

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
January 10, 2008
SYNOPSIS

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Walls

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approved Minutes: December 13, 2007 Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$479,494.77
- b) Accepted December 2007 Treasurer's Report
- c) Received December 2007 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fire
- d) Authorized payment of bills as presented, total \$53,293.76
- e) Received communications and placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Township Lake Board Representatives: Established term lengths; Appointed: Mike Forst and Dennis Vallad – Susin Lake; Skip Wendt – Big Lake; Mike Trout – Waumegah Lake
- 2. Authorized execution of Oakland County Fire Mutual Aid Assn. & Box Alarm Agreement
- 3. Appointed Dennis Vallad to ZBA
- 4. 2008 CDBG: Reallocated street improvement funds to Minor Home Repair

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. FY 2008 Tri-Party Program: Designated FY funds to shoulder paving a section of Davisburg Road
- 2. First Reading, Proposed Zoning Map Changes: Authorized Second Reading
- 3. Discussed 2008 Holiday Schedule
- 4. Authorized Sale of old Fire Truck for \$2,625.00
- 5. Discussed purchase of multi-function copier
- 6. Discussed changing elected Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer positions from full time to part time
- 7. Parks Needs Assessment: Authorized Joint Township Board and Parks Commission Meeting: January 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- 8. Clinton River Watershed Council: Authorized 2008 Membership

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNED: 9:35 p.m.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk

Call to Order: Supervisor Collin Walls called the January 10, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Nancy Strole	Township Clerk
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

Board Members Not Present

Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
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Others Present

Greg Need	Township Attorney
Charlie Oaks	Fire Chief

Agenda Additions & Changes:

Supervisor Walls explained Treasurer Dubre was not present because of a recent fire at her home. She expressed her gratitude to the Fire Department for their response to the fire.

Supervisor Walls said that all Board Members had received a request to add a communication from Dennis Vallad in reference to Harbortowne paving.

Also to add under New Business, item 5., Multi Function Copier; item 6., Township Manager discussion; item 7., Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation to discuss their needs survey.

Walls asked to move Consent Agenda, item e) Clinton River Watershed Council to New Business, item 8.

There were no objections to these changes.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

* **Trustee Hopper moved to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the Motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- a) Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2007 Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$479,494.77
- b) Acceptance of December Treasurer's Report
- c) Receipt of December 2007 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fire
- d) Authorize payment of bills presented, totaling \$53,293.76

Receipt of Communications

- Letter from Road Commission for Oakland County regarding relocation costs for publicly owned utilities
- Letter from Oakland County regarding Oakland Brownfield Initiative program
- Memo from Dennis Vallad to update Board on Harbortowne Paving

Public Hearing: None

Old Business:

1. Township Lake Board Representatives

Supervisor Walls gave background information on previous Board Decisions regarding the terms of the representatives and notices to various Lake Board reps and property owners associations about appointment of Lake Board Reps. Mike Forst, Denny Vallad, Mike Trout, Skip Wendt and Judy Hensler contacted Supervisor Walls almost immediately expressing interest in re-appointment. Paul Dombrowski did not respond until recently and Dale Ermshler did not respond to letters or phone call from Skip Wendt.

At the March 2005 Township Board meeting it was determined that those Lake Boards that had one representative, that would be Waumegah, would be a three-year term for the Township's representative effective March 1, 2005. Where there are two representatives, which is Susin Lake, Big Lake and Dixie Lake, there would be three-year terms, but initially there would be one three-year term and then one two-year term so they would be staggered. Appointments were delayed as the Board held discussions. Ultimately there were short-term appointments made. In October 2005 the Board appointed Denny Vallad to the Susin Lake Board but did not set a term, Dale Ermshler to the Big Lake Board but did not set a term and Judy Hensler to the Dixie Lake Board and did not set a term. In December 2005 the Board reappointed Mike Forst to the Susin Lake Board with a four-term, which runs through November 2009. Skip Wendt who was originally appointed for Big Lake Board in January 1979 still serves the Board, never discussed a term. Paul Dombrowski was originally appointed in December 1991, for Dixie Lake and as far as Supervisor Walls could determine, no term was discussed for him. Mike Trout had been appointed for Waumegah in February of 2005, for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2005; therefore his term would expire February 29, 2008.

