

Watson Township Board Meeting
October 4, 2007

Called to order: 7:03 P.M.

Present:

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

Arrived Late: Stephanie Bogdan (7:15 P.M.), and Candy Adrainson (8:00 P.M.)

Absent:

None.

Agenda Approval:

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

Reports:

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell and Max Thiele:

Commissioners Jon Campbell and Max Thiele attended the meeting. They gave the board a copy of the power point presentation on the county budget.

Supervisor's Report:

None.

Allegan County Planning Commission Report

None.

Cemetery Report:

Dave Kok reported there was one funeral this month. He also added that the trees would be removed sometime this month.

Planning Commission Report:

Rod reported that the planning commission worked on a private road for Mr. Liggett at their last meeting. They also began work procedures for the master plan and will work on that through the winter.

Judge Skocelas:

Judge Skocelas dropped off the 2006 Annual Report of the 57th District Court. Some points of interest in his presentation included 27,000 new cases filed of which about 80% were criminal and 20% civil (including medical, credit card, mortgage, foreclosures, etc.). He also talked about the many facets of his practice as judge. The board appreciated his attendance and informative presentation.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Approval of Minutes and Bills

A motion was made by Stephanie to approve the minutes for the September 6, 2007, Rod supports, all in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Stephanie to pay the bills for September 2007, in the amount of \$18,960.90, supported by Rod, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Stephanie Bogdan reported account balances as follows:

Reconciled Balances: \$526,861.74 Book Balances: \$500,864.49

Old Business:

1. Driveway Ordinance Review Cathy went over the Ordinance in its entirety, and particularly section B-3 (Grades, Alignment and Vertical Clearance). She explained the reasons the Fire Departments had asked the township to look at an ordinance for

driveways. Gary McNeil brought up the fact that the synopsis that was printed in the paper does not mirror how the actual ordinance reads. He is also concerned about existing driveways and how the ordinance will be enforced concerning these driveways. Gary also explains his disagreement with the 10% grade regulation. He also believes that heights should be defined in the vertical clearance portion of the ordinance. Doreen Paul asked if the ordinance would affect current driveways, Cathy explained that it could. Doreen is not in favor of the driveway ordinance. Rod let the members of the audience know that it was over a year ago that the driveway ordinance was initiated and it was because at the time the three fire department chiefs that served the township were concerned about not being able to get to certain homes within the township. The board was in agreement that the ordinance as currently written was not going to be feasible for Watson Township. Cathy suggested entertaining a motion to repeal the ordinance and begin the process again. Stephanie made a motion to repeal ordinance # 2007-2 Driveway Regulation Ordinance, Rod supports, roll call vote: Rod-yes; Stephanie-yes; Kelli-yes; and Cathy-yes; motion carried.

New Business:

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendments Cathy read the zoning ordinance changes and the changes in the private road ordinance as well as street buffers. There is discussion on the changes in both sections of the zoning. The main changes included an increase in lot size in Section A-2 and R-1 districts and to allow cluster housing which will be ordinance 2007-3. Ordinance # 2007-4 will deal with changes to the private road and street buffer portion of the zoning ordinance. Rod made a motion to adopt ordinance #2007-3 an ordinance to amend the Watson Township zoning ordinance for the purposes of increasing the minimum lot size requirements and development requirements within the A-2 and R-1 zoning districts, to make provisions for open space conservation subdivision PUD development in the A-2 and R-1 zoning districts, to adopt a designated open space preservation district, to amend related provisions of existing submission of annual review applications and the annual review of special land use permits issued under chapter 17 for soil removal, and sand and gravel mining operation and to make other various related changes; roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Kelli-no; Rod-yes; Candy-yes; and Cathy-yes; (4-yes and 1-no votes) Ordinance adopted. The board then discussed the second ordinance change #2007-4. There was some inconsistencies and unclear language in portions of the ordinance. Because of this, Rod made a motion to table Ordinance #2007-4 amendments to clarify the language, Stephanie supported; roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Kelli-yes; Candy-yes; Rod-yes and Cathy-yes; all in favor, motion carried.

Other:

Treasurer: Stephanie wanted to add another deputy treasurer to help handle some duties when she was not available. Stephanie made a motion to appoint Alex Bogdan as a deputy treasurer, roll call vote: Stephanie-yes; Kelli-yes; Rod-no; Candy-no; and Cathy-no; (2-yes and 3-no votes) motion denied.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Rod, supported by Stephanie, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Kelli Morris - Watson Township Clerk