

Allegan Township Board Meeting
March 2, 2009
7:30 PM

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

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Clerk Linda Evans, Treasurer Jane Waanders, Supervisor Steve Schulz, Trustees Karl Spreitzer and Hollis Hough were present.

- III. Approve Minutes of February 2, 2009 Meeting and Special Meetings February 11, 2009 and February 25, 2009
 - A. Waanders/Hough made motion to approve which passed following aye vote.

- IV. Reports
 - A. Frank Tooker, Building Inspector
 - 1. Clerk Evans noted in 13 years of keeping records, this was first February with no permits.
 - B. Ted Heckman, Planning and Board of Appeals Chair
 - 1. Heckman noted it hasn't been busy for either board also.
 - 2. Planning Commission next Monday evening will hold a public hearing for the Recreation Plan and look at Planning Commission by-laws.
 - C. Max Thiele, County Commissioner - 6th District
 - 1. Board of Commissioners are asking all constituents to fill out a copy of Allegan County Transportation survey to discern if with higher gas prices and if a millage passed to expand services would people use service.
 - 2. Audience member Roger Carns commented to Thiele the idea of a regional jail was stupid with Thiele responding "no argument with him."
 - (1) Kent, Kalamazoo and Allegan Counties split cost of \$33,000 each for first study done in nation regarding a regional jail with both Kent and Kalamazoo turning down the idea of such a jail after the study.
 - (2) Thiele noted County has spent about \$200,000 in studies on jails..
 - D. Fritz Spreitzer, County Commissioner - 9th District
 - 1. Handed out Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention brochure, a pamphlet entitled "Understanding Proposal A in a Declining Market" and a Senior Service Directory.

2. He noted Department of Natural Resources has plans for state forest which includes removing 80% of old timber growth with exception of white pine.
 - a. Meeting to be held March 23 at 6:30 PM at Comfort Inn in Plainwell.

E. Other Reports

1. There were none.

V. Open to the Audience

VI. Old Business

- A. County Aerial Imagery (\$1,905.00)
 1. Every five years County has aerial imagery done.
 2. Supervisor Schulz questioned if it were necessary since you can get livemaps.com on computer and learned from Treasurer Waanders you don't get the County overlay on that web site.
 3. Waanders/Hough made motion to approve which passed with aye vote.
- B. Public Hearing for Recreation Plan - March 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM
 1. Copies of the plan are available here at the office.
 2. Schulz felt we would be probably be moving forward to approve it.

VII. New Business

- A. Consumers Energy (Appealing Rates) (Contribution?)
 1. MTA (Michigan Townships Association) is asking for some financial support to appeal a request at a cost of \$100,000 as Consumers Energy is trying to request an increase of cost for governmental municipalities.
 2. MTA is asking for a portion or contribution with Schulz reading the letter.
 3. Hough/Spreitzer made motion to donate \$50.00 to appeal rates which passed with an aye vote.
- B. Public Hearing for Budget and Salary Resolution
 1. Schulz closed regular meeting and opened up public hearing at 7:52 PM.
 2. Waanders talked about not increasing salary because of economic times with remainder of board in agreement with audience member Terry Skoglund saying that Board is taking right step and sends a good message.
 3. A resolution to establish township officer's salary was presented for each of the offices:
 - a. The Supervisor to remain at \$38,956.00 on a motion by Evans/Hough which passed following roll call.

- b. The Clerk to remain at \$24,032 on a motion by Schulz/Waanders which passed following roll call.
 - c. The Treasurer to remain at \$25,232.00 on a motion by Spreitzer/Schulz which passed following roll call.
 - d. The Trustees to remain at \$5,218 each on a motion by Evans/Waanders which passed following roll call.
 - 4. Schulz closed public hearing at 8:00 PM and re-opened regular meeting.
 - C. Capital Improvement Fund and Parks Fund
 - 1. Schulz commented about putting on two new accounts for Capital Improvement and Parks.
 - 2. Capital Improvement would be toward sewer and water project and would stay in that account, adding money to it each year, perhaps a percentage as well for Recreation Fund as long as we now have a Recreation Plan with Waanders suggesting establishing the account the first year.
 - 3. Waanders/Hough made motion to establish two new accounts and measured passed with an aye vote.
 - D. Approve Planning Commission Ordinance
 - 1. Schulz noted we had not had an ordinance before with Commissioner Thiele noting township board has two responsibilities which are to hire and remove the Planning Commission members.
 - 2. Waanders/Evans made motion to approve which passed following roll call.

VIII. Pay Bills

- A. General Fund
 - 1. \$5,809.01 was presented for payment with motion by Waanders/Spreitzer to pay which passed following roll call.

IX. Other Items of Concern

- A. Board of Review
 - 1. Hough commented there are quite a number of people who got a big jump in their SEV (State Equalized Value) on their tax assessment notice (25-26% increase) and he therefore feels our Assessor should be at Board of Review appointments if she could work it in.
 - a. The feeling out there is since Board of Review members didn't do assessing she should be there to explain.
 - 2. Schulz noted appointments are only to just take information.
 - 3. Carns supported what Hough said thinking it should be mandatory for Assessor to be at all Board of Review meetings as she can explain it better.

- a. Again, Schulz said it is an information taking session but we can ask her.
- 4. It will be a busy Board of Review this year and Schulz hopes people do come in and tell Board about taxes going up and values going down.
- 5. It was noted Board of Review member Ken Heckman had gone to County Equalization Director Blaine McLeod asking to see sales studies and was told his department is exempt from the public, not having to give information out, and to get it from the local municipality.

X. Adjourn

- A. Waanders/Hough made motion to adjourn with meeting closing at 8:32 PM.