Supervisor Walls pointed out that starting or stopping a Lake Board term in February or March is a bad idea; it should be in the Fall because that best coincides with the work that will need to be done. October or November would be the best time to start terms.

- * Trustee Cooper moved to set terms as follows: For the Boards that have (2) two reps, (1) one of the terms will be set for (3) three years ending in October 2011 and the other term to end in October 2010. Waumegah with the (1) one rep. would be (3) years ending October 2011. Susin Lake, Big Lake and Dixie Lake will have (1) one term expire in October 2010 and the other in October 2011. At the expiration of all the terms, from then on they will be (3) three-year terms. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Linda Whiting, 8725 Waumegah Road, suggested a limit to the number of terms that a representative could serve.

Clerk Strole asked Linda Whiting why she was suggesting a limit to the number of terms.

Linda Whiting said she had been through a similar situation with her church recently and felt that a limit offers a break in the leadership and could help to avoid territorial type of control and helps to bring in fresh ideas.

- * Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre. The motion carried by 6 to 0 vote.**

For Waumegah Lake, Supervisor Walls said Mr. Bistoff expressed interest in being the Township's representative and Mike Trout has expressed interest in reappointment. Mr. Forney would be interested but recommends Mike Trout for reappointment. For Dixie Lake, Judy Hensler expressed interest, and Paul Dombrowski expressed interest in serving for (1) one more year. For Big Lake, Skip Wendt is interested in reappointment. Susin Lake, Mike Forst is interested in reappointment and Dennis Vallad is interested in reappointment, if no one else steps forward.

- * Clerk Strole moved to appoint Dennis Vallad initially to a (2) two year term, and Mike Forst to a (3) three year term as the Township's representatives for Susin Lake. Dennis Vallad term to expire October 2010 and Mike Trout term to expire October 2011. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**
- * Clerk Strole moved to appoint Skip Wendt to a (3) three year term through October 2011 as the Township's representative for Big Lake and leave the second position open pending suggestions, recommendations or expressions of interest from residents of Big Lake. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent Dubre. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- * **Supervisor Walls moved to appoint Judy Hensler to a (3) three year term through October 2011 as the Township's representative for Dixie Lake and leave the second position open pending input from lake residents. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper. No: none; Absent: Dubre. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**
- **Supervisor Walls moved to reappoint Mike Trout to a (3) three year term through October 2011 as the Township's representative for Waumegah Lake. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Clerk Strole commented that Mike Trout has served well; however there is another individual who is very interested. When there is another resident who has expressed interest and expended enormous amounts of time and personal commitment and developed a wealth of knowledge about Waumegah Lake, we need to encourage those people in their service to the community. Clerk Strole expressed concern that the Township is not sending the right message to encourage involvement in this particular case. This is not a criticism of Mike Trout; he has served well and could serve on any number of boards.

Paul Haduck, 8705 Waumegah Rd. made a comment and expressed support of Mike Trout.

Linda Whiting, 8725 Waumegah Rd. also supported Mike Trout

- * **Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper. No: Strole; Absent: Dubre. The motion carried by a 5 to 1 vote.**

2. Oakland County Fire Mutual Aid Assn. & Box Alarm Agreement

Supervisor Walls referred to a copy of the Resolution adopted by White Lake. The version in the Board packets has been amended to have today's date, Springfield Township's name instead of White Lake, and to add the last paragraph which also resolves to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

- * **Trustee Vallad moved to adopt the Resolution for Approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Participation of the Springfield Township Fire Department in the Oakland County Mutual Aid Association. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Supervisor Walls asked Chief Oaks how long it would take to set up the automatic mutual aid, also called the Box Alarm System. Chief responded that they have some forms to complete, but probably within 6 months.

- * **Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre; Motion carried by 6 to 0 vote.**

3. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment

Supervisor Walls said he has letters of interest from Mike Trout, Dennis Vallad and Kathy Paul. Walls asked for comments from the Board.

Trustee Vallad expressed that it is his opinion that a Township Board member should be on the ZBA. Vallad also mentioned that the Zoning Ordinance was changed recently to allow a non-board member to represent the Township Board on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Vallad was in favor of that change; however he still feels it is important for a Township Board member to be on the ZBA.

