

Approved Minutes – Reading Township Board
April 9, 2007, Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM with James Galloway, Roger Wheeler, Ron Parker, Randy Wigent and Judy Wheeler present. Also present were Robert Bertram, Kathy Mikolajczyk, Bruce Caswell, Mike Parney and Harold Farris.

The minutes of the March 12, 2007 Regular meeting were approved as presented and the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Special Workshop Session were approved as presented.

State Representative Bruce Caswell spoke to the board on the budget problems that the State is having. He discussed this and provided a handout and answered questions from the board and others present.

There were no further comments or questions from guests.

Robert Bertram, a Rural Development Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture spoke to the board about programs available through Rural Development, which might benefit the community. He provided a handout that provided a summary of many grants and loans that are available.

Mike Parney of the Hillsdale County Road Commission was present and discussed the several road projects that the Township is considering. There was also some discussion of road funding and how road funds are allocated.

A motion was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by Randy Wigent to amend the 2006/2007 Township Cemetery Fund Budget so that each of the estimated items would be the same as the actual amounts for the 2006/2007 year. This motion carried 5-0.

Then a motion was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by Randy Wigent to amend the 2006/2007 Transfer Station Fund Budget so that each of the estimated items would be the same as the actual amounts for the 2006/2007 year. This motion carried 5-0.

A motion to establish the Township Tax Levy for 2007 at the same one mill however reduced as required under MCL 211.34d was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by James Galloway. This motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by Randy Wigent to collect the one-percent administrative fee on the 2007 taxes to help offset the costs of tax administration and collection. This motion carried 5-0.

There was a motion by Roger Wheeler supported by Randy Wigent to not impose a late penalty charge on 2007 winter taxes that are paid before the end of February 2008. This motion carried 5-0.

A budget hearing was held. Copies of the proposed 2007/2008 general fund budget, transfer station budget and the township cemetery fund budget were provided to everyone in attendance. The opportunity to provide comments and/or make suggestions on any of the budgets was offered. This opportunity was extended to include the entire meeting time. There were not any comments or suggestions on any of the budgets.

There was an explanation of the proposed general fund budget for 2007/2008 and a number of the items that have been allowed for in that budget. These were a contract with Domestic Harmony, the Fire Department's budget request, allowance for contracts with the Road Commission, along with planning and zoning expenses and enforcement.

Other items allowed for were to provide for some more repairs and upgrades to the township hall building such as some inside door replacement, replacement of carpeting in meeting room and office and improvements to the parking lot and driveway.

There were still no comments or other suggestions concerning the proposed budget.

A motion to adopt the 2007/2008 General Fund Budget as presented was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by Randy Wigent. This showed proposed receipts of \$190,250 and proposed expenditures of \$328,300. This motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by Randy Wigent to adopt the 2007/2008 Township Cemetery Fund Budget as presented. This has proposed receipts and proposed expenditures of \$14,000. This motion carried 5-0.

A motion to adopt the 2007/2008 Transfer Station Fund Budget as presented was made by Roger Wheeler and supported by James Galloway. This has proposed receipts and proposed expenditures of \$19,000. This motion carried 5-0.

There was a discussion of a proposed contract with Domestic Harmony for \$250 for the 2007/2008 year. There was a motion by Judy Wheeler supported by Randy Wigent to approve this contract for \$250. This motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Roger Wheeler and then supported by Randy Wigent to sign a contract with the Road Commission for \$5,000 to have addition gravel patching done throughout the township. This will be in addition to the gravel-patching contract that was agreed to at the March meeting. This motion carried 5-0.

There was a discussion of the Fire Department reports and it was noted that the Fire Board Meeting, which was scheduled for Thursday, April 12, would be rescheduled.

Zoning Administrator, Harold Farris provided his monthly report and noted that a number of letters have been sent out concerning non-compliance with the township zoning ordinance. There was also discussion of an additional violation of zoning at 4660 S. Edon Road. Zoning enforcement will be a priority of the Township.

After a discussion of the proposed ordinance a motion was made by James Galloway supported by Judy Wheeler to adopt "Lake Residential District Amendments", An Ordinance To Amend The Reading Township Zoning Ordinance To: Delete Section 4.3 C.4 So As To No Longer Allow Two Family And Multi Family Dwellings In The Lake Residential District; To Amend Section 4.6.D Regarding Buildable Lots and the Combination of Lots of Record for Building Purposes And; To Amend the Reading Township Zoning Ordinance by amending Section 5-4 Non-Conforming Lots. The motion to adopt this ordinance was approved 5-0. This will become Reading Township Ordinance No. 2007-02.

There was a motion by Roger Wheeler supported by James Galloway to pay bills and make payments for the month of April for a total amount of \$9,010.29. This motion carried 5-0.

There was a motion by James Galloway supported by Randy Wigent to authorize the supervisor to represent Reading Township in joining with Hillsdale and Cambria Townships in requesting qualifications and cost estimates for Architectural, Engineering and/or Consulting Services to develop and oversee possible designs and construction of a sanitary sewer system within portions of the three townships. This motion carried 5-0.

The County Road commission will be having a "Tire Cleanup". They will have this on two Saturdays, April 21 and May 5, 2007. The Township will use the Blair Road Transfer Station Site as a staging area up through Sunday, April 29, 2007 only.

Supervisor Galloway will be picking up several discarded mattresses along the roadways and placing them in the dumpsters at the Transfer Station.

The Township will be disposing of the old "Savin" copier from the Township Hall.

There was a motion by James Galloway supported by Randy Wigent to adjourn. This motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.