

Watson Township Board Meeting
April 5, 2007

Called to order: 7:00 P.M.

Present:

Catherine Pardee, Candy Adrianson, Stephanie Bogdan, Rod Zeinstra and Kelli Morris.

Absent:

None.

Budget Public Hearing

Public Comment

None

Stephanie made a motion to close the Budget Public Hearing, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Rod made a motion to accept the Watson Township 2007-2008 General Fund Budget with revenues of \$217,062.00 and expenditures of \$184,990.00 based on millagerates of 0.7954 Operating, 1.8723 Roads, and 0.9070 Dust control, and 1.00 Fire and EMS, Stephanie supports, all in favor, motion carried.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the Watson Township 2007-2008 Road Budget with revenues of \$91,250.00 and expenditures of \$400,000.00, based on a millagerate of 1.8723, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the Watson Township 2007-2008 Dust Control Budget with revenues of \$41,550.00 and expenditures of \$36,375.00, based on a millagerate of 0.9070, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the Watson Township 2007-2008 Special Assessment Budget Fire Department Operations and Equipment and Emergency Medical Services Operations and Equipment with revenues of \$90,750.00 and expenditures of \$94,540.00 based on a millage rate of 1.00 mill, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the Watson Township 2007-2008 Building Department Budget with revenues of \$1,500.00 and expenditures of \$1,500.00, Candy supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Agenda Approval:

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Candy, and supported by Stephanie, all in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

Drain Commissioner- Becky Rininger:

The Allegan County Drain Commissioner, Becky Rininger explained the current and expanding project of Bear Swamp Drain and Rabbit River Extension. This will be a three to three and a half million dollar project and will cover parts of Watson, Monterey, Allegan, Hopkins, Martin, Wayland, Dorr, and Leighton Townships as well as parts of Wayland City. Commissioner Rininger went over the project goals and information in detail. She also let everyone know the county would hold a "day of review" for anyone who may have questions or concerns for the projects as it pertains to their particular property. Information concerning the project and the areas covered by the project can be obtained by contacting the Allegan County Drain Commission.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell and Max Thiele:

Commissioner Max Thiele brought a copy of the 2007 Visitors Guide to Allegan County for all

the board members and any audience members who wanted one. There are more of these available at the county or our township office if anyone is interested in one. Max mainly focused on the subject of a location for the county jail and the fact that they are still working on the subject. He went on to discuss subject of the jail in more detail. Commissioner Jon Campbell was not in attendance.

Supervisor's Report:

None.

Allegheny County Planning Commission Report

Ken Pardee reported that the county is putting out new maps.

Cemetery Report:

Dave Kok left a report that there were no funerals this month, and "spring clean-up" for the cemeteries has been completed. He also reported that some foundations have had to be put on hold because of inclement weather.

Planning Commission Report:

Rod reported that the planning commission was still working on private road requirements for the township.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes and Bills

A motion was made by Stephanie to approve the minutes for the March 1, 2007, and March 22, 2007 Candy supports, all in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Stephanie to pay the bills for April 2007, in the amount of \$22,020.45, including voiding check # 6907 in the amount of \$6,291.00 and adding check # 6945 to transfer \$6,291.00 into the Fire and EMS fund (to pay the Hopkins Area Fire Dept.) Supported by Candy, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Stephanie Bogdan gave a report of account balances as follows:

Reconciled Balances: \$332,333.49 Book Balances: \$361,704.27

Old Business:

1. Martin Library – Dan Kelsey explained that both Martin Township and Martin Library Board have passed a resolution to participate in District Library Planning Committee. He is asking Watson Township to also pass a resolution to participate in Library Planning Committee and designate two people to serve on such a committee. Stephanie made a motion to table the subject until later in the meeting, Candy supports, all in favor, motion carried.
2. Draft Lease Agreement – Hopkins Area Fire Dept. – The board discusses all possible options for the possible lease agreement with the Hopkins Area Fire Department. The discussion included adding language to allow for growth and the possibility of adding other township services and vehicles in the future. Rod suggests having a contract instead of a lease. Rod also suggests having two members of the board meet with the township attorney to address some concerns and questions involving the lease agreement. Stephanie made a motion to table the subject until two board members were able to meet with the township attorney, Candy supported, all in favor, motion carried.
3. Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

Cathy read a letter from Robert and Kim Holland who own property in the township opposing such amendments. Ken Pardee also read an excerpt from an article in the Michigan Township Magazine concerning the negative effects of large lot sizes and their contribution to urban sprawl. Another gentleman expressed his concerns for the amendments and their effects on his plans for developing his property. John Andrysiak maintains that having one acre lots will create suburban situations. Stephanie maintains her position that five acre parcels are simply too large and would like to see language to possibly include three acre lots and three hundred feet of road frontage. Rod made a motion to pass the proposed Zoning amendments as presented by the planning commission, Candy supported, roll call vote: Candy-yes; Rod-yes; Stephanie-no; Kelli-no; Cathy-no; totaling 2-yes votes and 3-no votes; motion denied.

New Business:

1. Resolutions for Fee Schedule change from PCI:

Cathy made Resolution #040507-1 to adopt a revised "Building Permit Fee Schedule", Stephanie supports, roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Kelli-yes; Candy-yes; Rod-yes; and Cathy-yes; 5 yes, 0-no votes; resolution adopted.

Stephanie made Resolution #040507-2 to adopt a revised "Electrical Permit Fee Schedule", Candy supports, roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Candy-yes; Kelli-yes; Rod-yes; and Cathy-yes; 5-yes, 0- no votes; resolution adopted.

Stephanie made Resolution #040507-3 to adopt a revised "Plumbing Permit Fee Schedule", Kelli supports, roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Kelli-yes; Rod-yes; Candy-yes; and Cathy-yes; 5-yes, 0-no votes; resolution adopted.

Kelli made Resolution #040507-4 to adopt a revised "Mechanical Permit Fee Schedule", Stephanie supports, roll call vote: Kelli-yes; Stephanie-yes; Candy-yes; Rod-yes; and Cathy-yes; 5-yes, 0-no votes; resolution adopted.

2. Set a meeting date for Road Project on 122nd. Ave.:

The board needs to set a meeting date to discuss the road project on 122nd Avenue. The board has been informed that Weick Brothers has pulled their bid for that road project. They (Weick Brothers) must pay \$18,000.00 dollars to the county in penalty fees for pulling the bid and those funds will go toward the project costs. A special meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss this road project

Other:

1. Policy Manual:

The board discusses the need for the township to have a manual with certain policies that affect the township and its residents.

Return to "Old Business" Martin Library:

Rod made a motion to pass a Resolution #040507-5 to support the participation of Watson Township in the formation of a Martin District Library Planning Committee where as the committee may have up to two Watson Township residents appointed by the Watson Township Board participate on this committee, where as the committee function is only to look into the feasibility of forming a Martin District Library which may include some or all of Watson Township, Candy supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie, supported by Candy, all in favor, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:32 P.M.

Kelli Morris
Watson Township Clerk