- * **Trustee Lamont moved to appoint Dennis Vallad to fill the vacant position on the ZBA, because of his past experience and knowledge of the township as well as previously serving on the ZBA and Planning Commission for many years.**

Supervisor Walls said that the effective date of the appointment was not included with the motion. Walls indicated that the Board previously indicated that his resignation would be effective upon appointment of a replacement.

Clerk Strole asked what the length of the term would be. Supervisor Walls said that the term will be the same as Trustee Vallad's term on the Township Board.

- * **Trustee Lamont amended his motion to make the appointment effective immediately and the term to be the same as length of his Township Board term.**

Clerk Strole commented that she was very impressed with Mike Trout's resume and how well he would have fit on the ZBA. Trout had been with SEMCOG and worked as a zoning and planning specialist, has his planning certification through the Michigan Association of Planners and previously served on the Livonia ZBA.

Trustee Cooper concurred that he had no issues with Dennis Vallad on the ZBA but the more people we have involved in our community the better. We have an opportunity to expand that situation by considering another candidate.

Trustee Vallad suggested that a letter should be sent to Mike Trout to encourage him to apply for any future openings on the ZBA. Trustee Lamont also expressed that he was impressed with Mike Trout's qualifications. Trustee Lamont said that while it is not required that a Township Board member be on the ZBA, he as current Chair of the Planning Commission, sees a lot of value to have that connection.

- **Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont;
No: Cooper; Abstain: Vallad; Absent: Dubre; Motion carried by 4 to 1 vote.**

4. 2008 CDBG Allocation

Supervisor Walls indicated that the \$6573.00 that had been allocated for gravel for Oakhill road but cannot be used for graveling because we have previously used CDBG funds on Oakhill. He had hoped the money could still be used for some road work, but there is not enough to do any type of paving or ditching project. This money needs to be reallocated at tonight's meeting as the deadline to reallocate is tomorrow, January 11, 2008, or we will lose the money.

It is suggested that the money be put into Minor Home Repair.

- * **Clerk Strole moved that the money currently allocated for gravel of Oakhill road in the amount of \$6573.00 be reallocated to Minor Home Repair for 2008. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion: Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre; motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.**

New Business:

1. FY 2008 Tri-Party Program

Supervisor Walls said that we saved a portion of our 2006 fund and all of our 2007 funds for a large project at that time, like repaving the approach to Tindall Road at Davisburg Road or the re-alignment of Big Lake Road at Dixie Highway. The Road Commission for Oakland County would like us to use our funds for what would typically be a maintenance overlay of Andersonville Road or Davisburg Road.

Clerk Strole suggested that the south side of Davisburg Road would be a good pilot to do shoulder paving for pathway use. Some of the shoulders are already paved so there would be enough money in this year's allocation to pave the Davisburg Rd. shoulders from the hamlet to Dixie Highway. Strole pointed out that, while it is not up to Road Commission standards for pathways, it will begin to implement our Township Plan for pathway connections, using the hamlet of Davisburg as the hub/center point, and working our way out from there.

Supervisor Walls also suggested that we should ask the Road Commission for a five year plan from them, so that we as a township could prioritize their needs and perhaps do something more than just an overlay.

- * **Clerk Strole moved to designate the \$113,585.00 in Tri-Party funds for paving of the shoulder on the south side of Davisburg Road, extending from the hamlet of Davisburg to Dixie Hwy, paving as far as the funds will permit. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Supervisor Walls clarified that of the \$113,585.00, \$37,862 of it will be township funds.

Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre; motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.

2. First Reading: Proposed Zoning Map Changes

Supervisor Walls referred to Clerk Strole's cover memo and drawings.

The areas before this Board tonight are:

Portion of Indian Springs Metropark: from RC to PR.
As published and presented at Aug. 2, 2007 Public Hearing

Caribou Lake Estates residential development: from R-1 to RC.
As published for August 2, 2007 Public Hearing, except to delete mowed greenbelt area along Clement Rd.

Bridge Valley residential development: from R-1 to RC.
Nature Preserve area only. This is much less than as published for August 2, 2007 Public Hearing. Only the area of Bridge Valley subdivision already restricted by, Deed Restrictions and a Conservation Easement is included in the rezoning.

