

***Heath Township
Meeting Minutes
March 2013***

1. Call to order

The regular monthly meeting of the Heath Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Ron Jones at 7:00 on March 13, 2013 at the township hall. Hilda opened with prayer.

2. Roll call

Supervisor Ron Jones, Clerk Sheila Meiste, Trustee Hilda Boerman, Trustee Bill Harvey. Treasurer Misti Lindholm was absent.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Previous months minutes were approved.

4. Reports

a) Bob Genetski, State Representative. Bob reported on the governor's budget and understanding how to implement the federal government's health insurance. He has a bill pending for the county to receive \$400,000 back on sales tax paid for the new jail. The Senate has introduced the same bill. He is working on finding funding for dredging to increase water levels. The board had a question on gun control and state revenue sharing.

b) Robert Kaarlie, Allegan County Road Commission. John Barkel questioned the culvert and water channeling on 26th Street in Salem Township which runs into the Heath township dam. Bob responded they are required to go along with state regulations when installing new culverts.

c) Jim Storey, Allegan County Commissioner. The county is allocating \$340,000 to improve the fire department pagers. On March 28 the Human Services Agency is having an expo from 9:00-3:00 so citizens can find out what services are provided by the county.

d) John Barkel, Rabbit River Watershed. The DNR will be holding a public hearing on March 14 in Lansing at 7:30 p.m. on proposed amendments to administrative rules. This is in regards to the zoning of rivers. John has given the 256 page document to PCI to look over. Ron believes we have no regulations over the river when the state is involved. Hilda will send the document to our attorney to look over and have him give us an overview.

5. New business

a) Approval of hauler for clean-up days. The board reviewed the bids from Arrow Waste, Chef and Republic. Chef will divert what they can from going to the landfill and recycle it and had the lowest bid. In the past, there have been issues with Republic. Motion by Meiste supported by Harvey and passed unanimously to approve Chef's bid.

b) Motion by Harvey supported by Boerman and passed unanimously to approve extra road mowing.

c) Motion by Boerman supported by Meiste and passed unanimously to approve gravel program for 2013.

d) Wayne Breuker, representative for Hamilton Christian Reformed Church was present to request access to water from across the road in Riverside cemetery. The church has tried two dry holes but this is becoming costly. Broekhuis Brothers Well drilling suggested putting a well next to the well in the cemetery. The church is wondering if the board is willing to give them a spot. The Health Dept. has given the okay with a few stipulations. Right now the church is getting water from the pizza restaurant.

Sheila mentioned there are many water issues in town besides theirs. Ron stated the board is not in the market of selling public water. If the board sets precedent to one, it could snowball. The township attorney suggested the church find water without crossing into the township property.

Has the church exhausted all their options? It would be easier for the church to work with a private property owner instead of a government body. Wayne stated they have not exhausted everything yet but were going on the advice of the well driller. He will take this information back to the church.

e) Jim DeWilde of M.C. Smith presented a preliminary drawing for the Township Park and the Trestle Park. Proposed for the township park are a shade shelter, water park, new picnic shelter, grilling area, additional playground equipment, basketball court and a skate park. There would be a driveway to the barbeque area and a designated road along the back of the school property to the Boy Scout building. There would also be a paved walkway to designated areas which would meet the ADA requirements. There could be improvements to the spectator areas and additional shade trees and lighting. A discussion followed on the possibility of moving the skate park.

Proposed for the Trestle Park are two deck areas for viewing and fishing. In place of the picnic shelter would be a new structure. There would be a few walkways and steps coming off M40. All walkways would meet ADA standards. The parking area would stay the same and would include paint striping and wheel stops. The portable toilet area would be fenced and screened and a few new benches added. The pump house could probably be eliminated.

The next step is to phase the priorities in each park and review cost. Jim questioned if the board and Planning Commission want to define walking trails on the townships existing plan and future land use maps.

6. Zoning update

a) The Planning Commission would like to know if the township would like to retain the transportation and recreation plan or turn it over to them. The board unanimously feels this should stay with the township. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00. The township board has the Master Plan to review and will discuss it at the April meeting.

b) Kirk VanOrder stated the planner was encouraging the Planning Commission to have input on sidewalks and bike paths in the township. The current sidewalks received approval from the county and the state before the township put them in. At this time, the board wants to retain control over the planning, funding and budgeting of the sidewalks. Maybe some governance of them should come from the Planning Commission. If a developer comes in, they would have to show plans of future sidewalks and they may have to participate in funding. The Planning Commission may want to address this in their future zoning.

7. Bills

- a) Motion by Boerman supported by Harvey to pay township bills.
- b) Motion by Meiste supported by Boerman to pay fire department bills.

8. Adjournment

- a) Motion by Meiste supported by Boerman to adjourn at 9:05.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Sheila Meiste, approved by Supervisor Ron Jones.