

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2015

The March 2, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman Beers at 7:00 p.m. at which time all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Kresge were present. Solicitor Dunn was also present.

After a review of the February 2, 2015 minutes and the current Treasurer's report a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Mark Savitsky was recognized who noted he along with some other residents of Ramblewood Drive were present to discuss a business that is being conducted in their residential neighborhood, particularly how this violation is being handled and how much the Supervisors know about it. Chairman Beers explained that the Supervisors normally do not get involved with zoning matters and stated further that those are handled by the Zoning Officer, unless, the concern is the way the Zoning Officer is handling it. Mr. Savitsky indicated that there have been a number of set backs starting last April. He gave a history of the Zoning Officer steps. The Zoning Officer noted that the owner changed the use from residential to a commercial business. Chairman Beers asked Mr. Savitsky if the Zoning Officer is addressing that issue and if the matter has progressed to a hearing for tomorrow. Mr. Savitsky went on to explain many of the steps being taken during the past ten months without any resolve and noted the Zoning Officer was awaiting Supervisors approval for him to proceed with some of the remedies in this matter. Chairman Beers reiterated that the Zoning Officer is the person to handle this matter and that the Supervisors do not enter into zoning complaints and filings that are sometimes necessary. The Zoning Officer expressed concern over the time frame involved explaining of the many delays that are created by the laws allowance of defendant notifications, etc.. Mr Savitsky noted that all the residents present are experiencing a significant problem that needs a remedy. David Schultz spoke stating the conditions they are exposed to (log chipping all hours, trucks running, logs being accumulated on the McIntyre property) are insane and something needs to be done to correct these problems without the residents coming to the meeting. He added the residents are afraid of the McIntyre's as they have been retaliated on in the past. Chairman Beers indicated that is sounded like the residents are not happy with the "job" the zoning officer is doing and it appears that he is doing what is in his purview considering there is a hearing tomorrow. Mrs. Savitsky said the zoning officer said the Supervisors are not letting him do his job. The Zoning Officer (Steve Meylach) responded by saying that is taken out of context, he noted that it is more costly to go to the Court of Common Pleas and the Supervisors are reluctant to go that route before going to the Magistrate. Chairman Beers stated, once again, the hearing at the Magistrate is tomorrow let's see the result of the hearing. It was further stated that this is the procedure start with the Magistrate and then on from there. Also, Chairman Beers added that if the residents feel so strongly about the matter they can collectively hire their own attorney and seek resolution. John Clymer of Ramblewood Drive spoke about a shed on the same property that was constructed without a permit and suggested it be removed since there was no permit obtained. The Zoning Officer indicated he sent a violation notice concerning the shed, but, did not pursue it since this other more serious violation came about. There was some concern about why both violations are not being addressed stating that one should not be more important than another. Mrs. Savitsy noted that the stories they are getting from the Zoning Officer vary from day to day resulting in nothing being done. The end result is that both violations need to be addressed. Mr. Schultz said he wants to live in peace

and feels that these violations should be addressed in order that he may do that. Chairman Beers brought this matter to an end noting that it is ultimately the Zoning Officer's job to address these issues. Some discussion took place on how the residents will learn of the Magistrate's decision and it was noted that contact with the Zoning Officer should be made. (the Zoning Officer noted that the residents could also attend the hearing) Property values declining also came into the conversation. The Zoning Officer collected all the individual complaint forms from the residents involved.

Bernie Kozen, Executive Director of the WEPOSC noted that an Eagle Scout will be construction some park benches for the walking trail at the Ross Township Park as well as refurbishing some picnic tables. He also reminded the Supervisors that the deadline for completion of the pavilion is July 1st. in order that we receive the balance of the grant due the Township.

PLANS-The Richard and Patricia Bauer plan that received conditional approval last month needed more review by the Engineer and Solicitor. Solicitor Dunn noted he agrees with Russ Kresge's comments and after they are all addressed by Mike Lalli and Engineer Kresge approves the Supervisors can sign it.

OLD BUSINESS-The primary designation request from the West End Ambulance Assn. was discussed and it was decided **not** to give the primary designation to them as requested. Chairman Beers said his reasoning is that other ambulances service the Township. The Secretary was requested to send a letter to the WECAA explaining this decision.

NEW BUSINESS-A proposal was received from Washburn's Lawn Service which is the same as last year. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to accept the proposal conditioned upon the non-use of herbicide materials. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

The Secretary explained receipt of two changes Russ Kresge, Township Engineer suggests be made to both the SALDO and Zoning Ordinances. One concerns lot area and the other is a steepness standard for commercial or non-residential driveways. These changes have been forwarded to the Planning Commission for recommendation, but, since the CJERP meeting is so close rather than wait for the Commission recommendation the Supervisors agreed with the changes pending Planning Commissions concurrence (possibly at their March 18th meeting). A motion was made to that effect by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

The permit free community yard sale was set for Saturday, May 2nd. same hours as last year.

Clean up date ideas were discussed and will be looked at by the Road Foreman keeping in mind that the dates not be too early in April.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-The Road Foreman was requested to obtain prices for a new plow truck and he submitted an approximate cost of \$80,000 plus \$50,000 to equip the truck with plow, spreader and dump body. Some discussion took place concerning a truck purchase with Chairman Beers noting the estimate the Road Foreman obtained is approximately the same price as the Township paid for the last truck and expressed interest in purchasing a new one. Supervisor Kresge was not in favor of a new dump truck, at this time, but suggested the need of a utility type truck. He went on to discuss the cost being prohibitive when a new building is being considered based on his research of funds available and what has already been spent to this point on the proposed building. Chairman Beers expressed concern over funds being spent on the building allowing other things to suffer. Supervisor Kresge reiterated his feelings in opposition and added that we should spend money fixing what we presently

have and extend their usefulness. Vice Chairman Drake stated that the matter should be tabled and discussed at a future date.

CORRESPONDENCE-

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES-A review of the bills was accomplished and a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge to pay the bills as presented. The motion carried. Supervisor Kresge asked what needs to be done with the solar credits now that the meter has been installed. Chairman Beers noted that some paper work has to be done and filed after which we can sell the energy credits. Chairman Beers added that if he has time and will work on the applications. Vice Chairman Drake said she would assist Chairman Beers in this regard.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary