

# **PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING**

## **SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2007**

1. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Root at 7:00 P.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Meert, Root, Hess, Hephner,
4. Others present: Whitney Wolcott, Bea Hill, Jesse Richardson, Jim Ray, Pat Wieskowski
5. A motion was made by Hephner and seconded by Meert to accept the consent agenda and the minutes of the August 9th Regular Meeting. All yes. Motion passed.
6. A motion was made by Hess and seconded by Hephner to accept the monthly bills. All yes. Motion passed.
7. Open Discussion: Mrs. Hopwood asked if the Township was going to consider hiring a police officer. Root responded that it would be addressed later in the meeting. Holly Osmun asked why the property at 24998 CR 388 had not removed their horses from the property. Holly stated that she has been complaining about the horses since April and nothing has been done. The owner has four horses and only one and a half acres fenced in. Root explained that the Planning Commission was looking into this complaint, because it had been brought before the Board last month for prosecution. The Board decided not to prosecute because Mr. Dover has 4.98 acres and the Ordinance reads one livestock animal per operational acre. The Planning Commission meets in October so the Board will address this issue again in the November meeting. Holly asked why this has taken so long and how much longer it will take. Root explained that there is a process for these complaints and they do take time. The ordinance is not clear because of the word operational. Dover's attorney stated that this ordinance was unfair and unclear and that is one reason the Board decided to hold off on prosecution until further information was available. The Township Board wanted to hear the Planning commission's recommendation whether we change the wording on the ordinance or leave it as it is. Meert stated she thought the confusion might be that the Dover's have 5 acres and the Board was told they had four fenced in. Holly stated that they only had 1.1 acres fenced and she wanted the horses removed. The horses were standing in mud, they caused flies, and they were endangering her small children. Hephner stated that just for clarification the Board had not been presented with this problem until August so it was a matter of MTS going through their process before it was presented to us. Holly stated the Dover's are breaking the rules and the Township should start with them because she has a complaint and wants the horses gone.
8. Correspondence and reports:
  - A. Root gave an update on the M-Dot project at M-40 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. He had written them a letter stating the way they reconstructed the intersection was unsafe and not acceptable. He told them that at the very least we would like

some blinking lights and warning signs put up, because there is no left turn lane. The week following the letter they responded and said they would immediately work on redesigning the intersection with a by pass. The Township also notified the City of Gobles of the new construction.

B. Root stated that the trailer on CR390 that had been issued a blight notice was being cleaned up and should be gone by the end of the week. Meert stated she had been by there and it was completely gone.

C. Root stated he had sent letters to the Governor regarding the opposition of House Bill 4780, which would eliminate tax collections, assessing, and elections at the Township level.

10. Committee Reports:

A. Sheriff's Report: Submitted.

B. Fire Board: Submitted. The new Fire Chief, Pat Wieskowski, introduced himself. There will be an Open house at the Fire Station October 10, 2007, from 6:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.

C. Neighborhood Watch: Things have been pretty quiet. The children are back in school. We had a ball game with the kids on Sunday afternoon, the old people versus the kids; we cooked some hot dogs and had a lot of fun. We hope to do something like this again.

D. Planning Commission: The next meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup>.

E. Treasurer's Report: Submitted.

F. County Commissioner's Report: Submitted. The new dog ordinance was put on hold indefinitely.

11. Old Business:

A. The Eagle Scout Project is being worked on but has not been completed. No money has been issued for this project yet.

12. New Business

A. Hephner made a motion and it was supported by Meert to consider the issue of recycle tickets being sold at the Township Hall instead of the recycle station because of the issue coming up after the agenda was printed. All yes. Motion passed. After some discussion it was decided by consensus to leave the ticket sales for the recycle center as they are, because of the inconvenience of having to make a special trip to the Township Hall and the Township Hall being open only certain hours.

B. A Ruth Easterly received a housing rehabilitation loan of \$6000.00 in 1981, it was a no interest loan for 36 months. Meert stated it did not seem to be a loan, it was a grant, because it did not need to be paid back. Hess stated that it was not a loan, it was money from the housing rehabilitation grant that was given to her to repair her home with the condition that she did not sell the home for three years. This lien should have been discharged a long time ago. Hess made a motion and it was supported by Hephner to consider the discharge of mortgage because the Board received it late from the attorney. All

yes. Motion passed. Root made a motion and it was supported by Hess to execute the discharge of mortgage as requested by the estate of Ruth Easterly. Roll call vote: Hess-yes, Meert-yes, Root-yes, Hephner-yes. Motion passed.

The Sheriff and his deputy are here because The Board has been asked to address the problems with the children and the vandalism in the Township. Root's preface for consideration is attached to minutes. We have a proposal from the sheriff for hiring a part-time deputy 10 hours per week at a cost of \$902.58 per month. The Sheriff was here to explain what the Deputies responsibilities would be. Root stated that he thought the Deputy should be scheduled at different times through out the week so that people would not know when to expect him. The Sheriff stated that from looking at the reports it looks like the Township primarily is having trouble in the warm months. Root asked the Sheriff if the Township needed to create ordinances for the officer to enforce or if there were enough state laws that would apply to this situation? The Sheriff stated that the State laws were pretty clear and he did not think it was necessary to go beyond that. He would at least try the State laws first. The sheriff stated they have had some patrols in the area in the last few weeks and they are not only issuing the children citations but the parents as well. Mrs. Hopwood suggested having the deputy April through September because that is when we have the biggest problem. The Sheriff suggested the Township start working on a plan to have in place for April. It was suggested that we have a Public Meeting the third week in January to work on the issue of hiring the deputy for April. Hess commented that the deputy would be working the whole Township of Pine Grove not just Kendall. Don Hopwood volunteered to make a sign for the front of the hall so we can advertise our meetings rather than in just the paper. Jessie Richardson volunteered to make sure the sign was put out when necessary.

13. Public Discussion:

Jessie Richardson heard the town of Hartford offered rewards for Neighborhood Watch participants who helped with any arrests. The Sheriff stated it was funded by the Chamber of commerce, not the city. Whitney Wolcott stated that under the state laws, the Township was unable to contribute to anything like that.

14. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Meert, Clerk