

Spring Arbor Township Board- June 9, 2008

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held Monday, June 9, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present: Supervisor Marston Fortress, Treasurer Gloria Melchiori, Trustees Troy Ganton, Scott Rogers, Patricia Short and Brent Williams. Absent: Clerk Randi Holthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Supervisor.

Guests were: Russ Ratkiewicz, Ken Wyatt, James Videto, Ben Keaster, Michael Cantrell and Stan Lyon.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:04 p.m.

Earl Poleski, County Commissioner, reported that the responsibility for animal control in Jackson County has been moved to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's office and commissioners are satisfied with the progress. The Road Commission is holding a hearing on a new policy which covers roads that dead end into lakes, prohibiting boaters from docking overnight. The county is considering the creation of a service floor on the second floor of the Tower Building and moving the commission chambers to the fifth floor. The county is also reviewing ways to allow citizens to make payments online and apply for licenses.

Jim Videto, County Commissioner, thanked the board members and adjacent landowners for their cooperation in making the new Falling Waters Trail a success and noted that they are still working on the parking issues and hope to have that resolved later in the summer. He praised the fiscal responsibility of prior commissioners over the years as that is now helping with their decline in revenue sharing. In prior years the county has not had to rely on revenue sharing for vital services, and he noted that many department service directors are cutting costs creatively by sharing space and equipment so that services may still be delivered to residents. Commissioner Videto also mentioned that the Economic Development Committee is searching for creative ways to revitalize and stimulate the local economy.

Public comment closed at 7:16 p.m.

Expenditures. Motion was made by Williams and supported by Rogers to approve the following expenditures for May 2008: General Fund expenditures #46382-46497 totaling \$53,436.17; Fire Department Fund expenditures #46382-46495 totaling \$10,879.06; Street Light Fund expenditure #46383 totaling \$3,665.19; Building Inspection Fund expenditures #46384-46492 totaling \$2,230.30; Sewer O & M Fund expenditures #46381-46498 totaling \$95,912.80; Water O & M Fund expenditures #46381-46490 totaling \$32,127.43; and, Tax Fund expenditures #4317-4324 totaling \$36,390.07; carried.

Minutes. Motion was made by Rogers and supported by Williams to approve the regular board meeting minutes of May 12, 2008; carried.

Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Williams to approve the following items under the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports for May 2008; general ledger report of revenues and expenditures for May 2008; Senior Center Advisory Board minutes of May 14, 2008; and, Planning Commission minutes of June 3, 2008. The financial report showed the following balances as of May 31:

General Fund Cash	\$51,058.36
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Certificate of Deposit	259,109.56
Fire Operations Cash	68,992.82
Fire Operations CD	525,590.93
Street Light Fund	14,650.62
Public Improvement Fund	0.00
P.I.F. Certificate of Deposit	58,936.16
Building Inspection Fund	(1,906.32)
Falling Waters Endowment Fund	0.00
Falling Waters Endowment Fund CD	30,936.23
Sewer Funds	934,071.32
Water Funds	343,736.97
Trust & Agency Funds	45.00
Current Taxes	15.00;
carried.	

REPORTS:

A. Police and Fire Reports. There were 52 medical rescue runs, three fire alarms, one mutual aid call, eight fire runs, one Hazmat response, and no carbon monoxide incidents or bomb threats during May. Police statistics include: 205 complaints, 16 accidents, 33 tickets, 14 verbal warnings, six arrests, and 21 back-up calls to other departments.

The Chief of Police reported that as of the end of May there are 80 more incident reports than compared to last year. One of those incidents included a car that struck a guard rail on Mathews Rd. at the Falling Waters Trail crossing; fortunately, no trail users were involved. The suspect in the King Rd. breaking and entering incidents has been apprehended and is in jail pending trial. The Western High School Prom and Memorial Day weekend were both quiet with no incidents. Eric Finlaw received the Youth Citizen Award based upon his more than 30 hours of community service in a variety of areas. The department is scheduled for emergency training during the following week.

Trustee Williams asked about the Gas & Oil line item expense in the police department budget. Chief Ratkiewicz responded that he has ordered no idling when stopped for any period of time.

Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to accept the police and fire reports; carried.

B. Building Permit Reports. The report of building permits issued during the month of May showed miscellaneous permits for a total value of \$81,000. No new home permits or commercial permits were issued in May. Trustee Williams asked if staffing changes should be considered in the building department due to the lack of activity. The Supervisor responded that there has been some commercial activity occupying the time of the Building Administrator as well as zoning violations.

C. Supervisors Report. Advised the board: of the status of the storm water project; of the progress of the rehabilitation of the lift stations; of the DEQ's progress in extending water west on M-60 to Mathews Rd.; of his dissatisfaction with safety issues at the Falling Waters Trail; of repairs needed at the Post Office; of the status of the telephone system bid project; of a ruling by the Michigan Tax Tribunal regarding Spring Arbor Cafe; and, of a form required by the State of Michigan to regulate "Going Out Of Business Sales". The Supervisor also commented that he is scheduled to meet with the Director of the County Parks, Jim Guerriero, regarding safety issues on Falling Waters Trail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resignation of Mark Dowley. Motion was made by Williams and supported by Short to accept the resignation of Mark Dowley from the Spring Arbor Township Park Committee with appreciation for his service to the community; carried.

B. Approve Form and Fee for "Going Out of Business Sales". Motion was made by Rogers and supported by Williams to adopt the following procedure:

"That the Clerk receives the application and grant the License by completing that portion of the License at the bottom of the second page; that the License must be issued in duplicate and the applicant must post one copy in the sales room or the place where the goods are sold and a duplicate copy must be attached to the front door clearly visible from the street; and, that the cost of the license is \$50.00"; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Township Law Newsletters.
Letter from Comcast.

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT: Public comment opened at 7:38 p.m.

Gloria Melchiori. Treasurer Melchiori explained that a number of sewer and water clients are in arrears on their utility bills. She has sent letters explaining the Township Sewer Ordinance which mandates that the Township add the arrearages to their tax bills and they could have their utilities shut off.

Marston Fortress. The Supervisor commented that he and the Treasurer have discussed the utility bill arrearages and would be addressing this issue with the Board at a later date. He also announced that the Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Goodwin, has tendered her resignation.

Adjournment. Motion was made by Williams and supported by Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.; carried.