

Supervisor Hebert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119th Ave. and 64th St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Looman, Yonkers, Hebert, Reimink, Hutchins.

Public Comments:

Joan Saintz, 2225 63rd St., voiced a complaint regarding the Noise Ordinance variance granted by the Board to Dalila Sanchez, 2326 63rd St, for June 11, stating the noise was very excessive and carried on too long. She suggested if the Board grants a variance in the future, it is limited to 9:00 PM.

Jane VanDenBerg, 1910 Lakeshore Dr, stated the grass/weeds at Pier Cove are overgrown and trimming is needed.

Charles Bielik, 2264 63rd St, also questioned the Board about the Sanchez party, noting how loud the music was, and suggested 11 PM is late enough.

Don Karaus Jr, 2025 Brookhill Dr., questioned why there is an admittance fee for cars at West Side County Park.

Ann Gray, 1974 68th St, asked what hours the Township Office was open and who was available there.

Linda Wilcox, 6274 122nd Ave., stated she also has the same complaints as the previous people about the Sanchez party and the excessive noise and disturbances.

Ed Reimink, 6438 119th Ave, asked when the Township Hall would have padded chairs for the audience.

Supervisor Hebert opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Millage Rates and Budgets for the 2006/2007 Fiscal Year at 7:18 PM. Hebert explained the rates to be levied, stated there are currently 2,493 parcels, and asked for questions and comments. None were voiced.

Hebert then reviewed the proposed General Fund budget, with the following public comments:

Pat Foster, 6079 Mallard, questioned the Clerk and Supervisor salary increase amounts.

Ann Gray, 1974 68th St, asked what the line item for Constable/Enforcement Officer was.

Don Karaus, 2025 Brookhill Dr., asked why the Building Official budgeted salary was 0.00. Hebert explained the Building Official salary and expenses are reflected in the Building Administration Fund, which is a separate account and budget.

Michael O'Connor asked for clarification on the General Fund tax income versus the total proposed to be raised. Hebert explained the total is distributed across 6 funds with a budget for each instead of combined into one fund.

Hebert presented the proposed Fire Fund, Road Fund, and Ambulance Fund 2006/2007 budgets, each with no public comments or questions received.

The First Responder proposed budget was reviewed. ~~with~~ Michael O'Connor, 6635 118th Ave., ~~asking~~ asked if the Township charges fees for ambulance transport. Hebert stated we contract with AMR for the service and they bill the individual if necessary.

The Building Administration Fund was reviewed with no public comments or questions.

Hebert closed the Millage Rate and Budget public hearing at 7:33 PM and opened the Public Hearing for the Metallurgical High Vacuum Corporation's request for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption. The address of the facility is 6708 124th Avenue.

Mr. Geoff Humberstone, Metallurgical High Vacuum officer, provided a review of the current construction project to increase office space for the business. The exemption request is for the project cost of \$293,192.00 in building improvements and \$23,900.00 in equipment, furniture and machinery, for a 12-year period. He stated one new employee might be added based on the expansion. The following public comments and questions were presented:

Marge Sheldon, 2059 Lakeshore, asked where the building was located.

Ann Gray, 1974 68th St, asked how many employees were from Ganges and how many total employees. Mr. Humberstone responded 15 employees in total and one was from Ganges.

Doug Darling, Assessor, explained the IFT reduction would have to be approved by both the Township and the State of Michigan and it could be for a shorter period than the 12 years requested. He said the affect of the reduction would be a decrease in the millages of ½ for all but the State Education Tax (SET). The school district would receive 9 mills instead of 18 and the township and county millages would be reduced by 50% also for the duration of the exemption.

Michael O'Connor, 6635 118th Ave., asked what the township would give up versus what does it have to gain. Darling responded he has not calculated the value of the IFT at this point.

Jackie DeZwaan, 2259 68th St., stated the dollar amounts should be spelled out along with the length of time and she inquired about the value of the personal property. Darling explained it would create two additional parcels, one for the building and one for the personal property.

Dave Babbitt, County Commissioner, commented that these exemptions are granted all the time all over the state. It was a practice started in the 1970's as a way to attract businesses to the area.

Michael O'Connor, 6635 118th Ave., asked if Metallurgical High Vacuum had any other locations. Mr. Humberstone replied they did not. Mr. O'Connor voiced concern about the lack of increased employment and the revenue that would be given up.

Pat Foster, 6079 Mallard, asked where the other employees lived. Darling reported an employer couldn't discriminate in hiring practices based on location.

Rob Soltysiak, 6322 113th Ave., asked if the SET would be reduced. Darling stated it would stay at 6%.

Hebert closed the public hearing at 7:45 PM and continued on with the regular meeting.

Yonkers moved, Looman seconded, to accept the agenda dated 06/13/06 with a modification to 17C to include the resurfacing of 64th Street. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Black River Watershed Management Plan

Available at the Hall and on-line for review

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 04/11/06 with addition of Mr. Mulder's letter under correspondence. Motion carried.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the meeting minutes of 05/09/06 with correction of typo. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Hebert seconded, to approve the special meeting minutes of 05/18/06 as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 05/31/06 as follows:

General Fund	\$413,485.56
Road Fund	527,012.24
Ambulance Fund	80,203.91
Fire Fund Checking	233,976.37
First Responders Checking	30,522.02
Building Admin.	55,908.01
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,341,108.11

Hebert moved, Yonkers seconded, to accept the Treasurer=s report as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Looman seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 06/13/06 as amended by the Clerk from the following funds: General Fund - \$28,532.67; Fire Fund - \$227.31; First Responder Fund - \$249.10; Building Admin. Fund - \$4,105.64; Ambulance Fund - \$815.40; Road Fund - \$10,500.00. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Looman seconded, to approve the invoice from MCY Systems for toners and ink cartridges for \$217.88. Motion carried with Yonkers abstaining due to business conflict.

Hebert moved, Looman seconded, to approve payment of the Allegan County MTA Chapter dues. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Chief Doug Compton, was absent.

Ken Zecklin, Safety Official, was absent but submitted a written report of call activity for May.

Dick Hutchins reported the Ambulance Committee met on 6/8/06. AMR is looking for a replacement vehicle for the Fennville facility and the roof on the building needs to be replaced. They are looking into a grant through the US Dept. of Agriculture which does not require matching funds. The cost is estimated to be \$50,000.00 to replace the roof, with \$26,000 in the fund currently. If the grant is not available, the townships will be asked for a lump sum, and the new roof would be pitched instead of the current flat roof.

Doug Darling, Assessor, reported the onsite office hours are working well and there were 3 recent tax tribunals with 2 won and 1 lost. The new tax roll has been delivered to the treasurer.

Paul Shamblin, Zoning Official, was absent but submitted a written enforcement report and none for zoning issues.

Al Ellingsen, Building Official, reported 2 land divisions for the month and 17 permits were issued. A Dangerous Building Hearing was held on 06/08/06 at 4:00 PM for Miller, and follow-ups were sent regarding the Hernandez and Nykerk properties.

Ken Sargent, Cemetery Sexton, was absent. Assistant Holton installed the new signs and reported no problems.

Barry Gooding, Planning Commission Chair, was absent. Secretary Birkes reported the Verizon tower on the Warren property was approved and they have received a draft of the final Master Plan document from McKenna. The Planning Commission will be ready to distribute the plan to surrounding areas soon.

Bernie McLeod, Transfer Station manager, reported there was a fire at the Station that destroyed the building that housed the records. He suggested purchasing a shed at a cost of approximately \$1,104.00 to replace it and a motion camera to be split evenly between the townships.

Yonkers moved, Hebert seconded, to approve up to \$750.00 for replacement of the building, the addition of a motion camera and miscellaneous office supplies/furnishings for the Transfer Station. Motion carried.

Marge Shelden, Library representative, reported on the summer activities for the kids and also provided circulation figures.

Dave Babbitt, County Commissioner, reported there will be 3 millage proposals on the August ballot; a renewal of the road millage for 5 years, ¼ mill for parks and ¼ mill for senior services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board discussed the proposed Glenn Park and agreed the tanks would have to be removed then a baseline assessment of soils be completed before the township would get involved. The Board would like to see the property to meet environmental standards before proceeding.

Hebert moved, Looman seconded, to approve the I-2000 Inc proposal dated 05/12/06 to replace the tower at Station 1 with a 100' tower to be owned by the township and used to provide wireless internet service to the area, at no cost to the township, pending approval of the site plan by the Planning Commission, and review of the lease agreement. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Hutchins – yes; Reimink – yes; Looman – yes; Hebert – yes; Yonkers – abstain due to business conflict, (4/0/1).

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to accept the bid from Brenner Excavating dated 05/17/06, for the reconstruction of 119th Ave, from Blue Star Hwy to 66th St, at a cost of \$303,660.90, with \$60,000.00 removed for paving, which is to be done during 2007. Motion carried.

Yonkers moved, Looman seconded, to authorize the payment of bills upon receipt up to the contract amount without further board action. Motion carried.

Yonkers moved, Hebert seconded, to accept the bid from Aggregate Industries dated 06/08/06, for the resurfacing of 64th St from 118th Ave to 122nd Ave, at a cost of \$176,598.00. Motion carried.

Hutchins moved, Looman seconded, to authorize the payment of bills upon receipt up to the contract amount without further board action. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to deny the request from Metallurgical High Vacuum for an Industrial Facilities tax abatement. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Reimink – yes; Yonkers – yes; Looman – No; Hutchins – yes; Hebert – yes (4/0).

Yonkers moved, Reimink seconded, to adopt the resolution for the Gaze Drain as presented at a cost of \$5,700.00. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Looman – yes; Yonkers – yes; Reimink – yes; Hutchins – yes; Hebert – yes (5/0).

Hebert moved, Yonkers seconded, to contract with Lee Coltsen for the enforcement of Ordinances 23 & 24, Vehicle Storage and Litter for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Yonkers moved, Hebert seconded, to contract with Michigan Township Services, Allegan, for Zoning Administration for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to appoint Al Ellingsen, 6295 116th Ave, as the Deputy Zoning Administrator for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Bellenger, Holland, MI, asked about the new enforcement officer and whether existing complaints would be turned over to him.

Ganges Township Board

FINAL APPROVED

Minutes of 06/13/06

Joan Saintz, 2225 63rd St., asked the board to put notices of noise variance requests on the website.

Fred Anderson, Allegan County Prosecutor, announced he is running for the 57th District Judge position on the August ballot.

Jackie DeZwaan, 2259 68th St, asked where the treasurer would be available for tax collection.

Pat Foster, 6079 Mallard, announced that he is running as a Democratic Candidate for the County Commissioner for District 8.

Dick Hutchins voiced concern over the parking situation on 123rd Ave, due to the increased use of Pier Cove Beach, and feels emergency vehicles would have a problem responding. Hebert was directed to call 911 with these problems when they come up by the Allegan County Sheriff Dept.

Looman moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Yonkers, Ganges Township Clerk