and Rabbit River Extension with four components:
 - a. Rabbit River - removing obstructions over 2.5 mile between 130th and 135th Avenue;
 - b. Flood Hazard Mitigation - demolition and removal of flood prone buildings;
 - c. Bear Swamp Drain - remove accumulated sediment and install side inlets on three miles;
 - d. Regional Storm Water Detention - construct a 170-acre regional detention area.
 - 2. She then went over how project will be financed through a FEMA grant, a 319 and special assessment which includes township portion of \$6,300.00.
 - a. Special assessment will be carried out over a number of years.
 - 3. Next will be a public hearing, followed by bid letting and then day of review.
 - 4. Schulz asked about bidding and learned there will be three different contracts.
 - 5. Currently MDEQ is looking over project.
 - B. Frank Tooker, Building Inspector
 - 1. Recording Secretary Evans reported there was one building permit for one home with \$436.00 in fees.
 - a. She noted this is lowest number in 11 years of keeping records.
 - C. Ted Heckman, Planning and Board of Appeals Chair
 - 1. Things have also been slack for boards with no business planned for Board of Appeals meeting next Monday.
 - a. There will be a special meeting for a variance on March 23.
 - D. Max Thiele, County Commissioner - 6th District
 - 1. Was not present.
 - E. Fritz Spreitzer, County Commissioner - 9th District

1. Commissioners have outlined top three important priorities:
 - a. Straigten out issue regarding jail and Sheriff's Department;
 - b. Farmland/greens space preservation...urban growth boundaries, funding farmland preservation, community agreement to preservation; and
 - c. Each governmental unit to decide what level of protection from Sheriff's Department.
 2. Spreitzer thinks there is need to reestablish priorities.
 3. He feels parks would be revenue enhancer.
 4. This Thursday Commissioners will meet to make determination of what meetings can be held at County buildings as well as vote to have new jail in City or on County property.
- F. Bob Kaarlie, Allegan County Road Commissioner
1. Gave out handout regarding breakdown of .19¢ gas tax, noting only .06¢ comes back to County.
 2. Allegan County has third most miles in State; prices have gone up 30% and salt has gone up 24%; Michigan has lowest gas tax with exception of Indiana at .18¢ but Indiana has toll road; and Road Commission is down six people and can't afford to hire replacements.
- G. Other Reports
1. *Fire District* - meeting will be this Thursday at 7:00 PM at Fire Station downtown.

V. Open to the Audience

- A. Karl and Connie Spreitzer
1. Have 20 acre farm and house on 34th Street and had received reclassification on property from AG to R2 and came to Board of Review.
 - a. Each Board of Review member agreed it was incorrect, as Spreitzers do farm land, but just got decision in mail and said their request was denied and he feels they are most likely telling him what he can do with his property.
 2. Schulz explained zoning overpowers classification and Board of Review has to answer to State Tax Commission.
 3. Spreitzer feels Board of Review isn't representing him and maybe we should consider how we choose Board of Review members.
 4. Mrs. Spreitzer asked if every person with 20 acres was reclassified.
 5. Schulz feels they have a point but State has their thumb on us.
 6. Trustee Smith asked if there is much difference in taxes between AG and R2 with Schulz responding "a little."

VI. Old Business

- A. Approve Budget
1. Smith/Hough made motion to approve 2007-2008 budget which passed following roll call.
- B. Update on 34th Street

1. There are some issues and has been talking with Bill Nelson, Director of Allegan County Road Commission, as to what they are going to do and that it wasn't built according to standards.
 2. There was to be six inches of compacted gravel and appears there was only two.
 3. Smith asked where are our engineers were when it was being built?
 4. Schulz noted road has been falling apart ever since it was built.
- C. Update SRF Plans for Miner Lake
1. Requested by DEQ, a meeting was held last Friday with DEQ, Fleis & VandenBrink, and representatives from Allegan County, Allegan Township Board, City and Miner Lake Board also present with Schulz feeling optimistic about it.

VII. New Business

- A. Accept Post Marks for Tax Bills
1. Schulz feels there isn't any reason we couldn't accept post marks and give tax payers benefit of doubt.
- B. Accept Credit Card Payments
1. Schulz has people asking about paying taxes with credit card so they can get extra points with Smith asking how much extra work that would be with Schulz acknowledging we would have to delve into it more.
 2. Evans noted there will be a combined meeting of both Allegan County Clerks' and Allegan County Treasurers' Associations regarding on-line banking and perhaps this topic will come up.

VIII. Pay Bills

- A. General Fund
1. \$10,773.06 was presented for payment which passed following roll call on motion by Hough/Smith.
- B. Public Safety Fund
1. \$30,971.75 was presented for payment which passed following roll call on motion by Hough/Smith.
 1. Evans noted it was for the quarterly payment to the Fire District.

IX. Correspondence

- A. There was none.

X. Other Items of Concern

- A. Audience member Jim Billman noted mercury light located at 118th and Dumont Road goes on and off.
- B. Student asked difference between AG and R2 and learned there aren't too many small farms anymore and classification is being changed to R2 but is still zoned AG as smaller acreage goes for more money per acre with assessors not liking to mix land values.

XI. Adjourn

A. Hough/Smith made motion to adjourn with meeting closing at 8:40 PM.