

***Heath Township
Meeting Minutes
August 2015***

1. Call to order

The regular monthly meeting of the Heath Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Jones at 7:00 on Monday, August 10, 2015.. Clerk Meiste 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. New business

- a) The Planning Commission has forwarded on a request from the July meeting to rezone a 20 acre parcel on 135th Avenue from C-1 Commercial to I-1 Industrial

Ron noted the board has received the letters and petitions from residents. Concerns initially arose when the request was put forward at the July planning commission meeting. The motion to approve the request and send it to the township board stalled in a 2-2 tie. Land planner Mark Sisson told the commission that in case of ties, the chairman's vote couldn't count, so the approval passed 2-1. Hilda didn't find anything in the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act that says our chairperson cannot vote. She suggested the board either send it back to the planning commission for further study or reject the request and leave the parcel commercial

A year ago the Farm Bureau was rezoned Industrial. When asked to rezone the eggplant to Industrial, they did not want to. Bob Fenton, General Manager, of CHS stated he was not at the meeting when the rezoning was requested. He communicated the parties interested may use it in a similar vein, but have not stated. He feels it is beneficial to everyone to rezone this parcel Industrial, since it is part of the master plan.

Sheila expressed concern about the events of the planning commission meeting, particularly when the potential buyer of the property was unable to present plans for property development if it was rezoned to industrial

Ron reviewed the Master Plan with the audience and conveyed this is not set in stone but is more of a guideline and a visionary tool. What CHS is doing now is more suited to industrial than commercial.

Residents voiced their concern to Bob Fenton. They feel CHS has not been a good neighbor in regards to intrusive noise, occasional drain field overflows and increased heavy truck traffic.

Bob Pott spoke at the meeting about the effects an industrial zone could have on property values, traffic and other potential complications for what is now a mostly residential area. There are other organizations looking to use the property as commercial which would be good for the community and property owners.

Jim Edwards, realtor representing CHS, questioned what is going to happen if it is not rezoned industrial. Ron indicated this is not all about tax base, but more the health, safety and welfare of the community.

A resident questioned if it could be rezoned back to residential. Ron said this could be possible with clean-up and rezoning. Another voiced concern of increased traffic on 135th and M-40. Ron explained since this is a class A road, traffic concerns are reviewed in regards to new homes and truck traffic. MDOT will be reviewing all the streets and corners prior to the M-40 project in 2018.

Motion by Meiste supported by Harvey and unanimously supported to deny the request to rezone from commercial to industrial.

b) The Planning Commission passed preliminary changes to the site plan condo for the Riverwalk PUD and is recommending the township approve it. The major change is to density and road length. Motion by Lindholm supported by Harvey and unanimously accepted.

c) Request from Hamilton Athletic Boosters to sign a resolution to obtain a permit for a charitable gaming license for a fundraiser at Double Tree Hotel. Since their mailing address is in Heath Township, they need to be recognized by the government body to be approved as a charitable organization. They are not part of the school, but a separate 501(c) organization. Sheila questioned why they have a P.O. box and not a physical address. Motion by Harvey supported by Boerman to approve. Roll call vote – Jones-yes, Boerman-yes, Lindholm-yes, Harvey-yes, Meiste-no. Motion passed.

d) Ron recommends appointing Randy Poll to a three year term on the Planning Commission and Lawrence Joynes as an alternate. Motion by Boerman supported by Lindholm and unanimously passed. Stephanie questioned why no women were appointed. Hilda explained she contacts residents in order of interest and the women's names are still on the list as future appointees.

e) The Schutmaat Park project started today. Local subs are being used and the permits have been approved. Completion date is spring of 2016. It will take three months for the gazebo to arrive. Hilda is the contact person for this project. She indicated there are some dead and diseased trees which need to come out and this cost is above what was

approved. Motion by Boerman supported by Lindholm and unanimously passed to approve extra costs.

The fishing rodeo be held Saturday, August 15. The park will then be closed until project completion.

f) Sheila noted the grant of \$4,688.14 for security cameras for the park was approved. She is also requesting GIS mapping for the cemetery at a cost of \$4,619.00. Motion by Boerman supported by Lindholm and unanimously approved.

g) Mr. Joostberns questioned when the blight ordinance will go into effect. This will be August 17. Stephanie asked when the township will fill out the paperwork for a flood plain so she can get flood insurance. Ron will be looking into this.

5. Report – Jim Storey, County Commissioner

- Approved the purchase of software to allow dog licensing to move from the treasurer's office to veterinarians offices.
- Bids received to remove the old jail.

6. Zoning update

- a) The Planning Commission will be meeting on Thursday, August 20 at 7:00.

7. Bills

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

8. Adjournment

- a) Motion by Boerman supported by Meiste to adjourn the meeting at 8:17.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Sheila Meiste.