

## Spring Arbor Township Board-July 14, 2008

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held Monday, July 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present: Supervisor Marston Fortress, Clerk Randi Holthouse, Treasurer Gloria Melchiori, Trustees Troy Ganton, Scott Rogers, Patricia Short and Brent Williams. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Supervisor.

Guests were: Russ Ratkiewicz, Tim McEldowney and Earl Poleski.

**Public Comment:** Public comment opened at 7:02 p.m.

Earl Poleski, County Commissioner, reported that the County Administrator, Randy Treacher, is planning to attend township board meetings in the future. The County is also working with a firm that will verify health insurance eligibility of all county employees and retirees with a potential savings from changes in status of approximately 2-4%. The County Commission is also working on the search for a deputy administrator and narrowed their search to three people. They will meet again on July 22, 2008 and continue the interview process. Public comment closed at 7:10 p.m.

**Expenditures.** Motion was made by Short and supported by Rogers to approve the following expenditures for June 2008: General Fund expenditures #46500-46651 totaling \$60,350.69; Fire Department Fund expenditures #46500-46650 totaling \$31,918.50; Street Light Fund expenditures #46501 and #46515 totaling \$3,778.23; Building Inspection Fund expenditures #46510-46647 totaling \$4,791.86; Sewer O & M Fund expenditures #46499-46648 totaling \$79,845.68; Water O & M Fund expenditures #46499-46647 totaling \$1,387.16; and, Trust & Agency Fund expenditures #1913-1914 totaling \$1,194.00; carried.

**Minutes.** Motion was made by Holthouse and supported by Williams to approve the regular board meeting minutes of June 9, 2008; carried. Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Short to approve the special board meeting minutes of June 23, 2008; carried.

**Consent Agenda.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Melchiori to approve the following items under the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports for June 2008; general ledger report of revenues and expenditures for June 2008; Senior Center Advisory Board minutes of June 11 and July 9, 2008; Sewer & Water Committee minutes of June 18, 2008; and, Election Commission minutes of July 10, 2008. The financial report showed the following balances as of June 30:

General Fund Cash	(\$65.18)
Certificate of Deposit	259,212.25
Fire Operations Cash	37,086.08
Fire Operations CD	526,172.84
Street Light Fund	10,866.69
Public Improvement Fund	8,246.05
P.I.F. Certificate of Deposit	59,038.85
Building Inspection Fund	(3,135.18)
Falling Waters Endowment Fund	25.00
Falling Waters Endowment Fund CD	30,987.57

Sewer Funds	867,999.09
Water Funds	345,888.76
Trust & Agency Funds	0.00
Current Taxes carried.	(10.91);

## REPORTS:

**A. Police and Fire Reports.** There were 42 medical rescue runs, three fire alarms, one mutual aid call, nine fire runs, and no Hazmat responses, carbon monoxide incidents or bomb threats during June. Police statistics include: 162 complaints, nine accidents, 33 tickets, 20 verbal warnings, eight arrests, and 15 back-up calls to other departments.

The Chief of Police reported that they have been busy as evidenced by an increase of 70 calls over last year at this time. They handled larceny complaints at the church in May and June and have identified a suspect in the June incident that may be linked to another incident. Some of the property has been recovered. Russ reported that his police car has new graphics on it that were redone by Fritz Advertising. The department participated in practice shooting last month also. Russ stated that he is very conscious of the effect of gasoline prices on his budget and has put some practices in place to hold down costs. The department purchased a bicycle to help patrol Falling Waters Trail and neighboring subdivisions in the area. The department is aware of incidents happening in the Rimers Dr. subdivision related to individuals coming off of the trail and breaking into garages. The department officers have received good feedback from those residents regarding the issues. Motion was made by Short and supported by Holthouse to accept the police report; carried.

The Fire Chief reported that June was a little slower for them; their run totals are down by around 55-60 compared to the prior year although medical runs are up some. The department participated in some training in the construction area and the Chief also reviewed the construction progress at the church and made some recommendations in the roof construction that would slow down the ability of a fire spreading in that area and to give better access points for the fire department. The department is also working on some joint training on a county-wide basis as well as joint purchasing. The department is also watching for unoccupied homes that could encourage someone to dump gas or other materials. Motion was made by Short and supported by Ganton to accept the fire report; carried.

**B. Building Permit Reports.** The report of building permits issued during the month of June showed miscellaneous permits for a total value of \$340,000. No new home permits were issued in June. Two commercial permits were issued to the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church . Motion was made by Melchiori and supported by Holthouse to accept the building report; carried.