Bridge Lake Bluffs residential development: from R-1 to RC.
Planning Commission recommended rezoning, the Nature Preserve/Park and a portion of the Slope Protection Zone running through rear of lots abutting Nature Preserve/Park. However, Supervisor Walls and Clerk Strole recommend that the Board delete from rezoning the area published for Public Hearing that includes a portion of the Slope Protection Zone within lots. The area proposed and published for rezoning within lots by the Planning Commission failed to incorporate most the Slope Protection Zone, which somewhat defeats the intent, and moving the zoning line to the rear boundary of these lots is much cleaner and will be much less confusing for residents.

Heather Highlands Golf Club: from RC to PR, to include for rezoning only those properties or portions of properties currently zoned RC.

Portion of Shiawassee Basin Preserve: from RC to PR, as published for August 2, 2007 Public Hearing.

Supervisor Walls explained that what the Planning Commission has sent to the Board, they have now addressed all but one of the properties where there were concerns expressed or potential problems identified at the August 2, 2007 Planning Commission Public Hearing. They are still reviewing the Shepherd's Hollow/Colombiere property. The Planning Commission did not agree with Huron Clinton Metro Authority that all of the Indian Springs area should be rezoned to

Parks and Recreation, and the Planning Commission is proposing that the Township move forward on that property exactly as it was published.

The Springfield Township Park's suggestion for rezoning an additional portion of the Shiawassee Basin Preserve would require an additional public hearing; the Planning Commission suggests that the Township move ahead with what was originally published for proposed rezoning. A public hearing will be held at a future date on the additional area requested by Parks.

Heather Highlands had no concern by the property owners to changing the RC area to PR, but they had a concern of a change of the commercial area and some of the residential area, so the Planning Commission suggests that the Township only move on with the area proposed to change from RC to PR.

- * Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Clerk to publish these various locations presented this evening, for Second Reading for rezoning. Trustee Vallad supported the motion.**

Clerk Strole indicated she had paperwork to forward to the county, but that she would aim for the February meeting, but it could be March.

- * Vote on the motion. Yes: Wall, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre; motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.**

3. 2008 Holiday Schedule

Supervisor Walls explained that the personnel policy already sets certain days as holidays. Christmas Eve is one of those holidays, as well as Christmas Day and (2) two floating holidays. Following the 2008 calendar, that means after being closed December 24 and 25th, we would come back to work on a Friday, the 26th. Walls suggested that the office be open on the 24th and be closed on the 26th instead. He didn't feel that there would be much productivity on either day but probably less on the 26th.

Clerk Strole strongly suggested that we leave the holiday schedule as is. Strole checked with staff in a couple of the departments and not one of them wanted to see it change from December 24th to December 26th. It has been set as December 24th for at least 15 years and employees have family traditions that are planned year after year. Also, Clerk Strole questioned the logic that saying that on December 26th the employees would be less productive than on the 24th. That assumes they would not be doing their job. The (5) five employees she talked to all wanted the 24th over the 26th and, in fact, find days after holidays are quieter and allow special projects or extra work to get done.

Trustee Vallad commented that being open on the 26th, department heads will need to make sure there is at least one person working to keep the departments open.

Supervisor Walls said he did not poll the employees and did not even think to do that. It was simply based on not having disjointed holidays.

Trustee Cooper expressed that the 24th is an important holiday to his employees at Impressive Type.

Trustee Hopper feels that Christmas Eve should be left as a holiday, as we have in the past.

It was clear the majority did not support the suggested change. Nothing is changing so no motion is needed.

4. Sale of old Fire Truck

Supervisor Walls asked Chief Oaks for a recommendation. Chief Oaks said the only reason he didn't give a recommendation was because they reserved the right to reject any or all bids, and it would normally go to the highest bidder.

Supervisor Walls asked the Chief if he thought we should reject all bids and keep looking for more bids. Chief said we might get a few more dollars but didn't think it would be much. Chief Oaks suggested that we sell to the highest bidder who met the deadline, which is Springfield Metal Works for \$2,625.00.

Trustee Hopper asked the Chief if he knew what the bidders were planning on doing with the truck. Chief said Springfield Metal Works would use it for personal use.

*** Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the sale of the 1980 Ford tanker to Springfield Metal Works for \$2,625.00. Trustee Cooper supported the motion.**

Joe Stefano, 9039 Davisburg Road, suggested trying E-Bay.

