

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING

AUGUST 9TH, 2007

1. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Root at 7:00 P.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Meert, Root, Stone, Hephner
4. Absent: Hess
5. Others present: Bea Hill, Jesse Richardson, James Dover, Jerry Wellman, Chris Siebenmark
6. A motion was made by Stone and seconded by Hephner to accept the consent agenda and the minutes of the July 12 Regular Meeting. All yes. Motion passed.
7. A motion was made by Hephner and seconded by Stone to accept the monthly bills. All yes. Motion passed.
8. Open Discussion: Chris Siebenmark, the District Representative for Ron Jelinek, talked about the State of Michigan's economy, the budget, what things are being done and considered in Lansing, and encouraged people to get out and vote.
9. Correspondence and reports:
 - A. Erik Litts, the assessor gave an update of his progress. He stated that at this time he had approximately 100 of the home inspections completed. He has been in touch with the State Tax Commission and they were happy with his progress and the reports he had filed with them. When he completes his home inspection on your property he will leave a card that states he has been to your home. If you absolutely do not want him on your property, you may stop by the Township Hall and fill out a card requesting that he does not enter your property.
 - B. MTA is holding their fall conference at Lawrence on September 10th if anyone is interested in attending.
 - C. Root has contacted M-DOT regarding the intersection of 32nd St. and M-40. The intersection is complete, but not as the Township had requested it to be done. M-Dot's reply was that it was fixed this way because the State ran out of money. Root stated that the intersection was now more dangerous than ever and asked M-Dot to re-evaluate the intersection to see what could be done, possibly a flashing light.
 - D. Root has finally received correspondence regarding the demolished trailer on CR 390. Wells Fargo Bank now owns the property and the Township will have to work with them to take care of the trailer.
 - E. Root received a notice that the County will be spraying for brush control in August and September.
10. Committee Reports:
 - A. Sheriff's Report: None Submitted.

- B. Fire Board: Root gave an update that at the last meeting Pat Wioskowski was promoted to Fire Chief and long time Chairman Bob McNamara retired. His replacement will be appointed by the Board at the August 28th meeting.
 - C. Neighborhood Watch: Kendall is still having problems with children at large all hours of the night. The elderly do not feel safe in the neighborhood anymore. Neighborhood Watch wants people to be aware and report anything suspicious, they also are looking for volunteers. An audience member suggested lowering the speed limit in Kendall to 25 miles per hour.
 - D. Planning Commission: Working on Ordinance changes.
 - E. Treasurer's Report: Submitted.
 - F. County Commissioner's Report: The County Commission has asked all townships for their opinion on the barking dog ordinance. They will consider all written comments and vote on the ordinance August 28th at 4:30.
11. Old Business: We had comments on the possibility of communications from the Township with the community last month. Root has written a proposed survey for the Board to consider enclosing in the December tax bill. Meert stated she has made arrangements for the Board minutes to be posted on the Pine Grove Website, which would not cost anything, compared to a newsletter at the cost of \$5000.00. Root stated that the Monday hometown Gazette also had the Township information available.

Root reviewed the estimates for the excavation and concrete ramp at the re-cycle center. We received three bids, one for \$11,910.00, one for \$14822.35, and one for \$19,900.00. Root asked the Board if they would like to consider going ahead with this project being that if we took the low bid it would take over five years to recover our cost. Hephner stated that she is the one that receipts in the monies for the re-cycle center and she has talked to Jim Sumner about why we are dumping the dumpster so often. He seems to feel it is because people are bringing in larger items more often than they were before. He used the example of large chairs, couches, and carpeting. Hephner asked at this point instead of jumping into a costly project, wouldn't it make sense to charge people more for bringing in the large items? Root stated that we are currently charging \$10.00 for large items. Meert stated that we do not charge for appliances at the current time and Root suggested that maybe we should start. Root suggested we hold off on the construction of the ramp. Bea Hill asked if the Board would consider people buying their tickets for the dump station at the Township Hall. Root said we would look into it. Root made a motion and it was supported by Meert to put a surcharge of \$15.00 per large item including metal appliances brought into the re-cycle center effective August 10, 2007. All yes. Motion passed.