**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 "no parking" signs that may go up at selected trail crossings for the Falling Waters Trail; of repairs needed at the Post Office and repairs made at Gallagher Park; of the increase in the allowable mileage reimbursement issued by the IRS; of a change in personnel in the office; of energy conservation measures being implemented; that signs will be updated along

M-60; of a request from the police and fire departments to seek grants; of a renewal option for continuing insurance for the fire department; of development of a video to promote Jackson County for economic development and a financial request for the cost of the video; of maintenance required at the lagoons used by Parma Township; and, of a recommended change to the tap charges in connection with the water system.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Senior Center Rental Policy.** Motion was made by Williams and supported by Holthouse to approve the recommendation from the Senior Center Advisory Board referring to changes in the rental policy agreement regarding items that may not be moved and where food can be served and consumed; carried.

**B. Request to Write Grants.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Holthouse to authorize the request by the police and fire chiefs to seek out grants from appropriate foundations and/or other fiscal entities for approximately \$35,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing new computers and modems for the police and fire vehicles; carried.

**C. Provident Insurance for Firefighters.** Motion was made by Williams and supported by Ganton to approve the expenditure of \$3,136.00 per year for a three-year period to purchase insurance for the fire department. Roll Call: 7 yes.

**D. Request to Upgrade Election Equipment.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to approve the expenditure of approximately \$1,100.00 upgrading two AccuVote tabulators to be used in an Absent Voter Counting Board precinct and as a spare unit in case of equipment malfunction. Roll Call: 7 yes.

**E. Approve Purchase of Voting Equipment.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Short to approve the purchase of three voting booths at a cost of \$2,355.00. Roll Call: 7 yes.

**F. Rezoning of property (SAU) RZ08-1 to RZ08-8.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Williams to approve the rezoning (RZ08-1) of parcel #000-12-16-351-002-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Holthouse and supported by Williams to approve the rezoning (RZ08-2) of parcel # 000-12-16-351-003-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Williams and supported by Holthouse to approve the rezoning (RZ08-3) of parcel # 000-12-16-351-008-01 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Rogers and supported by Ganton to approve the rezoning (RZ08-4) of parcel #000-12-16-351-010-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Melchiori to approve the rezoning (RZ08-5) of parcel #000-12-16-351-012-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Melchiori and supported by Ganton to approve the rezoning (RZ08-6) of parcel #000-12-16-351-014-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Holthouse and supported by Rogers to approve the rezoning (RZ08-7) of parcel #000-12-16-351-015-00 from Suburban Residential

(RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Short and supported by Williams to approve the rezoning (RZ08-8) of parcel #165-12-16-351-035-00 from Suburban Residential (RS-1) to Multiple Family Residential (RM-1). Roll Call: 7 yes.

**G. Rezoning of property (4-Star Storage) RZ08-9.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to approve the rezoning (RZ08-9) of parcel #000-12-14-126-003-01 from Industrial (I-1) to Highway Service Commercial (C-3). Roll Call: 7 yes.

**H. Financial Participation for Video Costs.** The Supervisor informed the board of a communication received requesting a financial contribution for the development of a video promoting Jackson County to potential new businesses. He recommended that the Township commit to a financial contribution of \$1,000.00. Motion was made by Short and supported by Ganton to contribute \$750.00 towards the development of the video. Roll Call: 6 yes, 1 no.

**I. Tap Charges.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to adopt the recommendation of the Sewer & Water Committee that the water tap fee be based on the pipe diameter entering a residential dwelling, and that the maximum residential service pipe is 1 ½", and that any "up sizing" costs is the responsibility of the homeowner (difference between the actual tap size and the pipe diameter entering the dwelling); carried. One nay vote was cast.

**J. Lagoons ( Parma Township ).** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to approve the resolution to approve and authorize execution of contract to consent to location of and use of public rights-of-way by Jackson County wastewater disposal facility (Parma Wastewater Treatment Plant Section). Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was made by Rogers and supported by Ganton to approve the contract to consent to location of and use of public rights-of-way by Jackson County wastewater disposal facility (Parma Wastewater Treatment Plant Section). Roll Call: 7 yes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Township Law News and NATaT news.

Letter from Comcast.

Letter from State of Michigan , Public Service Commission.

Project Review Notice.

Voice of the People letter and thank-you note to Police Chief.

**PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:** Public comment opened at 8:21 p.m.

**Gloria Melchiori.** Treasurer Melchiori reported that she received a fairly good response to the letter she sent out regarding delinquencies of utility bills, although the delinquency rate has increased some. She will reassess after this billing period.

**Patricia Short.** Trustee Short commented on exemplary service received from Comcast.

**Randi Holthouse.** Clerk Holthouse discussed election related issues and the possibility of selling one of the old tabulators to another township to use as a spare.

**Marston Fortress.** Supervisor Fortress mentioned that the township car sold for \$1,700.00.

**Adjournment.** Motion was made by Ganton and supported by Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.; carried.