It was further explained by Chief Oaks that the tank leaks and has a gas engine with a manual transmission, which are not highly desirable options.

*** Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Dubre; Motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.**

5. Multi-Function Copier

Trustee Vallad said in reviewing the offices downstairs, we have a lot of paper. He suggested getting a scanner and begin scanning into electronic format some of these older documents that are permitted to be done that way. If the State Retention schedule says we must retain an original copy, then we won't do those particular documents. This machine would be able to fax and print.

Trustee Vallad said he is looking for feedback from the members whether they want to put together a bid spec and go out for quotes on a new machine.

Supervisor Walls said he concurs with Trustee Vallad and mentioned that Parks and Recreation had done this a few months ago, in anticipation of their machine dying very soon. Supervisor Walls also suggested that tying a machine like this into the network would offer other benefits besides just scanning records.

Walls said our current copier was purchased for \$9000 in the Spring of 1998. Jason from Waterland Office Machines indicated that a multi-function machine without the finisher (hole puncher and stapler), and still having the same features we have now, would run about \$6000. We wouldn't need to add anything to handle Parks needs, other than perhaps a faster machine, which would add about another \$1000. That would be a black and white copier.

Clerk Strole agrees with Vallad as well, but would suggest that when we go out to look at machines, we need to verify that the type of machine we are looking for is acceptable by the State for records retention. Strole said when she checked on this a few years ago, they were not accepting scanners, so we would need to keep all the paper anyway. The State would only accept microfish. If our goal is to retain records and be able to get rid of the paper, we need to make sure we can actually do that.

Trustee Cooper cautioned us to be looking for a machine that can scan and copy at the same time; otherwise the scanner will tie up the copier and will defeat the purpose of the high speed copier. Perhaps a scanner separate from the copier would be best. Having one machine that does it all will not only tie up the machine, but tie up the staff.

Supervisor Walls summarized that we need to be looking for two functions: a multi-function copier and a scanner. Walls checked the State website and there is assistance available on requirements, plus people that will assist us. Walls asked the Board if anyone objects to putting together a spec sheet and gathering information on costs. No one objected.

Supervisor Walls also said that if Park's machine quits working, they could use the copy machine in the Building Dept. office, since that one is not being used very much.

Walls indicated he would try to come back to the Board in February with information on a multi-function copier. Information on scanning and State requirements might take more time.

6. Township Manager

Trustee Vallad said he was looking to open dialogue on a movement from full-time elected officials to a Township Board with part-time Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees.

The original thinking was to save costs, but Vallad thinks there are other advantages to that form of government. It opens up the positions on the Board to a larger population of people who might want to contribute to their community, who might not otherwise have the time to do that.

Trustee Vallad said the reason he is bringing it up now is because we are approaching May, which is the filing deadline for the August Primary election. If we moved to part-time positions and a manager, there is a lot of work to be done to define who does what. What are the expectations of those positions? But Trustee Vallad is interested in getting input on whether it something this Board wants to pursue.

Supervisor Walls responded that he thinks it is a great idea. He feels it could help with some of the unusual administrative natures of township government. It should offer a much, much wider potential base of people who would be interested or able to run. It could have positive attributes for the community and functioning of the Board.

Trustee Vallad said that the Board would have a more policy-type of approach to government, that it becomes the Board's function to set policy.

Supervisor Walls pointed out that it might be difficult for some to delegate duties to others, yet still be responsible.

Trustee Hopper feels we owe it to our residents and taxpayers to look at this, because Trustee Vallad's memo indicates this could be a \$76,300 savings. Considering what revenue we are getting from the State, we need to look everywhere.

Trustee Vallad responded that, in fact, it probably would be less than \$76,000, more like \$50,000. The State Shared Revenue, over the years, has been reduced by 35% and it is his opinion that the Township will never see that money again.

Clerk Strole responded she feels it is an excellent idea. Strole feels that the time is right to look into this. She agrees that this could open up interest by individuals who otherwise might not be able to consider going for the positions. But Clerk Strole cautioned the Board that we really need to look beneath the surface. What appears at a first look to be a savings might not be there. Hopefully, we will be able to save some money. She said that adding a manager and a part-time Supervisor is not an expense reduction, it would be an expense increase in that area. To simply cut out the full-time Clerk's or Treasurer's position, especially when that position is doing a lot of the work, doesn't necessarily mean that the remaining staff is going to be able to absorb all of that work. In the case of Oakland Twp., they have gone to a part-time Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer. With the Clerk's and Treasurer's offices, it was actually expense neutral, because the Deputy assumed more management responsibility, and then they had to hire another person to conduct the other work previously done by the Clerk. While there may be places we can save money, we need to be careful to not assume automatically that it would be a savings. Also, there are statutory responsibilities that the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer might love to spin off to someone else, but under the law it is not possible.

Trustee Vallad said the responsibility cannot be spun off but the day to day work required for that can be. Clerk Strole agreed that the Clerk can delegate but, under the law, the Clerk is still responsible. Vallad agreed.

Clerk Strole summarized that she is supportive of this idea and that we need to be timely in looking into it. Strole said she would be happy to talk with anyone on the Board, if they would like more detail on what she is talking about or what would be involved. Please just give her a call.

Trustee Vallad wants to know if there is enough interest from the Board to gather information and come back to the February meeting. Vallad asked Trustee Lamont to tell the Board about the information he got from Oakland Twp.

Trustee Lamont commented he thinks it is good that the Financial Planning Committee opened up the “out of the box” thinking, to think of the opportunity to save the residents of Springfield Twp. costs or at least run more efficiently. Lamont relayed that the part-time idea was discussed at the Financial Planning meeting and thinks it is worth exploring. He contact Oakland Twp. on how they evolved from a full-time to a part-time status and how it is working for them. Oakland Twp. is expense neutral on this, as Clerk Strole mentioned, however Oakland Twp. feels they are running more efficiently, are more responsive to the needs of the community and are more interactive with the elected officials at the county. The Supervisor at Oakland Twp. enjoys her position and pops in and out of the township whenever need be, and is in constant touch by phone.

Trustee Lamont thinks we should research this further, either by a workshop or by continuing on with the Financial Committee to try to answer some of the questions that many of us have: such as “How would it work?”, “How do we see it working?”, “How does it potentially work?”, “What responsibilities would the manager have?”, “How much empowerment would they have?”, “What kind of candidate would we be seeking?” “What kind of term, annual review?” It is government improving efficiency.

Trustee Vallad said, even if it is expense neutral, but you can improve your efficiency, you are getting a bigger bang for your buck. We would like to reduce costs, but if we can improve efficiency we are moving in the right direction.

Trustee Lamont said Grand Blanc Township is operating with a manager and part-time elected officials. He said he tried to get in touch with an elected person at Grand Blanc but since they are part-time they weren’t in. He is now playing phone tag.

Trustee Cooper agrees it is a good idea to check out but is not sure it is practical to think we can get things done in time for the election in August. Cooper doesn’t think there is enough time. He agrees with Clerk Strole and doesn’t think there will be a savings, but may turn out to be expense neutral. We would be cutting back the number of hours from the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer, but you are hiring only one person [a Township Manager] and with the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer being part-time, you can’t depend on them to do much of the work.

Trustee Vallad said that his idea would include the Trustees spending more time as part of the part-time Township Board. They may have to commit to more hours than they currently do.

Clerk Strole asked what would they do? Help with the elections?

Trustee Cooper said that the part-time positions would be policy makers. The Board is not going to be the ones doing the work, and the employees would be the work. The Board is only overseeing the work. It has to be one or the other.

Clerk Strole concurred with Trustee Cooper and pointed out that one of the stated advantages of the part-time positions was that they can focus more on the legislative and policy sides and less of the day to day operations.

Supervisor Walls says that since everyone agrees this is an idea worth pursuing, then what kind of information do we need to gather and who will do it?

Trustee Vallad proposes the following: sit down with the Financial Planning Review committee again next week. The meeting has not been called yet, but he would like to have the meeting next Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 5:30 pm. Trustee Cooper indicated he would be available. Trustee Vallad said he will put together an agenda to continue the discussion. Vallad says he wants to talk with Trustees Lamont and Cooper over what they need to gather over the next 30 days to be able to bring this back to the February Township Board Meeting, or perhaps in March. Vallad says he thinks they should have interviews with the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer on some specific issues on work. What has to be done? What can be delegated? What cannot be delegated?

Clerk Strole said that it is very important to gather that information to come up with a successful plan.

Trustee Vallad said he wants to put together his thoughts and then at the Financial Planning Meeting go over it with Trustees Lamont and Cooper and the “girls downstairs” and then lay out the plan.

Trustee Cooper asked if he was trying to put this whole thing together by the August election.

Trustee Vallad said yes. Actually it would be before that, it would have to be by May, 2008. It would actually have to be done and approved at the April Township Board Meeting.

Supervisor Walls pointed out that this Board could do the research and perhaps attract more candidates and then the electorate will vote on who they want. That Board could change the policy after they take office.

Trustee Vallad suggested hiring a manager in September or October in preparation for the November election.

Supervisor Walls said that you have to be careful. There could be seven new faces sitting at the Board table after the election, that doesn't want to continue with what this Board came up with. You could end up hiring a manager in October and then in December they are out of a job.

Clerk Strole provided information given to her by someone who had attended an MTA workshop on using Township Managers when bringing on a Superintendent/Manager, it is critical that they are on the same page as the Supervisor regarding the Manager position. It would be very uncomfortable to have a Manager who has to report to a Supervisor who isn't supportive of the Manager position. The Supervisor could be undermining the Superintendent/Manager at every turn.

Trustee Vallad said that he and Trustees Lamont and Cooper should get together next week to go over things.

Supervisor Walls said that perhaps we should try to get the information that was at the MTA workshop regarding Township Superintendents/Managers. Clerk Strole said she would call her contact from the MTA workshop and see if she can get any of the handouts.

Trustee Cooper suggested a special Township Board meeting at some point to go over everything.

7. Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Tucker, Director of Parks and Recreation is requesting a joint meeting by the Parks Commission with the Township Board to go over the findings of their Resident Survey and Needs Assessment study. Parks would like to have the meeting the last week of January or early to mid February.

- 1st choice: Tuesday, January 29, 2008
- 2nd choice: Wednesday, January 30, 2008
- 3rd choice: Thursday, January 31, 2008

Supervisor Walls will relay the dates to Jennifer Tucker and also request that a copy of the survey be available to the Township Board members no later than Thursday, January 24, so they have the week-end to look it over.

8. Renewal of membership for Clinton River Watershed Council

Supervisor Walls expressed his opinion that he doesn't think that under these financial times we should be paying dues to Clinton River Watershed Council or similar groups.

Clerk Strole feels that \$250 is a small amount to pay for the information we have access to through this Council. The Council has a new Executive Director, who Strole has met with and who is highly qualified and understands township's needs.

- * Strole moved to approve membership in the Clinton River Watershed Council for 2008 and pay dues of \$250. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Trustee Lamont asked what direct benefits do we get from membership?

Clerk Strole said we can take advantage of any educational programs, storm water management, monitoring and sampling.

Trustee Cooper asked, if we don't pay the dues, they don't to the monitoring or sampling?

Strole said we can't call them and expect services if we aren't members.

Lamont asked Clerk Strole if Independence twp. is a member. Strole said, yes.

Trustee Vallad said he thinks this organization is worth the \$250.

Janis Monaco, 6813 Deerhill Dr., Independence Twp., asked about the DEQ and what they provide.

*** Vote on the motion. Yes: Strole, Hopper, Vallad, Lamont; No: Walls, Cooper; Absent: Dubre. The motion passed with a 4 to 2 vote.**

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Walls adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Collin W. Walls, Township Supervisor

Nancy Strole, Township Clerk

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**GENERAL FUND**

Carlisle/Wortman Assoc., Inc. (2)	\$ 1,087.50
Petty Cash (2)	148.18
Environmental Systems Research Inst.	1,300.00
Vicki Sievers	49.47
Mechanical Comfort, Inc.	1,920.00
Karen Binasio (2)	406.00
Lighting Supply Co.	781.75
Dennis Vallad	310.74
Absolute Building Maintenance	2,735.00
Jamie Dubre	717.68
Office Depot	21.54
Smith's Disposal	65.00
DTE Energy (2)	1,372.65
Michigan Municipal League	10,058.16
Selective Insurance Co.	3,968.64
Sherman Publications	<u>1,774.38</u>
TOTAL	\$ 26,716.69

Additional Disbursements:

