

AUGUST 2008

The regular meeting of the Heath Township Board was held on August 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath Township Hall.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order and Schipper offered opening prayer. The previous month's minutes were approved as read. Lindholm was absent.

First item of business was a citizens group wanting the township board to look into hiring a contracted deputy. The committee is concerned with the recent signs of gang activity, the increase in crimes in the last year and the safety of their children. Lt. Baker from the Allegan County Sheriff's office presented a contracting presentation. Discussion was held and commissioner Dean Kapenga reported that at this week Thursday's commission meeting they will be discussing plans to suspend a \$14,000 per deputy annual administrative fee. He would like the committee to continue discussion and wait for the outcome of their meeting. The board encouraged the group to look into neighborhood watch programs and informed them that any community policing program would have to come before the voters as a millage. Trustee Schipper will be contacting the neighboring townships to see what their officers cost them and will report back.

Cal VanderKamp is continuing to have problems with his neighbor, Mr. Harrison. Mr. VanderKamp alleges or stated that Mr. Harrison is not following what PCI has instructed him to do and feels PCI is not enforcing our zoning. The township board will request PCI to stop Mr. Harrison's land split until his land is cleaned up and to fine him if he is not complying. Hilda will be checking with PCI on the status of this and what procedures are followed when a property is condemned.

Next item of business was Mr. Barkel questioned how the sidewalks are defined and wanted a map of where they will be laid out. Supervisor Jones explained that we are not required to have a drawing and that a tax map was used to lay out the sidewalks. The property was walked with the county road commission and Al's Excavating, who will be doing the project. Heath Township will be responsible for liability, cleaning and repairing of all sidewalks. The sidewalks will be 5 ft. wide; on the road right-of-way and few trees will be disturbed. The plan is to match it to the existing land. The sidewalks are being put in for the health, safety and welfare of the people and the township has done its' best to work with the homeowners affected. There will be no bill for the residents on this project and street lights may be added as needed. The board is awaiting a recommendation from the traffic safety engineer as to what kind of stop signs will be placed at the T on the corner of Hubbard and South St. Citizens questioned who and what will govern how the sidewalks are used and how they will be enforced. The board does not plan to put up any signs at this time and each issue will be looked at as it arises. Previously, the number one problems with sidewalks already in the township are snowmobiles. Ron encouraged the citizens to contact us at any time with questions and stated again that the board and Al's will be working with the homeowners as the project progresses.

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 Schipper and supported by Boerman to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman to adjourn at 8:40. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheila Meiste, Clerk