

JANUARY, 2008

The regular meeting of the Heath Township Board was held on January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath Township Hall.

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

Dean Kapenga was present to give his monthly commission report from the county.

The lawn service quote from Straight Line Lawn Care was presented. An agreement was reached between them, Wolframs Lawn Care and Cal's Lawn Care that they would work together and not bid against each other's accounts. Straight Line's prices for most services would stay the same as in years past. Labor rate and fertilizing rates will increase moderately. Straight Line will be sub-contracting some of the work to Wolfram's and Cal's. Discussion followed and a motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman with the understanding that if prices go too high we would have the option of going outside the township for bids. The reason being to keep the three companies from price setting. All ayes. Motion carried.

The annual fire budget report was presented by Ron. The operating budget was reviewed and discussed and a motion was made by Boerman and supported by Lindholm to approve. All ayes. Motion carried. The fire dept. capitol budget was then explained and a motion was made by Boerman and supported by Lindholm to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kirk Van Order's term on the ZBA and Planning Commission is set to expire on January 31. Supervisor Jones recommended we renew his term for another 3 years expiring on 1-31-2011. A motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman to accept his re-appointment. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk Meiste noted that an election wage comparison was done and she is recommending we offer an increase of \$2.00/hour to our inspectors and \$2.50/hour to our chairperson. A motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman to approve. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meiste has also been checking on cemetery rates. Ours have not increased since 1997. She has checked what Zeeland Cemetery, Pilgrim Home and Graafschaps are. The board discussed this and a resolution was presented to increase the resident rate from \$100 to \$350 per burial space and non-resident from \$200 to \$1,200. Roll call vote-Boerman-yes, Lindholm-yes, Meiste-yes, Schipper-yes, Jones-yes. Motion carried. Ron informed the board that the land adjacent to the cemetery is being plotted out by our surveyor and sexton.

Sheila noted in paying the wages this month that we pay part-time personnel \$15/hour and feels since Misti is now doing office hours and takes on quite a bit of responsibility

that she should be compensated \$15/hr. instead of \$13/hr. A motion was made by Meiste and supported by Boerman to approve the \$2.00/hr increase. Lindholm abstained from voting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Athletic Director, B.J. Nykamp reported on the work he and the recreation board have been doing with Hamilton Schools, Manlius, Salem, Fillmore and Overisel townships. The townships have appointed individuals to be on a recreation committee which is looking at expanding and/or taking over the recreation programs from Heath Township. A meeting was to be held in December but was canceled and moved to January 28. The committee is recommending asking the school to either take over the programs or to work with them on hiring someone full time to run the Recreation Department. Ron stated that our township board would like him to pass on to the individuals at this next meeting that something needs to be done by 2009 or Heath township will no longer be running and funding all of the children and adult programs. B.J. will pass this along and report back to the township board.

Ron received a call last week from the township attorney wondering if the Trestle Stop issue has been resolved by our ZBA and Planning Commission. Ron informed Dick and Hilda that he would like them to look into this and come to a resolution or an answer from their perspective boards before the court date on Feb. 5. He also stated that he would like Dick and Hilda to pass on to the ZBA and Planning Commission that it is not the township boards job to oversee or overpower their work. The two boards and their members need to always keep in mind that the personal issues need to be put aside and we need to work with the parties involved and our attorneys to resolve any issues in a professional way and give the parties involved clear and concise answers. Hilda will be contacting Don and the attorney to clear up any unanswered questions.

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

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

A motion was made by Schipper and supported by Boerman to adjourn at 8:25. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sheila Meiste, Clerk