

***Heath Township  
Meeting Minutes  
July 2015***

**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 13, 2015 at the township hall. He also 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 reported on items addressed at the county.

- Approved a proposal for demolition of the old jail. This should happen in August and the site will be refurbished with parking and green space.
- Working with a consultant to design a new radio pager and approved a new telephone system for 911.
- West Side Park is completed; the gazebo needs to be delivered.
- Ten sheriff department vehicles will be replaced with Ford SUV's.

Ron was approached with a request to have the old railroad replaced with a bike path. The part which lies in Heath Township is from 134<sup>th</sup> to 122<sup>nd</sup>. Ron would like to see this be part of the future county park system or shared amongst the townships. Since the railroad went out, some of the right-of-way has been sold to land owners.

**5. New business**

a) Dennis Berkebile, Southwest Area Manager, presented the Consumers Energy Franchise Renewal for ten years. Motion by Boerman supported by Lindholm and unanimously supported to approve. Sheila requested next time they come for renewal, they propose the agreement our lawyer drafted and not their two page ordinance. Dennis will make note of this in the file.

b) Per HB 4001, the township is required to adopt FOIA requirements. The documents required are posted on our township website. People can expect a response within five business days. Motion by Boerman supported by Harvey and unanimously approved to accept.

c) The board reviewed the Blight and Junk Vehicle Control Ordinance drafted by our attorney. This will help the township prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or potential

blight and to eliminate inoperable, abandoned or scrap motor vehicles; and to provide penalties for the violation. Mike Brinks is requesting the property on M-40 next to the bridge be addressed as well and questioned if this applies to buildings. It is covered under section B. Stephanie asked why the Poured Wall place is also not complying and is expanding toward M-40. Hilda will be contacting Bob about both of these properties. Motion by Hilda supported by Harvey and unanimously supported to approve the ordinance and repeal the salvage and litter ordinances of 1991.

d) Dawn Alexander presented a program called Cops and Youth which is taking place on Saturday, September 18. She is requesting the use of the future plotted cemetery to hold this, since the Hamilton CRC church parking lot is no longer large enough. She has been using their tax I.D. number, as this is a non-profit event. They will be serving food as well. She does not want to offend the church and move it to another church parking lot. Discussion followed and residents and the board do not wish to see her use the land next to the cemetery. She is welcome to move the event to the township park but would need to have a food license or have food catered in.

e) Fire chief, Dave Haverdink, presented a proposal for LED fluorescent lights. Over the past few years there has been an increase in replacing light bulbs and ballasts. They spend \$750-\$1,000 a year on repairs and replacements. The return on investment for the township is 23 months at a cost of \$5,821. The fire department is a three year payback at a cost of \$14,942. The township share of the fire cost is 59%. This is the last year Consumers is giving rebates. Motion by Harvey supported by Meiste to approve the township and fire department as well as the five can lights under the porch.

f) Bill is requesting the Planning Commission look at the setback on rear yards. We have a 40 foot setback. Surrounding townships have a 10 foot setback. ZBA meeting is next week Monday, July 18 at 7:00.

g) Hilda mentioned Bob Jones has been asked by Melissa Mannes attorney if we could waive her fee to come before the Planning Commission. At the time she applied for her permit we did not have the zoning we have now. Our attorney has not reviewed this request and Ron would like his opinion. Sheila believes she has taken enough time and money from our board already. The board agrees she should pay.

At the last Planning Commission meeting a resident asked if the township could put a fence on the property line underneath the bridge. You are not allowed to do anything within so many feet of the river.

h) The County Road Commission received the permit from the fisheries department for the trout stream and can now proceed with road work on 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 41<sup>st</sup> St. to 38<sup>th</sup> St. the low bid was received from Brenner Excavation with a completion date of 2016. This project is shared with Overisel and our townships share is \$347,686.95. This is higher than expected due to 1/3 of the cost being the precast concrete box culvert.

i) The Middleton's were present to report the junk is still on the neighboring property and the dumpster has left. Bob was supposed to come check it out. Hilda will be in contact with him.

j) Stephanie is concerned about the private drive with the potholes behind her property. This is a private drive and the owner needs to be contacted. Ron believes Dollar General is responsible for this.

#### **6. Zoning update**

a) The Planning Commission will be meeting on Thursday July 16 at 7:00 to hear a request to rezone the CHS eggplant from commercial to industrial and a special use permit request for an accessory building in the front yard. Riverwalk may also be present.

#### **7. Bills**

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

#### **8. Adjournment**

a) Motion by Boerman supported by Harvey to adjourn the meeting at 8:22.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Sheila Meiste.