

APRIL 2005

The regular meeting of the Heath Township Board was held on April 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath Township Hall.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order and Schipper opened with prayer. The previous months minutes were approved as read.

Don Wickstra was present with questions on zoning. He questioned why there was no set fee for site plan review. He also stated that at the last planning commission meeting their board voted not to change the ordinance on home businesses. They would prefer to see home businesses apply for special use permits and for the township to deal with this matter. He questioned if the township board is going to keep this rate at \$400 and how are they going to handle this procedure? His next question was how often the planning commission should meet when meetings are requested. They are required to meet four times a year and it is up to him as chairperson to decide when it works for the rest of the planning commission board to meet. Their next meeting will be a Thursday in May. Their board has looked at a garage sale ordinance that our lawyer has drafted and their committee voted not to deal with this ordinance and feels it is something the township board should deal with. Don also stated that he and the planning commission felt bad when the board had overruled a decision on zoning that their board had devoted three meetings to. The township board informed him that we believed we over-ruled them only on one item of zoning with the Hamilton Farm Bureau and will check into the minutes of this and get back to him. It is the township boards' right to make final decisions on zoning.

Next item on the agenda was to look at a zoning request that the planning commission approved to rezone a parcel at 4491 135th Ave. from Ag. to R-1A. A motion was made by Schipper and approved by Boerman to approve the rezoning. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ron has received a recommendation from the Allegan County Road Commission where gravel should be applied this year. There are three roads under three miles at a cost of \$15,000. A motion was made by Boerman and supported by Schipper to approve the gravel program. All ayes. Motion carried.

The board then looked at the cost of zoning fees. Since there are so many meetings involved with a site plan review a discussion was held on increasing the fee for site plan review to \$550 and rezoning to \$400. A motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman to approve the increase. All ayes. Motion carried.

A discussion was then held on how to handle so many home businesses that do not comply with zoning. It was noted that each one should be handled on an individual basis depending on where they are located, if their business is a retail business, parking, how much traffic is involved, etc. Ron, Don and John Lohrstorfer will be drafting a letter and looking at the ordinances regarding home businesses. A mailing for all township residents will be done and those in home businesses who wish to apply for a special use permit will be charged a one time fee of \$25 to get in compliance. If they choose not to participate in this, they will then be charged the full \$400 fee.

County Commissioner Kimberly VanLangeveld reported that there would be a special meeting on the wording for the millage for the August election and to discuss security issues at the courthouse.

The township bills were presented. A motion was made by Boerman and supported by Meiste to approve the payment of these. All ayes. Motion carried.

The fire department bills were presented. A motion was made by Boerman and supported by Schipper to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Meiste and supported by Boerman to adjourn at 8:20. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheila Meiste, Clerk