

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
December 8th, 2005
SYNOPSIS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approved Minutes: November 10, 2005, Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$180,286.23
- b) Accepted November 2005 Treasurer's Report
- c) Received November 2005 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical; Litigation; Fire & Ordinance
- d) Authorized payment of bills as presented, total \$56,789.37
- e) Authorized increase in Return Check Fees from \$20.00 to \$30.00 as requested by the Treasurer
- f) Approved Joan Renny to the Board of Directors, Holly Area Youth Assistance
- g) Adopted 2006 Board of Review Property Tax Exemption Standards
- h) Approved 2006 Meeting Dates – 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.: Springfield Township Civic Center.
- i) Approved Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Refunding Bonds not to exceed \$3,400,000.00
- j) Adopted Amendments to Township Board Rules of Procedure
- k) Received communications and placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussed Retiree Benefits

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. First Reading: Amendment, Consolidated Fee Ordinance No. 51: Authorized Second Reading
- 2. Scheduled Township Board Financial Planning Meeting for Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., Springfield Township Civic Center
- 3. First Reading: Tabled proposed amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance No. 48
- 4. First Reading, Rezoning – 9191 Dixie Highway, 07-14-478-037: Authorized Second Reading
- 5. Approved 2006 Salaries
- 6. Adopted Budget Amendments for General, Fire, Police, Bridge Lake Rd., Civic Center Debt, Building Dept., and Lake Improvement Funds
- 7. Designated Clarkston News/Penny Stretcher as 2006 Primary legal publication and Clarkston Eccentric and Oakland Press as back-up publications.
- 8. Discussed participation in Leadership Clarkston Meeting
- 9. Dangerous Building, 8969 Loughheed Island, 07-10-227-012: Set Show Cause Hearing for 7:00 p.m., January 12, 2006, Springfield Township Civic Center
- 10. Discussed Susin Lake Board Representation

ADJOURNED: 9:35 p.m.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk

Call to Order: Supervisor Collin Walls called the December 8, 2005 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
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Nancy Strole	Township Clerk
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee

Others Present

Greg Need	Township Attorney
Leon Genre	Planning Director
Charlie Oaks	Township Fire Chief

Agenda Additions & Changes:

Supervisor Walls suggested eliminating Old Business item #1 and Old Business item #3 until further notice.

Trustee Vallad asked to add under Other Business: Susin Lake Improvement Board Representative.

There were no objections to the revisions.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

- **Trustee Hopper moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Vallad supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.**

- a) Approval of Minutes: November 10, 2005, Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$180,286.23.

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- b) Acceptance of November 2005 Treasurer's Report.
- c) Receipt of November 2005 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Litigation, Fire, Ordinance, Assessing.
- d) Authorize payment of bills as presented, totaling \$56,789.37.
- e) Authorize increase in Return Check fees from \$20.00 to \$30.00, as requested by the Treasurer.
- f) Approval of Joan Renny to the Board of Directors, Holly Area Youth Assistance.
- g) Adoption of 2006 Board of Review Property Tax Exemption Standards.
- h) Approve 2006 Meeting Dates – 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.; Springfield Township Civic Center.
- i) Approve Resolution to authorize the Issuance of Refunding Bonds not to exceed \$3,400,000.00.
- j) Adopt Amendments to Township Board Rules of Procedure as submitted. (Copy to be attached to minutes).
- k) Receipt of Communications
 - Memo re: Resignation of Karl Heiss, Appraiser I, Assessing Department, effective December 2, 2005.

Old Business:

1. Retiree Benefits

Supervisor Walls said the Board discussed changes to the Township's Retiree Benefits policy in June and the law firm that was retained did not move in a very timely manner. He would be looking for an alternate law firm soon, but in the meantime we need to proceed with the benefits discussion. Supervisor Walls said Blue Cross/Blue Shield could no longer require an employer to contribute to retiree medical benefits. The draft provided by the attorney continues the benefit, referred to as Tier #2, currently paid to a retired Building Inspector and is a current benefit paid to our former fire chief, referred to as Tier 3. Supervisor Walls said we should be able to come up with a simple statement that covers those two existing retirees.

