

Ganges Township Board Special Meeting *FINAL APPROVED*
January 17, 2005 at 7:00pm

Supervisor Hebert called a special meeting of the Township Board to order at 7:00pm., Monday, January 17, 2005. The meeting was held at the Ganges Township Hall, corner of 119th Avenue and 64th Street. Township Attorney, Steve McKown, was present.

Roll Call:

Board members present: Looman, Hebert, Reimink, Hutchins.

Board members absent: Yonkers.

Motion made by Hutchins, seconded by Reimink, to adopt the agenda as presented
Motion carried 4-0, with Yonkers absent.

Public comments: No audience members had comments

Personnel Evaluation of Planning Commission Chairperson: Hebert stated that since this is a personnel evaluation, Mr. Karaus was entitled to a closed session if he wished. Mr. Karaus stated he had nothing to hide and he would like to have the evaluation in an open meeting. Hebert stated a meeting was held between Mr. Karaus, Looman and himself on November 23, 2004 to review some issues that needed to be resolved and at the end of the meeting Mr. Karaus was clear that if these issues were not addressed, a special meeting would be held to review them in front of the Township Board. Hebert reviewed a list of issues he felt had occurred since the November 23, 2004 meeting. Hebert stated many of the issues occurred prior to him taking office. Mr. Karaus was provided with a copy of the information the board had, along with the list Hebert had prepared. Mr. Karaus reviewed the list and provided his opinion of each item. Mr. Karaus also stated that he felt the previous Township Supervisor had caused many of the issues and he was just the scapegoat. Looman stated the Township Clerk had a previous appointment scheduled, but thought the Township Clerk should get a chance to provide comments. Hebert recessed the meeting for 15 minutes to see if the Township Clerk might arrive.

Meeting recessed at 7:40pm

Meeting called back to order at 7:55pm

Hebert stated it didn't look like the Township Clerk was going be able to attend the meeting.

Motion made by Hebert, seconded by Hutchins, to remove Mr. Karaus from the Planning Commission effective January 17, 2005. Discussion followed the motion. Looman asked if this motion was to remove Mr. Karaus completely from the Planning Commission. Hebert answered, yes. Reimink stated that since several comments were made during the discussion between Mr. Karaus and the board regarding her husband (Ed Reimink), she felt she should abstain from voting. Hutchins stated he felt Mr. Karaus did do some good work, but he did see that there was an issue. Looman stated he felt Mr. Karaus did do some good things, but a change needed to be made. Hebert agreed with Looman's comment and stated the Township Board did try to work with Mr. Karaus, but a change needed to be made. Hebert also stated that the reason for this change wasn't due to just one issue, but a combination of past problems and the most

recent issues. With no further discussion, Hebert called for a roll call vote. **Looman – Yes, Hebert – Yes, Hutchins – Yes, Reimink – Abstain, due to comments made about her husband, Yonkers - Absent. Motion passed 3-0.**

Public comments:

Diana Decker

1705 Lake Michigan Dr - Stated the Township Board is going to get many calls and the board can't make everybody happy.

Bob Simonds

2318 70th Street – Commented on the Ciesla Mineral Mining application, signing of the drawing for the mining application, felt the application was handled in an unprofessional manner, commented on the Campit expansion application. Felt the Planning Commission must handle themselves professionally.

Teresa Wiley

6633 121st Avenue – Unhappy about the Township Board not being available for calls, felt it was unfair to remove Mr. Karaus for not posting a meeting notice correctly and making contact with the township attorney.

Jan Firmiss

1815 66th Street – Stated she attended a Planning Commission meeting where Planning Commission members would not sign a drawing, felt it was unfair to remove Mr. Karaus, felt that Dortha Earl and Scott Bruursema should be removed.

Marsha Maslanka

1811 66th Street – Stated she has attended many Planning Commission meetings and felt Mr. Karaus did a good job of updating ordinances, felt other Planning Commission members acted unprofessionally.

