

The regular monthly board meeting for the Township of Wright was held on Thursday, June 12, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building.

The Supervisor, Fred Horwath called the meeting to order.

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

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

There were a total of ten citizens present at the meeting that included Richard Chudey, John Tanner, Leroy Morr, Chuck Meade, Ray Saneholtz, Steve Darmofal, Mildred Flower, Duane and Betty Keeling, and Maxine Vanlerberg.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White and supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, to approve the minutes of last month's meeting and to accept the treasurer's report as printed. (*Treasurer's report follows.*) The motion carried.

BALANCE ON HAND, MAY 31, 2003	
WRIGHT TOWNSHIP	
Checking Account	\$ 2,704.42
LIP Account	\$121,948.44
Flagstar Checking	\$ 1,023.27
Flagstar Money Market	\$205,985.49
Sewer Fund Savings	\$ 852.77

The meeting was opened for public comment. Leroy Morr had complaints on the condition of the township's roads.

Ray Saneholtz from Feller, Finch and Associates, Inc. updated us on the Lime Lake/Prattville sewer system project. They had a meeting with Attorney, Dan Boyd. Dan is to pursue securing the property easements. It appears from the results of the soil boring tests that the property for the site of the lagoon is suitable and can proceed to purchase the property.

Steve Darmofal, also from Feller, Finch and Associates, Inc. presented the maps that were prepared with the proposed boundaries lines and location of the grinder pumps for the project.

A public informational meeting with Ray and Steve from Feller, Finch and Associates, will be held on Saturday, June 28th, at 2 p.m. at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building, in regards to the Lime Lake/Prattville sewer system project.

Connie Strong presented a board resolution to Impose Property Tax Administration Fee.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong; to adopt the following resolution to Impose Property Tax Administration Fee.

WHEREAS, The Township of Wright, Hillsdale County, Michigan is responsible for assessing of ad valorem property taxes, the collecting of property tax levies, and the handling of review and appeal matters arising therefrom, and

WHEREAS, PA 503 of 1982 provides for imposition of a property tax administration fee (PTAF) of not more than one (1%) percent and, WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Township Board to approve and authorize the imposition of a property tax administration fee as a fee to offset the cost incurred in assessing property values, collecting tax levies, and in the review and appeal process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Township Board of Wright Township that: The Township Board does hereby approve and authorize the imposition of a property tax administration fee of one (1%) percent on all sums voluntarily paid for property taxes before February 15 of the succeeding year in which the same shall become due and payable.

This resolution shall apply to all property tax levies that shall become due in 2003 or any year thereafter and this resolution shall continue in full force and effect unless and until revoked or rescinded by resolution of the Wright Township Board.

Roll Call Vote as follows: Aye: Bill White, Connie Strong, Roger Zimmerman, Lois Hills, and Fred Horwath. Nay: none.

Betty Keeling of BIF Associates presented a new Assessment Administration contract. The current contract expires on July 15th. The rate of pay for the first year of the new contract is \$10.50 per parcel. The parcel count does not include exempt parcels and the 2003 parcel count is 1,324. It is payable in twelve (12) equal monthly installments ($\$10.50 \times 1,324 = \$13,902.00 / 12 = \$1,158.50$). The rate of pay is an increase of \$.50 per parcel. The rate of pay for the second and third year of the contract is to be adjusted by the new parcel count and the CPI.

Betty also talked to the board about the Apex sketching program. If six or more townships in the county would purchase the program each township can

save \$245.00. The cost would be \$425.00 for the Apex program. There is an annual maintenance fee of \$155.00. Betty's cost for the sketching of each improved parcel (any parcel with a building on it) is \$4.50. She would really like the Township to purchase this program so she said, "I am adjusting my contract to show that I am willing to give so that the township can have what they need."

A copy of the Fee Schedule for Services by the Equalization Department approved by the Board of Commissioners on March 11, 2003 was received. There are various options. Option 2 includes the services our township's needs. There is a \$.25 per parcel fee for printing of Winter Tax Bills and Tax Rolls and a \$.25 per parcel fee for printing of Summer Tax Bills and Tax Rolls with Names and Addresses supplied by the Taxing Unit. Tax bills are currently printed on 3 separate forms. Any unit who does not have all three printed may deduct 5 cents a parcel for each form not used. There is a \$1.25 per parcel fee (This is a reduction of \$.25 per parcel.) that include the following services:

- Parcel Mapping (Mylar Overlays)
- Splits and New Descriptions
- Availability of a mapping/description analyst to Township/City Officials, Tax Payers and General Public
- Property tax description audits (generally from deeds)
- Millage Request Forms (L-4029)
Filled out with Truth in Taxation Hearing Information supplied
- Personal Property Statements

Betty Keeling, our assessor, stated that she does the Splits and New Descriptions, and the Property tax description audits (generally from deeds). So she feels that we are being charged for services we are not using from the Equalization Department.

There was discussion with County Commissioner, Maxine Vanlerberg, concerning the Fee Schedule of Services for the Equalization Department.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White, and supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, to require the Hillsdale County Equalization Department to use the names, mailing addresses, and legal descriptions as provided on a backup by our Assessor, in printing our tax bills. This is to remain in effect until further notice. Roll Call vote as follows: Aye: Lois Hills, Fred Horwath, Connie Strong, William White, Roger Zimmerman. Nay: none.

County Commissioner, Maxine Vanlerberg distributed copies of the amended County's Grading/Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. She stated the reason for the revision was to change the authority from the Drain Commission Department to the Building Inspection Department. According to Maxine the "language of it is very bad."

Maxine shared about the possibility of an elevator being installed at the Court House is being examined. The estimated cost of this project is \$300,000. Also, she addressed the problem of the too crowded jail issue. She stated the major cause of the problem is the change of some laws.

Connie Strong presented a sample letter that is to inform taxpayers of the 2003 SET (State Education Tax) collection. It was the consensus of the board to publish this letter in the Bi-County Herald or wherever she can get the best rate.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White and supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, to pay the bills submitted for payment, a total of \$30,382.71 from the General Fund, and a total of \$3,295.50 from the BAN Sewer Fund. *(A listing of the bills is available upon request.)* The motion carried.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White and supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, to start the acquisition of the property for the lagoon for the Lime Lake/Prattville sewer system project from Robert M. Shinabery and Lela F. Shinabery. The real estate is located in the Northeast quarter of Section 14, in Wright Township. It contains twenty acres more or less. The motion carried.

The motion was made by Board Member, Bill White and supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Lois J. Hills
Wright Township Clerk