The Board has another Eagle Scout Project it is considering. Root read a letter received by the Board from Laura Strehlow, who requested that the letter be read publicly at the meeting regarding the Eagle Scout Project pertaining to the memorial for unborn children in the cemetery. (Attached to the minutes) Jeremy had three proposals for the Board to consider with the first proposal being his choice. He had had a lot of positive feed back about the project, with one lady volunteering to donate two cemetery lots for the project which would bring the cost down considerably. Jeremy asked the Board to vote on The Township participating in the memorial to unborn children first, because that was his first choice. The Board voted on the participation of the Township in the Eagle Scout Project for a memorial for unborn children. Roll call vote: Meert-no, Root-no, Hephner-no, Stone-no. Jeremy then asked if the Township would vote on the second choice which was a new sign and a fence for the front of the cemetery. Root stated since the last meeting the clerk has checked and there does not appear to be room for the sign and the fence in the front of the cemetery. There are two lots open, where the sign is now, that would be available if the Board would like to consider that possibility. Jeremy stated the sign would match the one in the Kendall Park and include the wording that is on the sign in the cemetery now. He would also include four refuse barrels that would be chained down and two benches. Jeremy estimated the total cost of this project to be approximately \$1000.00. Root made a motion and it was supported by Hephner to accept the Eagle Scout Project of a sign in the Kendall Cemetery, 4 refuse barrels, and two benches, not to exceed the cost of \$1000.00 with the Township participating in one half the cost. Roll Call Vote: Meert-yes, Root-yes, Hephner-yes, Stone-yes. Motion passed.

12. New Business:

A. Pine Grove Township has an ownership interest in LakeView Community Hospital. They are asking Pine Grove Township to approve the language for the November ballot for the sale of Lakeview Community Hospital to Bronson Healthcare Group. Hephner thought the words Lakeview Community Hospital should be inserted in the last line. Root made a motion supported by Stone to approve the ballot language to read "Shall the Lakeview Community Hospital Authority sell LakeView Community Hospital and other agreed upon assets to an entity affiliated with Bronson Healthcare Group, on terms negotiated by the LakeView Community Hospital Authority board". Roll call vote: Meert-yes, Root-yes, Hephner-yes, Stone-yes. Motion passed.

B. The Township had a request for a special permit for fireworks from a Mr. Hazard. Root gave him all the applications he needed, and also contacted the Township Attorney regarding this matter. The only authority that can issue a firework permit is the Township. Meert had found a resolution passed by Pine Grove Township that the Township would not issue any firework permits. The Attorney stated that the resolution would have to be overturned in order to be able to issue the permit, and it would be against his recommendation because of safety

issues. Hephner made a motion and it was supported by Stone that we support the previous resolution of 1997 to not issue firework permits in Pine Grove Township. Roll call vote: Meert-yes, Root-yes, Hephner-yes, Stone-yes. Motion passed.

C. Hephner, as Treasurer, has received many tax payments that are a few cents over the tax amount. Hephner would like the Board to make a policy about not refunding these overpayments unless they are over by a certain amount. Root made a motion and it was supported by Stone to not refund any property tax over payment unless it was \$5.00 or greater. All yes. Motion passed.

D. Root received a request for prosecution on property located at 24998 CR388 to late to put on the agenda. Hephner made a motion and it was supported by Meert to consider the request for prosecution from Tasha Smalley on property at 24998 CR 388. All yes. Motion passed. This request is based on an ordinance that these people have four horses and they are not allowed to have that many. Meert said that we have two ordinances that seem to be conflicting. Article 4 states that R-1 zoning may not have any feeding or pasturage of livestock. Article 16 states that R-1 zoning, over two acres, may have one livestock animal per operational acre. Since the people at 24998 CR388 have 4.98 acres, I don't feel they are in violation of any ordinance with four horses. I also feel the Article 16 would take precedence because it is the most recent. A question was brought up about the correspondence between the property owner and Michigan Township Services. Hephner made a motion and it was supported by Meert to not prosecute the owners of 24998 CR 388 as requested by Tasha Smalley at Michigan Township Services. All yes. Motion passed.

D. Root received an estimate from the Road Commission for additional work on North Lakeshore Drive. Root made a motion that was supported by Hephner to talk about the estimate to repair North Lakeshore Drive. All yes. Motion passed. There is a small part that is in need of repair and it would make sense to repair this part of the road when the Road Commission is there doing the other part of the road. The estimate to repair the road amounted to \$37950.00. Hephner asked if there was sufficient funds to do this at this time? Root stated we had approximately \$70,000 that we did not use this year for our road budget. A question was asked if there were any other roads that were in need of repair. Root stated that this road was in bad shape and was traveled a lot. Root made a motion and it was supported by Hephner to accept the bid from Van Buren County Road Commission of \$37950.00 to fix North Lakeshore Drive. Roll Call Vote; Meert-yes, Root-yes, Hephner-yes, Stone-yes. Motion passed.

13. Public Discussion: Kathy Garrett, the owner of the Kendall Store asked if the Township could do something about the unruly children in Kendall.

They are rude to her customers, they have knocked people down, they use foul language, they sleep in the Kendall Park, they sleep in parked cars, and there is nudity, alcohol and cigarettes. Some of the elderly are afraid to go out at night anymore, and it is not a good environment for the younger children that live in town. The police have been involved but with the cutbacks can not be here all the time. Someone asked if the Township could make more rules that the police could then enforce, such as a loitering ordinance, curfew, and fining the parents of these children. Meert asked about the possibility of Pine Grove Township hiring their own policeman. Root is going to check on these different options to see what the Township can do.

14. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Meert, Clerk