

OCTOBER 2008

The regular meeting of the Heath Township Board was held on October 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath Township Hall.

Supervisor Jones called the meeting to order and offered opening prayer. The previous months minutes were approved.

Kevin Cronin and Judge Baillargeon introduced themselves as the candidates running for the circuit court judge position.

County Commissioner Dean Kapenga reported the county has passed their budget with a 1.4% increase. He mentioned a new program is in place for veterans. The commission has suspended the 10% administrative fee townships pay for hired deputies. Meiste questioned if the county could put out a newsletter letting senior citizens know about the senior services and veteran services.

Chief Haverdink presented a fire department report. The ISO is completed and the report was submitted three months ago. The fire department is researching a new pumper. Chief Haverdink introduced Lt. Greydanus from the Wayland State Police report. Lt. Greydanus reported on personnel, post stats for 2007 and incident responses for each township in the county.

Jan Cushman from the Heritage Trail made a presentation to the board regarding 122 miles of historical sites in the county. One of these is the trestle bridge in our township park. She requested support to place a sign in the park explaining this historical site. A motion was made by Boerman and supported by Lindholm to fund the sign at a cost of \$1,500. All ayes. Motion carried. She will be putting together a packet of booklets and CD's, which citizens can purchase to show or hear where these historical places are. She will also be sending us a text, which we can place in our newsletter.

Hilda updated the board on the planning commission meeting. They agreed to remove guest housing from zoning since there are no guidelines in place for guesthouses and no demand for them. The next meeting will be December 4. Schipper reported on the ZBA meeting.

Ron informed the audience that the sidewalks are done and wished to clarify how the bidding process went. There was more than one bidder on this job and everyone in the process had the same bid. The board is not required to take bids, although it is sometimes easier. The bidding was done with local businesses in mind since we try to put tax money back into the community. The board is pleased with the job and has had many compliments. More bid opportunities have been mailed out for roads in the cemetery, which will be done before Memorial Day, 2009, and for snowplowing this winter. Hilda mentioned when residents are not pleased with what the township does the board members would appreciate not being contacted at their places of employment. The township has office hours, phone extensions and email.

Hilda monitored the last township clean-up days and turned away eight people who were not township residents. The next clean up day is Saturday.

Sheila asked the board for approval to send sample ballots to each registered voter. They could use this sample as a reference guide on Election Day and pre-mark their selections before they go to the polls. Approval was granted.

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

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

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

Sheila Meiste,
Clerk