Jerry Schorle

2152 68th St - Disappointed with the Township Board's decision and stated that the Planning Commission will not always agree on everything, that's why there are 7 commissioners.

Diana Decker – Disappointed the Supervisor (Hebert) did not meet with Mr. Karaus.

Susan Pierson

6944 Lakeshore Court – Felt Mr. Karaus worked hard and generated a lot of information. She made a presentation to the Planning Commission regarding rezoning felt the issue was pushed aside. Feels the Planning Commission should address the issue of contaminated wells in the north west corner of the township, the anti-funneling ordinance and use more committees that involve community members. Felt Planning Commissioners that did not agree with certain Planning Commissioners were belittled.

John Solomon

6720 118th Avenue – Disappointed with the Township Board’s decision. Expressed opposition to Campit Campground expansion and would like to maintain a rural residential / agricultural culture in the township.

Herb Bills

1790 Morning Glory Rd – Stated he was on the Lakeshore Association. Hoped more communication can be made between the township and the Lakeshore Association. Would be interested in setting up a meeting between the Lakeshore Association and the township.

Diana Maslanka

6211 118th Avenue – Disappointed in the Township Board’s decision. Feels Mr. Karaus listened to the community members that lived in the center of the township, other Planning Commissioners were unprofessional, expressed concern about the Campit Campground traffic. Feels Mr. Karaus tried to get things going. Disappointed with the way this issue was handled and feels there should be term limits to appointed officials.

Don Maslanka

6211 118th Avenue – Asked if removing Mr. Karaus was a condition of a settlement of a lawsuit.

Susan Smith

6247 122nd Avenue – Stated she cares about the community and feels this change is a positive move. Felt the Planning Commission was stalled.

Dorothy Boillot

1734 65th Street – Stated the township lawsuits are not Mr. Karaus’s fault, disagreed with Mr. Reimink being reappointed to the Planning Commission. Felt Mr. Karaus did a good job, had good ideas and that certain committees were dragging their feet. Feels Mr. Karaus was making progress and new people are needed on the Planning Commission.

Susan Pierson

6944 Lakeshore Court – Stated the Township Board should look into hiring a professional planner to help the Planning Commission.

Jan Firmiss

1815 66th Street – Stated the township doesn’t need professional planners. Feels Saugatuck Township has too much land zoned C3, as a result of a professional planner and now they have problems with it.

Linda Wilcox

6274 122nd Street – Supports the Township Board’s decision. Feels Mr. Karaus worked hard and that communication is very important.

Bob Johnson

2295 70th Street – Stated he has seen many Planning Commissioners come and go. Feels Campit Campground is controlled by the State of Michigan and the township needs to learn to accept it. Feels the Planning Commission and Township Board should be aware of ways to control the campground's expansion.

John Solomon

6720 118th Avenue - Feels Planning Commission members are being removed because they are against the expansion of Campit Campground.

Rob Soltysiak

6322 113th Avenue - Stated he has attended many Planning Commission meetings and the division between the Planning Commission members has stopped all progress. The township needs a more flexible Planning Commission Chairman. Ordinances need to be updated soon and a professional planner can help. Stated he agreed with the Township Board's decision.

Ron Bellenger

1219 62nd Street – Feels the past Supervisor asked for Mr. Karas to be appointed as Planning Commission Chairman and now he is a scapegoat.

Jerry Schorle – Asked the township attorney (Steve McKown) how strong the zoning ordinance is.

Don Maslanka

6211 118th Avenue – Asked if there is a replacement for Mr. Karas.

Bob Simonds

2318 70th Street – Feels the furnace at the township hall needs to be fixed, so it doesn't make so much noise.

Diane Decker - Asked why the Planning Commission is not allowed to contact the attorney directly.

Motion made by Hebert, supported by Hutchins to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed 4-0, with Yonkers absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm

Respectfully submitted,

John Hebert, Supervisor