

***Heath Township
Meeting Minutes
June 2016***

1. Call to order

The budget hearing was closed and the regular monthly meeting of the Heath Township Board was called to order.

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

- Working on negotiating the contract for the new radio system.
- Circuit court Swift and Sure Sanction program is working well. Judge Baker is working at helping citizens understand civil matters.
- In the process of reviewing the Economic Development Commission

5. New business

a) Motion by Boerman seconded by Lindholm and unanimously approved to adopt 2016-2017 budget.

b) Motion by Boerman seconded Harvey to approve 2.5% wage increases. Roll call vote: Boerman-yes, Lindholm-yes, Harvey-yes, Meiste-yes, Jones-yes. Motion carried.

c) Motion by Harvey supported by Lindholm to adopt ordinance amendment from last month's planning commission meeting. This ordinance is to amend Chapter 16, Section 16.09 in regards to accessory buildings and lot lines. Roll call vote Boerman-yes, Jones-yes, Lindholm-yes, Harvey-yes, Meiste-yes.

d) Ron will be talking to MDOT as to where to place the park sign being made by an Eagle Scout. Hilda reported the hill has been planted with wildflowers. Since there is no sprinkling down there, do we want Straightline to fertilize more and have water pumped from the river? The board would like to have a price estimate first.

e) Hilda questioned if the batting cage, which came down a few years ago by the wind, should be torn out or replaced. Mist will email the Recreation Director from the school.

f) Discussion continued from last month in regards to the gate at Schutmaat Park. After last month's meeting, Tracy informed the board she has not been locking it. In the last

two months, the Allegan county sheriff and the township have had one call. Ron asked the audience for their opinion. One resident feels it is a good idea to lock it. Another feels by locking the gate you cannot keep people out, only cars.

The township board can pass a park ordinance. If this is adopted, there can be citations issued for trespassing. The township attorney and insurance company do not want the township liable for any volunteers. The county commissioner checked with the Allegan County Parks Director and none of the county parks are locked and they have had no problems. The township board does not have staff to open and lock the gates and there are liability issues in using volunteers. If needed, the board does have the capability to install cameras.

Bill feels since we have not had issues in the last month while it has been unlocked, we should keep it unlocked. The board feels a park ordinance regulating park hours is needed. Sheila will contact the lawyer about drafting up an ordinance. At this point, we will leave the gate in but lock it during the winter for three to four months.

Ron stated that we do take residents request into consideration. Jim will also speak to the undersheriff in regards to the police patrolling and their verbal responses to residents.

6. Zoning update

- a) The Planning Commission will be looking at the future land use at their next meeting on Thursday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m.

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 Lindholm to adjourn the meeting at 8:03.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Sheila Meiste.