

<p style="text-align: center;">YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Special Board Meeting- Appointment of Trustee Vacancy</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thursday, December 7, 2017</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yankee Springs Township Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	<p>MINUTES Page 1 of 4 YST Bd Trustees 12.7.17 Approved Jan. 11, 2018</p>									
<p><u>Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</u></p> <p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</u></p> <p><u>Roll Call:</u> All Present: Jansma, J. Lippert, Englerth, VandenBerg.</p> <p><u>Staff Present:</u> Ron Heilman, Greg Purcell, Frank Fiala.</p> <p><u>Visitors:</u> 7 (not including staff present).</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>PLEDGE</p> <p>ROLL CALL</p>									
<p><u>PURPOSE OF MEETING:</u></p> <p>To make the appointment of Trustee vacancy.</p>	<p><u>Purpose of Meeting</u></p>									
<p><u>No Public Comment</u></p>	<p><u>No Public Comment</u></p>									
<p><u>Schedule of 9 interviewees was read by J. Lippert:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>12/4/17:</u> Larry Knowles</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>12/5/17:</u> Robert Genther</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>12/6/17:</u> John Frigmanski</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon. Ron Heilman</td> <td>Tues. Donald H. Berry</td> <td>Wed. Michael Boysen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gregory Freeman</td> <td>Clifford G. Bush</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Clerk Lippert & Treasurer Alice Jansma had a telephone conference with Township Attorney, Catherine Kaufman, suggesting a Point System on the voting: Each board member would make their top choices from the eight (8) candidates on a three (3) point system. (1st choice = 3 pts., 2nd choice = 2 pts., 3rd choice= 1 pt.). Lippert presented a “draft” copy of this suggestion to Shane VandenBerg and Mark Englerth, during the day (Thursday). They did not approve. Discussion. Englerth and Vandenberg preferred the procedure that was used previously when the Trustee vacancy occurred. Names of eight (8) candidates would be put into a container.</p> <p><u>Recess was taken at 7:09 p.m. per request of Clerk Lippert. Resume at 7:18 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Procedure for Voting- this evening:</u> Names of the eight (8) candidates were put into a container. Supervisor drew the first name</p> <p><u>First name drawn: John Frigmanski</u></p> <p>Motion by Englerth to nominate John Frigmanski for the appointment to the Trustee vacancy. No support. Motion failed.</p>	<u>12/4/17:</u> Larry Knowles	<u>12/5/17:</u> Robert Genther	<u>12/6/17:</u> John Frigmanski	Mon. Ron Heilman	Tues. Donald H. Berry	Wed. Michael Boysen	Gregory Freeman	Clifford G. Bush		<p>List of those interviewed the previous three evenings.</p> <p>RECESS</p> <p>MOTION(S) to NOMINATE CANDIDATES TO TRUSTEE VACANCY</p>
<u>12/4/17:</u> Larry Knowles	<u>12/5/17:</u> Robert Genther	<u>12/6/17:</u> John Frigmanski								
Mon. Ron Heilman	Tues. Donald H. Berry	Wed. Michael Boysen								
Gregory Freeman	Clifford G. Bush									

Next name drawn: Clifford G. Bush

Motion by Englerth to nominate Clifford G. Bush for the appointment of the Trustee vacancy. No second. Motion Failed.

Third name drawn: Michael Boysen

Motion by Englerth to nominate Michael Boysen with support from Jansma. ROLL CALL VOTE: VandenBerg: Yes, Jansma: Yes, Lippert: No, Englerth: Yes. **Motion Carried.**

Lippert stated that M. Boysen's name would have to appear on the August Primary ballot.

Motion by Englerth with support from Lippert to unanimously nominate Michael Boysen to the Trustee vacancy. ROLL CALL VOTE: VandenBerg: Yes, Jansma: Yes, Lippert: Yes, Englerth: Yes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Donald Berry, of Bowens Mill Rd. commented "I think you guys (addressing the Board) made a joke of this whole thing. We supposedly elected very intelligent people to run this township. You can't collectively sit down amongst the four of you, discuss eight candidates and come up with a decision. I think it's a joke. I really do. I'm sorry. That's my opinion. (Mr. Berry left the hall).

Bill Medendorp, of Vista Point commented "Why did we come here Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday for interviews and then get the lotto?"

Robert Nelson, of Westwood Lane asked the Board, "Why didn't you just use a dartboard?"

Board Comments:

M. Englerth commented that normally there is an election for the Trustees, but "we didn't have an opportunity to do that. We took and asked the community to come out, and volunteer and share with the Board. We interviewed each one of the candidates. I said at the beginning of the meeting; they were all good choices. That there were no bad choices. There's going to be seven losers and one winner. So it was a very awkward spot that the board was put in." Englerth continued to comment that no matter how awkward or embarrassing the situation, he believes in his heart all the board members are doing their very best job. Englerth commented that he knows personally he can live with his conscience. "I don't think this was a good solution. I don't think there's any good solution." He feels the board has never worked this hard trying to do the right thing for the public. "We are a community and we need to start acting like one," added Englerth.