Clerk Strole said she agrees and also agrees with seeking a new attorney to draft future documents.

Supervisor Walls explained that this would be a program where the retired employee would pay for all of their medical coverage and would simply be allowed to continue on the Township's coverage. There would be no additional cost to the Township.

Trustee Vallad suggested that the retirement age should be 55 with five years minimum employment. The Board concurred. The Board also agreed to include surviving spouse coverage.

New Business:

1. Fee Ordinance No. 51 Amendment

➤ **Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Clerk to publish for 2nd Reading at the earliest opportunity. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.**

2. Financial Planning Meeting

The Board agreed to hold a special Financial Planning Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

3. Liquor Control Ordinance No. 48 Amendment – 1st Reading

Supervisor Walls suggested reviewing the amendments and giving it back to Greg Need to make necessary revisions.

Supervisor Walls noted on page 5, Section B 9, the proposed amendment would prohibit a microbrewery. There were no objections to revising it to include a microbrewery. Supervisor Walls suggested, page 5, Section B 10 should be revised because we could not transfer a license on any existing facility as written.

Clerk Strole said page 6, paragraph E states that the Township may adopt a resolution granting approval. She asked if the word “grant” should be changed to “recommend” since we are really not the granting authority. Mr. Need said he concurred and would make the change. Clerk Strole asked if liquor licenses could be sold by a licensee to establishments located in other communities? Mr. Need said he did not know and would look into this.

4. Rezoning – 1st Reading: 9191 Dixie Highway – Parcel I.D. # 07-14-478-037

Supervisor Walls said the Planning Commission recommended denial and the Township Planner recommended approval. Supervisor Walls said there was a concern over access over old Loyal Wing at the Public Hearing and suggested that particular area be excluded from any 2nd Reading. Therefore, if that area is left residential rather than office, a driveway for non-residential purposes would not be allowed. The Board members agreed. Supervisor Walls said one of the Planning Commissioners made a statement that this request is inconsistent with the Township plans and policies including the Dixie Highway Corridor Plan; that is not correct. The Dixie Corridor plan calls for this property to be office. There was also a concern over access onto Softwater Woods Drive, which is much easier to deal with as an office parcel, if that is relevant, because it must have site plan approval.

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➤ Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Clerk to publish for 2nd Reading the requested change from R-2 to Office/Service, excluding the 25 foot wide by approximately 300 foot deep parcel immediately adjacent to parcel 07-14-478-005. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.

5. 2006 Salaries

Supervisor Walls said there were no budgeted wage increases included with the exception of the Fire Department. However, there was previously a reference to a wage increase proposed in the Treasurer's office as well as a possible suggestion for the full-time firefighter change.

➤ Trustee Cooper moved to raise the two full-time firefighters pay by \$1,000 each for 2006. Trustee Vallad supported the motion.

Clerk Strole said she does understand the rationale and is not contending that they are not worth it but we are under extraordinary budgetary circumstances and are looking at recommendations for a freeze for all salaries and does not agree with the wage increase. Treasurer Dubre said some time ago, when the Board did do the full time firefighters, it was a starting base and was not meant to stay that way.

➤ Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Vallad, Lamont, Cooper and Hopper; No: Strole. The motion carried by a 6 to 1 vote.

Regarding the General Fund, Trustee Vallad noted that he agrees with the recommendation by the Treasurer for an increase for the position of Treasurer Clerical to be changed to Treasurer Assistant and an increase in pay but does not agree with an increase up to \$27,900. Trustee Vallad said he would be more comfortable with a 10% increase which would amount to \$27,600. He explained that Treasurer Dubre explained last year that she was holding back on salary for that position because it was new but he believes a 10% increase is sufficient at this time.

