

**SPRING ARBOR TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held Monday, January 12, 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: Julie Alexander–County Commissioner, Tim McEldowney, and Russ Ratkiewicz

**Public Comment:** Opened and closed at 7:02 p.m.

**Expenditures:** Motion was made by Freehling and seconded by Buck to approve the following expenditures for December: General Fund expenditures totaling \$52,501.67; Fire Department Fund expenditures totaling \$47,346.40; Street Light Fund expenditures \$3,921.44; Public Improvement Fund expenditures totaling \$125,417.42; Building Fund expenditures \$4,400.06; Sewer Fund Expenditures 77,101.65; Water Fund expenditures totaling \$318.78; Tax Collection Fund totaling \$235,469.11; Becky Cunningham Historical Fund \$55.00. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved. Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Buck to pay outstanding invoices totaling \$149,449.10. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

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

**Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Freehling to accept the following items under the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports for November and December 2014; general ledger report of revenues and expenditures for December 2014; Zoning/Building permit report for December 2014; the Senior Center Advisory Board meeting minutes of December 10, 2014; the Planning Commission meeting minutes of December 9, 2014 and the Public Safety Committee meeting minutes of December 18, 2014. Approved.

**REPORTS:**

**Police and Fire Report:** Chief Ratkiewicz reported on the month’s activities, including an Officer Involved Training Course and that all officers passed their firearms qualifications. He also said that Spring Arbor police was involved with the “Shop with a Cop” Christmas program. Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Herlein to accept the police report of December 2014. Approved. Chief McEldowney reported on the fire activities for the month. He also said that the firefighters participated in Forcible Entry training and Search and Rescue training. Motion was made by Stonestreet and seconded by Freehling to accept the fire report of December 2014. Approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Committee Appointments:** In December the motion to approve the Board of Review incorrectly included the name of Gordon Holton. Supervisor Fortress asked that the board rescind this appointment. Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Ganton to rescind the appointment of Gordon Holton to the Board of Review. Approved. Fortress then asked that the Board approve the appointment of William Davis to the Board of Review. A motion to appoint William Davis to the Board of Review was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling. Approved.

**Sewer Penalty and Interest write-off:** A situation arose that a utility billing was accruing penalties and interest incorrectly due to an error in billing. Fortress asked that we write off the amount of \$384.08 to correct the error. Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling to write off the interest and penalties on the utility billing for 3190 Reynolds Road. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**Street Light assessment refund:** Fortress explained that during a Consumers street light audit, three years ago, 10 parcels on Henderson Road north of Richard Street were incorrectly included in the Henderson district. He recommended that these ten property owners be refunded the amount of \$104.70 for their assessment over the last three years. Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Stonestreet to refund the 10 owners their incorrectly assessed tax. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved

**Zoning Ordinance Amendments:** The Planning Commission approved recommendation of following four text amendments for board approval.

Section 6.6.2 Text changed to require conformance with the Michigan Residential Code but removing specific language from the Code. Affected text now reads: **Swimming pools shall conform to the Michigan Residential Code.** Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Freehling to approve the above text change. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

Section 17.4 (new section) Text added to state the criteria for reviewing rezoning requests.

**NEW TEXT:**

**In reviewing an application for rezoning, factors that should be considered by the Planning Commission and the Township Board include, but are not limited to the following:**

- A. Whether the rezoning is consistent with the policies and the uses proposed for that area in the Township's Master Plan.**
- B. Whether all of the uses allowed under the proposed rezoning would be compatible with other zones and uses in the surrounding area.**
- C. Whether any public services and facilities would be significantly adversely impacted by a development of use allowed under the requested rezoning; and**
- D. Whether the uses allowed under the proposed rezoning would be equally or better suited to the area than uses allowed under the current zoning of the land.**

Motion was made by Stonestreet and seconded by Ganton to approve the above text amendment. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

Section 6.3.11 Text added to provide a more detailed description of the required garage. Additional text reads: **and must include a concrete or asphalt floor and at least one standard garage door with a minimum width of 9'**. Motion was made by Herlein and seconded by Freehling to approve the above text amendment. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

Section 6.11.3 Text added to provide one additional condition for a recreational vehicle to be used temporarily as a dwelling. Additional text reads: **The recreational vehicle must be connected to the sewer system of the existing dwelling or all waste water must be dumped at a certified dumping station. In no event can gray or black water be drained onto the ground or into a storm sewer.** Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Herlein to approve the above text amendment. Roll Call: 7 yes. Approved.

**Public Safety Committee Recommendation:** A motion was made by Buck and seconded by Herlein to postpone action on the Public Safety Committee recommendation to hire Charles Adams as a part time police officer for Spring Arbor Township. Approved

**Modular Office:** Fortress asked the board to give permission to him to approach the developers of the Greenbrier Subdivision to donate their former office (a modular building) to the township. Approved by common consent.

**JDOT Correspondence:** Supervisor Fortress distributed copies of correspondence he sent to JDOT regarding the classification of two roads in Spring Arbor Township to “primary.”

**PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT:** Julie Alexander reported on items that are active with the Jackson County Board of Commissioners including Cascades Falls Renovation; Medical Care Facility; Airport upgrade and the need to move the landfill; Resource Recovery Facility and preparing to turn it over to the State; Solid waste management; Street Renaming procedures and the 2016 Budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Julia Stonestreet  
Township Clerk

Approved at the February 9, 2015 regular board meeting