

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees
July 8, 2013**

A meeting of the Spring Lake Township Board of Trustees was held at the Spring Lake Township Hall at 106 S. Buchanan, Spring Lake, MI 49456.

6:00pm Work session: Ottawa County Commissioner Roger Bergman gave a county update.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call of the Board:

Supervisor Nash called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: John Nash, Carolyn Boersma, Jim Koster, Rick Homan, Larry Mierle, Rachel Terpstra

Absent: Ron Lindquist

Participants: Gordon Gallagher, Spring Lake Township Manager, Ron Bultje, Spring Lake Township Attorney

Motion by Mierle, support by Homan to move the meeting to Barber School due to the lack of sufficient seating for the attendees. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 7:10pm.

2. Invocation and Pledge:

Supervisor Nash opened the meeting with a spiritual reading and the pledge of allegiance.

3. Public Comment:

Public comment was opened at 7:15pm and closed at 7:16pm. One comment was offered at this time.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Mierle, support by Boersma to approve the agenda with the addition of 11a Legacy Point Water Connection. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Boersma, support by Homan to approve the consent agenda. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

- a. Approve July 8, 2013 Minutes
- b. Approve payment of all fund bills
- c. Receive July 2013 Financials

6. Fire Special Assessment District (SAD):

The 2nd Public Hearing is scheduled for August 12th. The purpose of this Public Hearing is “**to review and hear any objections to the proposed special assessment roll**”. After the 1st Public Hearing (on July 8th), the Township Board passed a Resolution that ratified the decision to set up a special assessment district for the entire Township.

Manager Gallagher presented a power point explaining the special assessment to the audience. The public hearing was opened for comment at 7:30pm by Supervisor Nash. The following 15 people offered these comments:

- 1) Brian Duffy, 17796 Water Chase Trail – Stated that he is not against the assessment; he just wants a vote of the people.
- 2) Ray Klink, 16707 Taft – incompetence, greed, and arrogance were adjectives used against the Board. Stated that many Townships were pulling out of the MTA so the Township of Excellence Award was meaningless.
- 3) Mary Postmus, 16255 Dawnview – concerned for people who cannot afford to pay more
- 4) Jeff Berry, 17127 Hickory – Stated that he supports the Fire SAD, also that the little bit of extra money that is being asked for is worth paying for.
- 5) Dan VanDine, 17735 Oakwood Dr – Said that the numbers don’t make sense to him
- 6) Bill Barowski, 15659 Vinecrest Ave – Stated that he agreed with Brian Duffy, then asked how to defeat the assessment
- 7) Dennis Dilley, 19192 174th Ave – said that the Township had spent money in the Village for property , not the Township; the Township was spending too much on buildings not people
- 8) Bill Schaap, 17715 Oakwood – Agreed with every negative thing that was said
- 9) Elizabeth Wheeler, 120 N Lake Ave – stated that she is uncomfortable with the assessment
- 10) Mike Fowler, 18113 Wildwood Springs Pkwy – said that the information the Board put out does not include needed information; does not understand why the increase is needed
- 11) Dave Stocking, 221 Riverfront #9 – Does not understand how this increase supports the Fire Department
- 12) Dave Lukasik, 257 Riverfront – Has not heard what is being improved; wants to see the matrix that is being followed
- 13) Greg Postotnk, 18132 Trudy – concurs with all of the above negative comments
- 14) Chuck Fisher, 18287 N Fruitport Rd – concerned about the rate of increase to the millage, such as the 10% mentioned in the public notice
- 15) Rob Henry, 18043 Lovell Rd – wanted to know if the next increase will be voted on.

Supervisor Nash and Attorney Bultje answered some of the questions that were raised. No objections were made to the assessment roll during the public hearing. **Motion** by Boersma, support by Mierle to close the public hearing at 8:05pm. The motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Boersma, support by Mierle to approve Resolution # 3 that ratifies, confirms and adopts the assessment roll that was submitted to the Board; and also directs the Township Clerk to endorse on the assessment roll the fact the roll has been confirmed as of the date of this meeting. [RC] The motion carried unanimously.

7. Amend General Appropriations Act – Lower Operating Mills from 0.9655 to 0.4155

The Township Board has proposed lowering the General Operating millage from .9655 to .4155 (a reduction of .55 Mills). In order to accomplish this reduction the Board needs to amend the Appropriations Act that was passed in March of 2013, just prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Motion by Terpstra, support by Homan to approve the Resolution amending the General Appropriations Act passed in March of 2013 to lower the general millage from 0.9655 to 0.4155. [RC] The motion carried unanimously.

8. Solicitation Ordinance

Our Community Policing Deputy has recommended that the Board pass a Solicitation Ordinance. This Ordinance would clearly outline the process that solicitors would follow in order to sell door-to-door in Spring Lake Township. Attorney Bultje was directed to prepare an ordinance specific to Spring Lake Township.

9. Board Reports

A time for information sharing was given to various Board members.

10. Emergency Medical Services Agreement – NOCH Ambulance

This agreement has been worked on for several years and is an improvement over previous agreements. This has been approved by Ferrysburg and Grand Haven Township. Because this is the first time that the Board has had a chance to review this document action will be taken at the September regular Board meeting.

11. Sewer Authority Contract Amendment #6

A couple of years ago the Board updated several of our shared contracts with the City of Ferrysburg. This was done when upgrades were made to our shared pump stations during the Lift Station Improvement Project. At that time it was noted that the contract for the Main pump station located at Tanglefoot Park in the Village of Spring Lake is significantly out of date and in need of updating as well. The biggest issue with the contracts is that the formula is based on a fixed percentage rather than on current flow data. The percentage was developed probably 30 years ago when the Village was a higher percentage user than the Township.

The new agreement proposes to use a 5 year average to determine each unit's flow contribution. Then, when a capital improvement project is completed, the percentage of contribution will be used to determine the percentage of cost allocation to each unit. **Motion** by Mierle, support by Boersma to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the contract as presented. [RC] The motion carried unanimously.

11a. Legacy Point Water Connection

A resident on the end of Legacy point requested to connect to the Township water system. Being that this is a private driveway and the home does not have road frontage, the homeowner is responsible for the costs of bringing water to his home. Bids were received from 4 vendors. Tiles excavating was the apparent low bidder at \$21164.00.

Motion by Mierle, support by Homan, to approve the bid submitted by Tiles Excavation with a provision that the homeowner be compensated when other homes connect into that line, provided that the loan to the Township is paid and that he still owns the home. [RC] The motion carried unanimously.

12. Reports:

A time for information sharing was given to the Supervisor and Manager.

13. Closed Session to consider the purchase of real property

Motion by Boersma, support by Homan to go into closed session at the Township Board room at 9:35pm to consider the purchase of real property. [RC] The motion carried unanimously.

The Board came into open session at 10:17pm

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:25:pm

Respectfully submitted,

H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC
Spring Lake Township Clerk