Clerk Strole said she does not agree with the recommendation by Trustee Vallad to increase the pay for this position. She said she reviewed the job description and does not agree that it is not consistent with the responsibilities of the other positions such as in the Clerk's and Assessing office. Clerk Strole said granting this increase could raise a problem and real issues with respect to other positions, and she believes all of the positions in the office are continually taking on additional tasks.

➤ Trustee Cooper moved that the Treasurer Clerk position become the Treasurer Assistant and the pay would increase to \$26,300.00. Trustee Vallad supported the motion.

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Treasurer Dubre said she disagrees with Clerk Strole. The job descriptions are so far off base compared to what the jobs are and have been that way since she has been on the Board and some of the wages are offensive.

➤ **Vote on the motion. Yes: Cooper; No: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper and Lamont. The motion failed by a 6 to 1 vote.**

➤ **Trustee Vallad moved to set the salary at \$27,600 and change the title to Treasurer Assistant. Treasurer Dubre supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Vallad, Hopper and Lamont; No: Strole and Cooper. The motion carried by a 5 to 2 vote.**

Supervisor Walls said he originally suggested the Assessing Clerk position be increased to \$25,900 but would now prefer to see how the Assessing office will work with three people and put this on the agenda for discussion at the January Special meeting with the understanding that any change would be retroactive. There were no objections.

Clerk Strole said she would like to discuss consideration of a wage increase for the clerical position in the Clerk's office at the January Special meeting. There were no objections.

➤ **Supervisor Walls moved that all 2006 salaries under the jurisdiction of the Township Board with the exception of the Treasurer's Assistant and the full-time firefighters remain the same as 2005. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.**

6. 2005 Budgets: Amendments

➤ **Trustee Vallad moved the 2005 Budget Amendments as presented this evening with the corrections to the original supplied memo dated 12/5/05. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.**

7. 2006 Legal Publications

Clerk Strole suggested using the Clarkston News as our primary newspaper for public notices. As explained in her memo dated 12/1/05, she believes the Clarkston News and Penny Stretcher can provide better public notice access by reaching every Township mailbox and through its website at a fee which would be close to what we have paid to the Clarkston Eccentric.

➤ **Clerk Strole moved for the 2006 fiscal year, the Township designate the Clarkston News/Penny Stretcher as its primary legal publication, at a not to exceed rate of \$8,000**

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and per the services set forth in its proposal, and the Clarkston Eccentric and Oakland Press as back-up publications. Trustee Cooper supported the motion.

Supervisor Walls commented that he does not see we are gaining any benefit from this and believes we are locking ourselves into a rate that would be greater than or the same as what we are paying for 2005 and going into a time when we are assuming a reduction in development. He does not see any reason to change as the service being provided has been excellent.

➤ Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Strole, Cooper and Vallad; No: Walls, Hopper and Lamont. The motion carried by a 4 to 3 vote.

8. Leadership Clarkston Discussion

Trustee Cooper said this group really wants to work with Springfield Township is are trying to work up different programs to work with Independence Township and Clarkston schools and do joint projects. They are looking to the Springfield Township Board if there are any projects they would like to see brought to the table for discussion. Trustee Cooper said the Leadership Clarkston group would like to have a joint meeting with Springfield Township in February. The Board members concurred this would be a good idea. Supervisor Walls suggested recreational programs as a good topic.

9. Set Dangerous Building Show Cause Hearing: Date & Time: 8969 Loughheed Island. Parcel I.D. # 07-10-277-012

➤ Supervisor Walls moved to set the Dangerous Building Show Cause Hearing for 8969 Loughheed Island for 7:00 p.m., January 12, 2006. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Vallad, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none. The motion carried by a 7 to 0 vote.

Other Business:

1. Susin Lake Improvement Board Representative

Trustee Vallad said that Mike Forst's term expired last summer and has agreed to stay on as the Township's representative if that is desired by the Township. The Board agreed unanimously to reappoint Mike Forst to the Susin Lake Improvement Board through November 30, 2009.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Walls adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Collin W. Walls, Township Supervisor

Nancy Strole, Township Clerk