

**SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
JULY 11, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held Monday, July 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present: Supervisor Marston Fortress, Clerk Julia Stonestreet, Treasurer Colleen Gibbs, Trustees James Buck, Joel Freehling, Troy Ganton and David Herlein. Absent: none. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Fortress.

Guests: Julie Alexander, Becky Cunningham, Dustin Krasny, Tim McEldowney, Bryan Miles, Restoration Energy, Russ Ratkiewicz, Greg Scholl, James Videto, Mike Way, Jackson District Library and Ken Wyatt, Jackson Citizen Patriot.

**Public Comment:** Public comment opened at 7:03 p.m.

Mike Way, of the Jackson District Library, came to dispel myths of the library branch closings. There will be more upgrades to the entire system to draw more patrons. He expressed the appreciation of the library for the good relationship with the Township. Dustin Krasny, Field Representative for Congressman Tim Wahlberg, wanted to convey the Congressman's concerns about the creations of jobs, gas pricing and energy conservation. Julie Alexander, County Commissioner, reported that the Open House for the remodeled second floor of the county building was well received. Mike Overton will be the new county administrator starting in late July. Jim Videto, County Commissioner spoke to the fact that the county has a balanced budget for 2012 and that the county equalization department is working with Parma Township assessing. Public comment closed at 7:20 p.m.

**Expenditures.** Motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Buck to approve the following expenditures for June. The General Fund expenditures #50347-50469 totaling \$59,676.68; Fire Department Fund expenditures #50352-50469 totaling \$27,138.68; Street Light Fund expenditure #50370 totaling \$5,373.33; Building Inspection Fund expenditures #50364-50469 totaling \$2,235.16; Sewer Fund expenditures #50363-50469 totaling \$19,387.13; Water Fund expenditures #50353-50469 totaling \$9,942.71. Roll Call: 6 7yes. Approved. Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling to pay outstanding invoices totaling \$114,770.23. Roll Call: 6 7yes. Approved

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Buck to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2011 regular board meeting with corrections; unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda.** Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Buck to approve the following items under the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports for June 2011; the general ledger report of revenues and expenditures for June 2011; the Senior Center Board minutes of June 15, 2011; Parks Committee minutes of June 23, 2011; Master Plan Committee minutes of April 20, 27, May 4, 11 and 18, 2011; and the planning commission minutes of May 19, 2011. The financial report showed the following balances as of June 30, 2011:

General Fund Cash	\$ (29,194.47)
Certificate of Deposit	322,995.99
Fire Operations Cash	6,029.98
Fire Operations CD	906,313.51
Street Light Fund Cash	5,600.41
P.I.F. Cash	6,176.61
P.I.F. Certificate of Deposit	56,539.60
Building Inspection Fund Cash	8,324.13

Building Inspection Fund CD	44,707.74
Historical Endowment Fund Cash	0.00
Historical Endowment Fund CD	29,549.06
Sewer Funds	763,498.43
Water Funds	375,786.86
Trust & Agency Funds	93.00
Current Taxes	0.00
Total	<b><u>\$2,496,420.85</u></b>

Unanimously approved

**REPORTS:**

**Police and Fire Reports.** In addition to the written report, Chief McEldowney reported that there was a purchase of new larger 5 inch hose; there are a few openings on the fire department due to attrition; and he will be attending a Haz/Mat class. Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Freehling to accept the fire report: unanimously approved. In addition to the written report Chief Ratkiewicz reported on an investigation of a suspicious subject that led to the discovery of a small grow operation that was taken out with the help of JNet. Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling to accept the police report: unanimously approved.

**Zoning & Building Permit Reports.** Along with the regular monthly permit report, Jan Gardner, Building and Zoning administrator included a report on the Master Plan. Motion was made by Stonestreet and seconded by Buck to accept the zoning and building report; unanimously approved.

**Supervisor Report:** Advised the board that the annual audit will be this month; working on cleaning up tall grass complaints, fence repair at Gallagher Park and the lagoons and Park Committee information.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PA 116 Farmland Preservation Approval:** Clerk Stonestreet presented a request of a PA116 Farmland and Open Space Preservation for parcels in the township. A motion to approve the PA116 for the parcels owned by Parma Farms LLC was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling. Approved

**Consent Agenda:** Clerk Stonestreet asked as to why the regular monthly reports of the Fire and Police departments and the permit report of the Building Department are not part of the consent agenda. It was suggested that these written reports be moved to the consent agenda still allowing time for comments from the chiefs as they deem necessary. Motion made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling. Approved

**Planning Commission Ordinance:** A motion to rescind the current resolution and confirm the establishment of the Planning Commission by ordinance per the Michigan Planning Enabling Act was made by Ganton. It was seconded by Herlein. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Energy Conservation:** Supervisor Fortress introduced Bryan Miles of Restoration Energy, LLC. Gregg Scholl of our township recommended that the Township talk to Mr. Miles regarding the use of solar energy to partially power some of the Township buildings. Mr. Miles feels that the move to solar energy will net the Township about 30% in annual savings, approximately \$12,000. Some of the cost would be covered by federally funded grants. A motion made by Ganton to form a committee of Fortress, Buck and Herlein to investigate this further and bring a recommendation to the board was seconded by Freehling and unanimously approved.

**Ordinance 60:** Supervisor Fortress would like to make a few amendments to the noxious weeds and tall grass ordinance in the terms of height of grass and timing of action. By common consent the Board approved moving ahead with the recommendation. Fortress will be bringing the amendments to the board next month.

**Liquid Dust Control Program:** A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Buck to approve the contract of the Liquid Dust Control Program with the County Road Commission. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Firefighter Insurance Coverage:** It was recommended that current level of coverage for the firefighters be maintained and we agree to a three year contract to lock in the payment. Motion by Ganton and seconded by Herlein. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Deputy Treasurer:** It was reported that the deputy treasurer was hired and the compensation was \$12.00 with holiday pay. A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Buck to approve these terms. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Mileage Reimbursement:** Fortress recommended that we change the mileage reimbursement to be in line with the IRS change of \$.51 to \$.55.5 for the rest of the year. Motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Buck to approve this change. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Gallagher Park Expenses:** A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling that the recommendation of the Park Committee to purchase stone dust for the ball diamond and pole to support the new scoreboard and additional electrical work for the scoreboard be approved. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none

**PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:** Marston Fortress distributed an analysis of vacant residential structures in our Township versus others in our County. Julia Stonestreet let the board know that there was going to be a state mandated notice in the paper regarding Charter Township possibilities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Stonestreet to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.; unanimously approved.

Approved at the August 8, 2011 board meeting

Julia K. Stonestreet  
Township Clerk