

**GANGES TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2004**

FINAL APPROVED

Supervisor Hebert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Ganges Township Hall, corner of 119th Avenue and 64th Street. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hebert, Yonkers, Reimink, Looman, Hutchins. Absent: None.

Yonkers moved, Looman seconded, to accept the agenda as presented, with the addition of item 11.J. Truck bed removal & pump for 1999 Ford Chassis. Motion carried.

Correspondence presented as follows:

Jim Birkes, 2344 70 th St	11/08/04	Interest in Planning Commission position
Claude Rummer, City of Fennville	11/11/04	Requesting participation in Wastewater study
Sally Howard, 6632 118 th Ave	11/10/04	Interest in Planning Commission position
Neil VanLeeuwen, 6751 119 th Ave	12/04/04	Questions regarding agricultural building/zoning, Dangerous Building Ord., Anti-Blight Ord., roads
Neil VanLeeuwen, 6751 119 th Ave	12/04/04	Land Division questions
Jackie DeZwaan, 2259 68 th St	12/06/04	Planning Commission concern - request for definition

Public Comments: None

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of 11/09/04 as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried with Hebert abstaining due to not being in office at the time.

Reimink reported the balances as of 11/30/04 as follows:

General Fund	\$365,244.84
Road Fund	200,982.85
Ambulance Fund	43,046.16
Fire Fund Checking	193,195.23
First Responders Checking	27,524.79
Building Admin.	31,743.73
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 861,737.60

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

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 12/14/04 as presented by the Clerk from the following funds: General Fund - \$14,503.13; Fire Fund - \$12,210.37; First Responder Fund - \$10,827.03; Building Administration Fund - \$1,016.99; Ambulance Fund - \$791.65. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve payment of the 3 additional bills dated 12/14/04 as presented by the Clerk from the following funds: Building Administration Fund - \$1,458.00; First Responder Fund - \$801.00; Fire Fund - \$469.95. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Chief Compton reported Allegan County is checking out the new radio system and there was a pager problem on our frequency. The Fire Department tested and got it resolved.

Ken Zecklin, Safety Officer, submitted a monthly report of 11 runs. The new Rescue truck is in and will be scheduled for inspection soon.

Dick Hutchins reported the Ambulance Committee has approved the new AMR contract which reflects a 3% increase for each of the 3 years. The Board will review the proposed contract during the January meeting.

The Assessor, Doug Darling, was absent and did not submit a report. Hebert reported the Board of Review met today (12/14/04) with many people attending.

Al Ellingsen, Zoning Administrator, was present and submitted a written report of ZBA hearings, the Hernandez violation/clean up status, additional blight violations, and an update on the Geerlings violation, originally scheduled in District Court for 11/24/04 but postponed since Mr. Geerlings=s attorney wishes to challenge the violation under the Right to Farm Act. Ellingsen will provide the Board with his top five priorities regarding the zoning ordinance for the February meeting, as well as a job description for the Zoning Administrator position which he will be resigning from. Ellingsen has received the quarterly report from Mr. Ciesla and will provide a copy to Ms. Soltysiak per Yonkers= request.

Ken Sargent, Cemetery Sexton, asked about snowplowing at the cemeteries in the event of a burial. Septic Tank Systems will

continue to provide this service as they have the past few years; only to be done if necessary.

Don Karaus, Planning Commission Chairperson, was absent but submitted a monthly report summarizing the November meetings and requesting a change in the December meeting date due to the holidays. Karaus will provide an update on all sub-committees at the January board meeting. Jerry Schorle, Planning Commission Secretary, submitted a request to have a recording secretary at all Planning Commission meetings, due to the length and content of the meetings.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to change the Planning Commission regular monthly meeting from the 4th Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday of the month for December (meeting will be held on 12/21/04). Motion carried.

Yonkers moved, Looman seconded, to authorize the Planning Commission Recording Secretary attend and take minutes for all Planning Commission meetings of the whole (excluding committee meetings). Motion carried.

Terry Looman, Transfer Station representative, reported the committee will meet on 12/13/04 at Clyde Township.

Marge Shelden, Library representative, was absent.