Alice Jansma commented that she was not real happy with how the decision was made and added "But that's the way it had to be, and it's done."

J. Lippert commented that she felt the same way as A. Jansma. Lippert commented again that earlier this morning they consulted the attorney in a conference call and on tonight's agenda was what the attorney suggested.

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MOTION TO
UNANIMOUSLY
APPOINT MICHAEL
BOYSEN TO TRUSTEE
VACANCY.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

Shane Vandenberg commented that he agreed with what Mark had said. “There’s going to be one happy person and a bunch of unhappy people. And now we’re all going to have a bunch of people mad at us...We gotta get through this and we gotta move on. We need to move on with sincerity, with respect, to a certain level of dignity.... I’m hoping for a new beginning for the Board. In November, we are going to have an election, so this appointment is temporary. Who knows, we could have 8, 9 or even a dozen people run for that position again. You know what, the more the merrier... This is the way it fell and this is what we are going to live with for a few months now. Let’s do the best we can do,” commented Vandenberg.

J. Lippert stated that it was eight months until the Primary in August.

Additional Public Comment:

Larry Knowles, Former Zoning Administrator commented that he didn’t know the person chosen but he hopes that the new Trustee is great. Knowles commented, “Why would you waste a question (during the interviews) that was on the application? I am very disappointed with that; that was a waste in my mind. I hope the candidate is a great pick. I don’t know him from Adam.”

Englerth commented on the process of coming up with interview questions. An older document may have been used. Englerth commented that the process was anything but perfect. “Certainly not polished. Certainly not something that came out of Michigan State. But the questions were all consistent for each applicant. The mere conversation itself allowed for a little bit of dialogue to go back and forth. Some of the candidates we know very well...Some of them we never met. It wasn’t just the question, but it was the opportunity to watch somebody respond, the body language and everything else which is probably as much as important in the interview process than the question itself,” commented Englerth.

Knowles commented “It seemed to me that nobody took the time to even read the application. I didn’t know what you were going to gain by asking that. It was pointless to me.”

Question on the application that was also asked during the interviews: **Do you have any relatives involved in the township?**

Englerth commented that he would stay after the meeting and there are many opportunities to get on a board and serve on the committee. “You don’t have to be a board member to get involved in a positive way. I have ran elections. I have lost elections. I have won. It’s a painful process...It’s never fair and it’s never perfect. But I hope you believe this Mr. Knowles, and Mr. Heilman, the same way and everybody else in the audience. We are sincere as we can be. If we weren’t sincere, we wouldn’t be here. We wouldn’t be doing this job. A lot of the projects, me and Mr. Purcell have been a team. We have been arm and arm on things that we have done. There’s other projects- that we are the difference between night and day on. Sometimes we don’t even understand why. I would ask everybody here, if you’ve had enough, if you’d like to see positive change, do it in a positive way. Don’t go away. You’re still our neighbors, you’re still our friends. We need your help desperately. Let’s start putting together and act like a team. We haven’t done that in the past. It’s been my goal forever, and it will continue to be my goal. And I think some people, you know I hate to point people out, but me and Frank (Fiala) have butted heads before... We come back together and pull together. I’m sorry if you’re hurt.”

PUBLIC COMMENT
continued

L. Knowles commented, "Like I said, I don't care. And in fact, I think you probably got a good candidate. I've got no reason to think not. I wish you guys would entertain getting the MTA in here and helping you. This is a perfect example of where they could have helped us out drastically. We belong to them, so I don't know why were not using them."

Greg Purcell agreed with previous comments that the process (interview) was lacking and the board could have benefited from MTA. "I hope you have an orientation package developed for this new person, and a walk through of what he is expected to do, and how the Board operates," added Purcell. G. Purcell suggested having minutes from the last six (6) board meetings, a copy of budget, any of the procedures, and putting them in a three ring binder for the new trustee. Purcell also suggested at the next meeting it would be nice to have a kick off at the meeting with "Meet the New Trustee". The new individual can provide information about himself and his background and offer that to the public.

Purcell also recommended consulting the MTA in the future. Purcell suggested having a matrix "where you would have criteria that you'd like to see that person meet. It would be a real helpful way to systematizing this for the future". Purcell commented that he was a little disappointed to hear negative comments from some of the candidates. Purcell had said to Mark and Shane earlier this morning that they had a group of people who are very interested in the township, and "that's a real blessing". Purcell noted the need to have people serving on the various committees that the township has, for example the Veterans Memorial Committee, or ZBA. "This (those interviewed) should be a core group that you could draw from. I am a little saddened to see at least one was pretty upset with this. These are people that have shown an interest and desire to be helpful and to offer some public service and some civic duty," commented Purcell. Purcell commented that the Board should be able to draw from this group in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Englerth with support from VandenBerg to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Approved by all.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 12.9.17

Date: _____

Approved : January 11, 2018

Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

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