

***Heath Township
Meeting Minutes
July 2014***

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 July 14, 2014 at the township hall. Boerman opened with prayer.

2. Roll call

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

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Previous months minutes were approved.

4. Reports

Jim Storey, County Commissioner. There are three items the board will be addressing.

- On July 30 and 31st there will be a charrette to discuss re-design of the county building for efficiency and future use.
- Loss of money in the courts.
- ORV discussion which was postponed at the June meeting. Feels decision will be on township level, not county.

The board was given copy of the State of Allegan County 2014 and will be in the office for residents to view.

5. New business

a) Jeff McCray from Burnham & Flower Insurance introduced himself to the board as a courtesy visit. He indicated there are two opportunities per year to apply for grant monies with regard to risk reduction projects. There is a \$5,000 maximum and it is a reimbursement grant, not a matching. The next application is due by October. Also, anyone on the Planning Commission interested in taking the Citizen Planners Certification will be reimbursed by the Par Plan. There is a limit of one person per year.

b) Mark Mills of the Allegan State Game area introduced himself. He is a wildlife biologist for the Southwestern Lower Peninsula Region of Michigan. He is looking for local government entities to support the purchase of parcels. Mr. Harrison approached them with 20 acres of his land in the southernmost part of the township. Mr. Harrison stated he would like to see it protected because it has the densest area of white pines in this area of Michigan and is a very unique property. Mark stated his property is a high quality habitat and Sand Creek is a trout stream they are interested in preserving. The State game property borders Mr. Harrison's. The state does not pay normal taxes, like residents, but payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). The next step will be to have an appraisal by a competitive third party and the fair market value would be offered to Mr. Harrison.

The DNR would appreciate a letter of support from the township. Motion by Boerman supported by Lindholm and unanimously approved to support the sale of this property.

c) Per an election worker survey, Sheila would like to update the election inspectors pay per hour from \$11.00 to \$12.00 and the chairperson from \$11.50 to \$13.00. Motion by Boerman supported by Harvey and unanimously approved.

d) Approve Michigan Gas Main Easement by the north end of Schutmaat Park. Motion by Harvey supported by Boerman to approve contingent on receipt of payment and the original document. Motion carried.

e) Hilda gave an update on the park. A final walk through was done and cement/blacktop work has been completed. The trees will be replaced in the fall. The benches are under warranty and will be either replaced or sanded. We have tools, cover up paint and maintenance manuals. The township will install walking markers. The sign artwork is being completed and should be done soon.

f) Sheila updated the board on the Clerk's conference she attended in June.

- Michigan ranks 6th best for election performance
- We will likely be getting new voting machines in two years with funding from the state and HAVA
- May look to add Columbarium's in the cemetery since 48% of people prefer cremations over burials.
- Michigan allows you to bury someone on your own land. The burial ground will not be taxed as long as it is designated as a burial ground and not used for other purposes and is no larger than one acre. The law states you would also have to obtain zoning approval and a permit from the local health office
- Some townships also set aside part of their cemeteries for animal burials.

6. Zoning update

a) The Planning Commission will be meeting on Thursday July 17 at 7:00 to hear a rezoning request from Maxine VanHaaren to allow the property to be used as a two family home. Superior Poured walls site plan has been approved.

7. Bills

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

8. Adjournment

a) Motion by Boerman supported by Harvey to adjourn the meeting at 7:51.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Sheila Meiste.