McLeod (2)	\$ 1,681.70
Suburban Office & Janitorial	105.58
Sherman Publications	1,774.38
Springfield Twp. Parks & Rec.	351.50
DTE Energy (2)	1,329.89
DTE Energy – Street Lighting	1,759.92
Clinton River Watershed Council	250.00
Carol Jones	21.72
Absolute Building Maintenance	2,735.00
Ann Everett	12.12
Mike Forst	1,589.05
Consumers Energy	1,908.49
A&C Builders Hardware, Inc.	131.00
Oakland County	2,193.57
Spring Mountain Water Co.	27.50
No Limits Landscaping	1,135.00
Karen Binasio	62.00

Oakland county Elections	240.00
Adkison, Need & Allen PLLC	2,852.16
Nextel	24.36
American Speedy Printing	131.10
Unicare	178.23
UNUM	313.25
Carlisle/Wortman, Assoc., Inc.	2,550.00
Michigan Riparian	10.00
Collin walls	88.00
Quill	688.09
Impressive Type, LLC	58.60
League Employee Benefit Services	<u>10,058.16</u>
TOTAL	\$ 34,260.37
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 60,977.06</u>

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

FIRE FUND

Marlan Hillman	201.19
Petty Cash	3.98
Holly Automotive Supply	3.80
American Messaging	77.03
Office Products Outlet (3)	8,161.30
Cavalier	266.99
Clyde's Frame & Wheel	432.32
Comcast	13.04
DTE Energy (2)	705.02
Kerton Lumber	32.15
Mazza Auto Parts	39.90
Michigan Water Conditioning	22.50
Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs	80.00
Morris & Sons Rebuilders	349.00
W.S. Darley & Co. (2)	398.75
Hewlett – Packard Company	8,388.00
Selective Insurance Co.	1,946.88
Michigan Municipal League	2,514.54

Home Depot	51.29
R.K. Communications, Inc.	806.65
Nextel Communications	35.99
Suburban Office & Jan. Supplies	<u>75.49</u>
TOTAL	\$ 24,605.81

Additional Disbursements:

R.K. Communications, Inc.	\$ 806.65
W.S. Darley & Co.	216.43
Nextel Communications (2)	104.44
Suburban Office & Janitorial	75.49
Home Depot	51.29
Consumers Energy	1,972.75
Genesys – EMS Education	2,200.00
McKays Hardware, Inc.	36.99
Oakland County – Health Dept.	75.00
Mark’s Homes, Inc.	73,190.84
Oakland County – Sheriff’s Dept.	1,452.00
No Limits Landscaping	460.00
Selective Insurance	658.00
Unicare	47.58
UNUM	83.16
Ray Kee	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 81,730.62
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 106,336.43</u>

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

NONE

TOTAL

POLICE FUND

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00

Additional Disbursements:

Oakland County – Sheriff’s Dept.	<u>\$ 115,338.25</u>
TOTAL	\$ 115,338.25
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 115,338.25</u>

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

NONE

TOTAL**GRAND TOTAL****CABLE TV FUND**

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00**\$ 0.00****BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**

NONE

TOTAL**GRAND TOTAL****CIVIC CENTER DEBT
FUND**

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00**\$ 0.00****BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**

Ron Shelton

Tim Koerber

Charles B. Warner

Refund – Baldwin Electric

Lewis Benfield

TOTAL**BUILDING DEPT FUND**

410.53

387.35

559.00

212.00

402.38**\$ 1,971.26****Additional Disbursements:**

Nextel Communications

Code Enforcement Services, Inc.

Grant Ward Surveyors

Unicare

Unemployment Insurance Agency

BS&A Software

TOTAL**GRAND TOTAL**

92.23

3,500.00

238.50

19.50

1,448.00

700.00**\$ 5,998.23****\$ 7,969.49****BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**

NONE

TOTAL**LAKE IMPROVEMENT
FUND**

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00**Additional Disbursements:***Waumegah Well*

DTE Energy

Auto Owners Insurance

\$ 8.78

684.00

Dixie Lake

Aqua-Weed Control, Inc.

\$ 650.00

Progressive AE

2,000.00

TOTAL

\$ 3,342.78

GRAND TOTAL

\$ 3,342.78

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

SOFTWATER LAKE FUND

None

\$ 0.00

TOTAL

\$ 0.00

GRAND TOTAL

\$ 0.00

GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS

\$ 293,964.01