

The regular monthly board meeting for the Township of Wright was held on Thursday, August 14, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee, William White.

The meeting was opened with reciting of the pledge of allegiance and with prayer offered by Board Member, Connie Strong.

The Board Members in attendance were Connie Strong, Lois Hills, and William White. Fred Horwath and Roger Zimmerman were absent.

There were a total of nine citizens present at the meeting that included John Tanner, Leroy Morr, Christie Cook, Skip Linden, Rich Chudey, Charles Meade, Bruce Caswell, and Duane and Betty Keeling.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong, to appoint William White as chairman for this meeting in absence of the Supervisor. The motion carried.

The motion was made by Board Member, Connie Strong, and supported by Board Member, Lois Hills, to approve the minutes of last month's meeting as printed. The motion carried.

The meeting was opened for public comment. Leroy Morr inquired if we had received the cost estimates from the Road Commission for ditching on Coman Road and Hartley Road. The cost estimates have been requested but haven't been received yet.

Bruce Caswell, State Representative for the 58<sup>th</sup> District, was present. He stated he cannot be here as much as he would like to be, but urged to be contacted if he was needed or could help in any way. He gave a presentation of the Election Consolidation bill that has passed the House. For a summary of the bill it would set elections on four specific dates per year, and provide that the local clerk and/or the county clerk would run school elections. Bruce reported that the 2004 budget has been completed and that \$200 million from federal will help to cover the shortfalls. State Revenue Sharing for townships has been cut about 8-10% and others about 3%. He stated that once the economy recovers state revenue is to be replaced as it was cut. He explained the procedure concerning the sale of land for the sales study. If land is sold and is to continue to be farmed a form needs to be completed. If farm land is sold for high dollars and will be used for lots, commercially, subdivisions, or be developed, etc. that land will not be used in a sales study. He also made us aware even though in the State Education Tax (SET) Summer Tax Collection law it provides for reimbursement of \$2.50 per parcel for the summer SET collection if it is not in the budget we will not be reimbursed. He addressed various questions that were posed to him.

William White conducted a "Truth in Taxation" hearing on increasing property taxes. We were subject to this hearing since our tax levy total was more than one mill. He presented the Truth in Taxation computations. Our 2002 taxable value was 38,907.854. Our 2003 taxable value is 40,523,951. Our 2002 operating millage rate actually levied was 2.8664 mills (Allocated – 0.8664 and Voted Roads – 2.0000). The 2003 maximum allowable operating millage under Headlee and MCL 211.34 is 2.8256 mills (Allocated – 0.8540 and Voted Roads – 1.9716). The 2003 base tax rate without a hearing would be 2.7838 mills (Allocated – 0.8414 and Voted Roads – 1.9424). The proposed increase is for 0.0418 mills [1.50%] (Allocated – 0.0126 and Voted Roads – 0.0292) in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2003. The maximum revenue without Truth in Taxation is \$112,811 (Allocated - \$34,097 and Voted Roads - \$78,714). The revenue increase with a hearing is \$1,694.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong, to increase the operating tax levies to the maximum allowable millage rate of 2.8256 for 2003 (Allocated Operating - 0.8540 and Voted Roads Operating – 1.9716). Roll call vote: Lois Hills – yes, Connie Strong – yes, William White – yes, Fred Horwath – absent, and Roger Zimmerman – absent.

Christie Cook, RCAP, reported that the DEQ/CMI Lime Creek Water Monitoring project of the Bean Creek/Upper Tiffin River watershed has been completed.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong, to approve the land division application submitted by Ilona Frie. It is for property located in Section 11, Southeast Quarter, Total acres of parent – 55.23, Total number of splits allowed – 8+2, Total splits used – 1, and Number of divisions transferred – 9. Roll call vote: Lois Hills – yes, Fred Horwath – absent, Connie Strong – yes, William White – yes, and Roger Zimmerman – absent.

The City of Hillsdale and the Hillsdale County Planning Commission will be hosting a Zoning Ordinance training workshop at the Hillsdale Community Library, on Saturday, September 13, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The charge is \$25.00 per person.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong, to pay the bills submitted for payment, a total of \$34,687.26 from the General Fund, and a total of \$13,015.00 from the BAN Sewer Fund. *(A listing of the bills is available upon request.)* The motion carried.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong to change the date of the October meeting from Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, to Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried.

The motion was made by Board Member, Lois Hills, and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Lois J. Hills  
Wright Township Clerk