

**SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held Monday, October 13, 2014, 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 Dave Herlein. Absent: none. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Fortress.

Guests: Fred and Eva Neubecker, Stan Lyon, Tim McEldowney, and Russ Ratkiewicz

**Public Comment:** Opened at 7:02 p.m. Eva Neubecker told the board that in 2016 M-60 will be expanded to three lanes and drainage ditches will be put in, and while the road is being improved would the Township consider extending the water line from Harmony to Chapel. The board will take it under consideration. Closed Public Comment at 7:05 p.m.

**Expenditures:** Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Buck to approve the following expenditures for September: General Fund expenditures totaling \$68,066.38; Fire Department Fund expenditures totaling \$40,051.93; Street Light Fund expenditures \$3,886.40; Public Improvement Fund expenditures totaling \$159,618.31; Building Inspection Fund expenditures totaling \$3,578.91; Sewer Fund expenditures totaling \$88,438.28; Water Fund expenditures totaling \$342.36; Trust and Agency Fund expenditures totaling \$1,038.00; Tax Collection Fund totaling \$3,369,185.19; Becky Cunningham Historical Fund \$220.00. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved. Motion was made by Stonestreet and seconded by Freehling to pay outstanding invoices totaling \$263,729.64. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Herlein to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2014 regular board meeting. Approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Freehling to accept the following items under the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports for September 2014; the general ledger report of revenues and expenditures for September 2014; Zoning/Building permit report for September 2014; Parks Committee meeting minutes of September 15, 2014; the Senior Center Advisory Board minutes of September 10, 2014 and the Audit Committee meeting minutes of September 30, 2014. Approved.

The financial report showed the following balances as of September 30, 2014:

General Fund Cash	\$271,069.72
Certificate of Deposit	689,822.41
Fire Operations Cash	3,223.82
Fire Operations CD	901,014.73
Street Light Fund Cash	35,783.08
Street Light Fund MM	.00
P.I.F. Cash	(286,080.38)
P.I.F. Certificate of Deposit	11.69

Building Inspection Fund Cash	8,099.94
Building Inspection Fund CD	64,365.37
Trust and Agency Fund Cash	.00
Historical Fund Cash	(825.00)
Historical Endowment Fund CD	17,400.14
Sewer Funds	838,320.96
Water Funds	327,558.04
Current Tax Collection MM	113,101.28
Fixed Assets	2,000.00
Total	<b><u>\$2,984,865.80</u></b>

**REPORTS:**

**Police and Fire Report:** Chief Ratkiewicz reported on the month's activities and noted a correction to his written report. He also reported that S. Cross Road is now open to traffic and the property room was audited which brought up the need for policy updates. Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Buck to accept the police report of September 2014. Approved. Chief McEldowney reported on the fire activities for the month. He also reported that the medical class is over at the end of October and Fire 1 and 2 classes will begin in November. He also said that there will be a Trench Rescue training class. Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling to accept the fire report of September 2014. Approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Becky Cunningham Historical Committee:** Clerk Stonestreet reported that it seems that all possible information has been found and looked over regarding the \$15,000 alleged loan from Becky Cunningham. Since there is no definitive information as to whether there was a loan made Stonestreet made a motion that we do not approve a loan repayment. The motion was seconded by Freehling. Roll Call: 7 yes. Motion was approved.

**Delinquent Utility Bill Penalty:** Last month Treasurer Gibbs presented the Sewer/Water ordinance and spoke to the method of charging penalties to the bills and that the ordinance is not specific as to how the penalties are applied. Gibbs reported this month that various townships use the same wording in their ordinance but apply the penalties in a different manner. She asked that the board approve penalties being applied only to the current delinquent amount. Herlein made a motion that a policy be established that the penalties for utilities be made only on the current delinquent amount. The motion was seconded by Stonestreet. Approved. It is recommended that the policy for this change be brought to the board in November but the implementation may begin with the next penalty application.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Committee Appointment:** Supervisor Fortress presented the name of Terry French to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Commission. Herlein made the motion to approve Terry French as the new Planning Commission member. Freehling seconded the motion. Approved.

**Preserve America Communities and Neighborhoods Resolution:** Supervisor Fortress informed

us that one of the requirements for the designation as a Preserve America Community is a resolution adopted by the Board to affirm the Township's commitment to Historical Preservation. The motion to approve the resolution as presented to the board was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**Rezoning Request for Bill and Deb's Leasing LLC:** Bill and Deb's Leasing has requested a rezoning of property from Agricultural to Light Industrial. This parcel is contiguous to their current property which is zoned Light Industrial. The Planning Commission and Region 2 Planning Commission have recommended approval. The motion to approve the rezoning of the property in question was made by Ganton and seconded by Herlein. Approved.

**Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment:** There are two text amendments that deal with the storage of materials and what can be used for storage. These have arisen out of the practical application of our ordinance. These text amendments have been approved by our planning Commission and Region 2 Planning Commission. A motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Buck to approve the text amendments. Approved.

**Lawn Care:** Supervisor Fortress has reported that it is time for the fall application of weed control treatment with an approximate cost of \$2,600. A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Herlein to approve the expenditure. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**Annual Audit:** The audit of the 2013-2014 Financial Statements by Rehmann, Robson and Co. has been completed. The opinion has been issued that the statements fairly represent the financial condition of the Township. Two weaknesses were noted in the management letter and have been addressed. The year end general fund balance was \$1,183,538 down \$10,264 from the previous year. The motion to accept the Annual Audit was made by Buck and seconded by Ganton. Approved.

**Lagoon Boundaries:** There are trees around the lagoon that are dead or dying. We have had many trees or large branches falling on the lagoon fence which then requires removal of the trees and repair of the fence. The Supervisor would like to have a survey done to firmly establish which trees are on our property that we can establish responsibility for future removal. Ganton made a motion to authorize the expenditure of a survey. Freehling seconded the motion. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**Website Proposal:** The committee that was formed to look into upgrading our website reported on the four companies that they investigated. The committee recommends that the website upgrade be given to Granger Graphic Design. It is a small company based in Spring Arbor and will take on the work of the upgrade and constant updating along with providing us with a Facebook presence. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:** Tim McEldowney reported that the Safety Building is getting close to being finished.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Julia Stonestreet  
Township Clerk

Approved at the November 10, 2014 regular board meeting