Dave Babbitt, County Commissioner, reported the County Budget should be approved at the 12/22/04 meeting and reflects several cuts and position vacancies. They are considered asking for additional millage for both services and a new jail in either a May or August election.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soltysiaks vs. Ganges Township - summary hearing date is 1/21/04 at 3:30 PM.

Hutson & Matsock Property Donation - the Quit Claim deeds have both been received, recorded at the County and turned over to Reimink. The Supervisor and Treasurer will review them.

Only one bid was received for the 2005 Jeep Wrangler Grass/Brush Truck, from Spencer Manufacturing. A bid notice was published in the Allegan County News and five individual requests for bids were sent to fire apparatus companies.

Yonkers moved, Hutchins seconded, to accept the bid from Spencer Manufacturing, Inc, South Haven, MI, dated 9/27/04 for a 2005 Jeep Wrangler Grass Truck at a cost of \$31,092.00. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Hutchins - Yes; Reimink - Yes; Hebert - Yes; Yonkers - Yes; Looman - Yes (5/0).

The Board has agreed to not proceed at this time with agenda items 10.D. Ordinance for Reimbursement for First Responder/Fire costs and 10.E. Purchasing & Bid Policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Hebert moved, Looman seconded to update the Township Hall sign and a cost of up to \$400.00. Motion carried. Yonkers will follow up and coordinate.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the use of legal services of Bauckham, Sparks, Rolfe, Lohrstorfer & Thall, P.C., Kalamazoo, MI, for the fiscal year 2004/2005. Motion carried.

Steve McKown of Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C. will continue with the current issues he is involved with.

Yonkers moved, Looman seconded, to authorize Hebert to be the sole contact with both firms for all Township business. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Yonkers seconded, to appoint James Loew, 6434 122nd Ave, Judith Jensen, 1415 71st St, and Barry Gooding, 2236 66th St, to the Board of Review, all for a two year term, expiration date of 12/30/2006. Motion carried.

The Board is in agreement to have Hebert follow through with McKown for the Geerlings violation and the Right to Farm Act, scheduled for 01/12/05 at 2:30 PM.

Road Construction cost estimates - no action was taken. Hebert will follow up with the Road Commission regarding the resurfacing of Blue Star from 118th to M89 and our estimated cost in the project. The Board will meet with the Road Commission in January.

Hebert will inquire into Zoning Administrator fees from Michigan Township Services and obtain information from the new attorney firm regarding the resignation of Al Ellingsen (add) and their possible zoning support.

Road Easement agreement with Allegan County Road Commission - Looman has a copy of the original agreement from Howard Hunt=s administration and will provide Hebert with a copy.

The Board will coordinate a clean up and reorganization of the back section of the Township Hall to begin centralizing files. Hebert will

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contact McKellips Construction for an analysis of the structure of the building and what improvements are required.

Township Website - Hebert will contact Fennville High School to inquire about a possible class project or community service hours for students in the technology classes.

An estimate will be obtained for the transfer of the truck body/tank from the old brush truck to the 1999 Ford Chassis purchased from the First Responder Unit. Due to cost, bids will not be required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jackie DeZwaan, 2259 68th St, stated she was told by the Road Commission that the culverts on Blue Star that need to be repaired were being held until the paving project was to be done in 2005. She requested to be notified if the Blue Star project is not scheduled for 2005 so she can re-contact the Road Commission.

William Hart, Allegan County Farmland Preservation Board, asked the board to review the information booklet given to Hebert and pass a resolution to participate in the program to preserve farmland in Allegan County.

Rob Soltysiak, 6322 113th Ave, informed Hebert that he had provided both the Board and Planning Commission members with a packet of information regarding PA 116 and farmland preservation. If Hebert did not receive the packet from Petek, Soltysiak will provide another copy to him.

Dawn Soltysiak, 6322 113th Ave, thanked Hebert and the Board for a good meeting, with a number of issues reviewed in a short period of time.

Hebert announced an organizational meeting of the Hutchins Lake Board will be held at the Ganges Hall on 12/20/04 at 6:30 PM.

Ed Reimink, 6438 119th Ave, asked what the status was of the re-categorizing of 64th Street to a Township Road and 62nd Street to a Primary Road. Looman feels it=s ready to be submitted to the State.

Looman moved, Hebert seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Yonkers, Ganges Township Clerk