

**Allegan Township Board Meeting
September 6, 2011
7:30 PM**

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

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Present were Clerk Linda Evans, Supervisor Steve Schulz, Trustee Holly Hough, Treasurer Jane Waanders and Trustee Karl Spreitzer.

- III. Approve Minutes of August 1, 2011 Meeting and August 4, 2011 Special Meeting
 - A. Waanders/Hough made motion to approve which passed following aye vote.

- IV. Reports
 - A. Frank Tooker, Building Inspector
 - 1. He reported eight permits were issued in August with one new home.
 - 2. Total fees were \$1,696.00.
 - 3. Through August, 37 building permits have been issued with five for new homes; 2010 had 32 permits at this time with seven new homes.
 - a. Things are looking better than they have and he is getting more phone calls.
 - B. Ted Heckman, Board of Appeals Chair
 - 1. There was no regular business for July's meeting but will have a special meeting Monday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. for a variance in set-back.
 - C. Terry Skoglund, Planning Commission Chair
 - 1. Next Monday, at 7:30 p.m., they will look at a rezoning request as well as a site plan review for a major expansion for Grand Chevrolet.
 - a. Schulz noted it will cost about \$800,000 and will wait until spring.
 - 2. Will also look at sample ordinances for rental units/homes.
 - 3. LIAA met with City and Township Planning Commissions and are considering new development space for walking trails.
 - D. Max Thiele, County Commissioner - 6th District
 - 1. Was not present.

- E. Bill Sage, County Commissioner - 9th District
 - 1. Bill Hekker, Allegan County Medical Care Community Director, reported the facility had received a 5-star rating in the nation.
 - 2. Jail cost is now set at \$17,699,000 as new roofs are needed.
 - a. Work will start in November and he voted in favor of the cost.
 - 3. Right to Work was discussed for the County.
 - 4. 2012 budget has passed with him voting no.
 - 5. The new pay gate at the Gun Lake public access is taking in enough to pay for itself.
 - 6. Eight to ten inch sturgeon will be released in Kalamazoo River at the New Richmond Bridge on September 24th.

- F. Other Reports
 - 1. Township Recycling Coordinator Karl Spreitzer commented about being on the job a little over three weeks and noted:
 - (1) Some recyclers come from the City;
 - (2) Some still need coaching on what can and cannot be recycled;
 - (3) A few sneak in during the night and dump their garbage;
 - (4) The volume of recycling is going down as people are educated; and
 - (5) When asked what would make it better, the reply is “just keep it going and keep it clean.”
 - (6) Perhaps need signage of what can’t be placed in dumpsters.
 - (7) Schulz noted now we have room left over now when containers are changed out.

V. Open to the Audience

- A. Jim Billman noted on Tuesdays the garbage truck is having some items fly out as it takes off as top isn’t being secured.
 - 1. Schulz will call Allied and report concern.

VI. Old Business

- A. September 29, 2011 Meeting (Law Enforcement Services)
 - 1. Schulz noted it will be held at the Silo and is put together by the County and the Township.
 - 2. The issue is to pay for road patrol which costs \$90,000 for each officer and car as Lee Township pays for two such vehicles.

3. If a domestic dispute arises, it is necessary for the officer to wait for another one to become available.
4. Sheriff's Department is hoping townships will kick in some money but it all depends on what people want.
5. Skoglund asked about response time and learned it has increased because of fewer deputies on the road.

B. MTA

1. Schulz reported it was a very interesting meeting on August 18th and although it was not an eyeopener for him it was for others who attended.
2. County Chapter was insulted by both the President and the District Representative of MTA as well as by the Executive Director.
3. We have received a third notice to pay dues.
4. Heckman asked what we receive for our dues and learned not as much as what the dues cost and we are able to take the classes but pay a little more.
5. Trustee Hough commented we aren't going to change them.
6. Schulz feels MTA hasn't been transparent with Clerk Evans noting they came across defensive at the very beginning and took control and it seemed as though if we paid the dues, the concerns we have would not have mattered.
7. A motion was made by Spreitzer/Evans to drop out of MTA with the motion passing on a roll call vote of 3 to 2 with Hough and Waanders voting no.
 - a. A letter will be sent to them to inform them of such.
8. It was also noted Allegan Township would be done with the Allegan County MTA Chapter of which Schulz is currently the Chairman and Evans is the Secretary.
9. Schulz noted he is not opposed to someone getting paid well (referring to the eleven members of the MTA office) however they are paid quite a lot and have received raises every year, even in this terrible economy.
 - a. The Township Board has not taken a raise in three years.
 - b. Maybe MTA needs to take heed of our playbook and come back down to earth to reflect the attitudes of our taxpayers since they do get payed from tax monies.
10. The total worth of MTA is approx. \$6 million.

C. Review Sewer Agreement with City

1. City wanted to know how much Township's General Fund is owed by the Sewer Fund with Schulz deferring to Evans.

2. She explained a final payment was made in 2010-2011 year of \$129,387.50 to save on interest payments through the next four years.
3. \$490,745.50 is due back to General Fund and will be paid back by about \$12,000-\$15,000 a year.
4. Schulz noted it would be several decades before it is all paid back.
5. Skoglund questioned if Miner Lake had hooked up would it be paid off sooner with the response that since hook-up would have been mandatory, the cash flow would have been there and would have helped to pay it back.

VII. New Business

A. Truth in Taxation

1. This year, per the advertisement, there is a 0% increase with the question as to why we even have to do it with Treasurer Waanders replying if we don't act on it, millages would be rolled back.
2. Waanders/Spreitzer made motion to approve with measuring passing following an aye vote.

B. Farmland and Open Space Preservation Application

1. Earl Collier has made application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation which is commonly known as PA 116 as he has 80 acres in the northwest portion of the Township.
2. Schulz read a portion of the brochure that would ensure the land remains in agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years and is not developed for non-agricultural use.
3. It is to be noted a home can be built on it.
4. State needs approval by the local jurisdiction.
5. Hough/Spreitzer made motion to approve which passed following roll call.

C. Resolution for First Baptist Church

1. Evans read the resolution which is recognizing and honoring First Baptist Church for its 170 years in existence.
2. Schulz/Spreitzer made motion to approve which passed with an aye vote.

VIII. Pay Bills

A. General Fund

1. Bills in amount of \$32,508.65 were presented with Waanders/Spreitzer making motion to pay which passed following roll call.

IX. Correspondence

- A. Evans commented a committee on the State level is being put together to make a decision as to when the Presidential Primary will be held in Michigan with the parameters that it is no earlier than February 28th and no later than March 6th.

X. Other Items of Concern

- A. Schulz noted metal recycling can be taken to the former J&J Fabrications building on M-89/Lincoln Road.

XI. Adjourn

- A. Waanders/Hough made motion to adjourn with meeting closing at 8:42 PM.