

<p style="text-align: center;">YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Special Board Meeting- Trustee Interviews #1-3</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monday, December 4, 2017</u> 7:00 p.m. Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	<p>MINUTES Page 1 of 4 YST Bd Trustees 12.4.17 Approved 1/11/2018</p>
<p>Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</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> Greg Purcell</p> <p><u>Visitors:</u> 2 (not including staff present or those being interviewed).</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>PLEDGE ROLL CALL</p>
<p><u>PURPOSE OF MEETING:</u></p> <p>To conduct interviews of the following Candidates for the Vacancy of Trustee appointment.</p>	<p><u>Purpose of Meeting</u></p>
<p><u>THOSE TO BE INTERVIEWED THIS EVENING:</u></p> <p>Larry Knowles (7:00 p.m.)</p> <p>Ron Heilman (7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Gregory A. Freeman (8:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>List of those to be interviewed this evening.</p>
<p><u>Interviews Questions:</u></p> <p>(#1): Share the reasons that you are willing to serve in township government.</p> <p>(#2) “What do you feel you can contribute to the township board?”</p> <p>(#3): “Do you have any relatives that serve on current township boards or committees?” If yes, “Do you perceive any conflicts of interest if chosen for the position?”</p> <p>(#4) “Are you willing to commit your time to other committees?” (i.e. special committees, ZBA, Planning Commission).</p> <p>(#5) “What is your position on Planning and Zoning?”</p> <p><u>After the last question (#5), the applicant may offer any final comments or ask questions of the Board.</u></p>	<p>Interview Questions</p>

Former Zoning Administrator, Larry Knowles' responses to questions:

#1) Knowles commented that his whole family lives here in Yankee Springs; his father, two of his sons. His youngest son has a business in YS. Yankee Springs means a great deal to him.

#2) L. Knowles commented that he can bring quite a bit to the table. He thinks he has the pulse of the community and shares views of the vast majority according to the last survey that was completed a couple of years ago. Knowles feels that lakes are a priority for Yankee Springs.

#3) Knowles commented that he has a daughter-in-law that serves on the Planning Commission and he doesn't see any conflict. Knowles commented that he would probably have to be removed from the Board of Review, if on the Board.

#4) Regarding Time commitment - Knowles commented that he absolutely would be committed time-wise and would enjoy it as well. He is prepared for the time commitment involved. For the record: J. Lippert commented that L. Knowles is the Director of GLASWA and the township attorney said it is not a conflict.

#5 Knowles commented that it's kind of a big deal for him (Planning & Zoning) – probably more important for YS than most townships because of the lakes making things quite complicated. Lake people can be demanding, noted Knowles. “If you're not near and dear to it, which I think local brings you that, I think you might get forgotten,” added Knowles. Knowles commented on some of the things that have happened in Barry County (Planning & Zoning) as a good indication of ignoring this type of area.

Final comments by Knowles: L. Knowles commented that he has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and he is a Master Citizen Planner, certified Zoning Administrator, and registered Building Inspector. By being the former YS Zoning Administrator, Knowles commented that he was able to deal with the community and find out what their thoughts are and he knows the general complaints that seem to add up and what the community thinks are problems.

Dean Kuipers. Yankee Springs resident and realtor for 40 years, commented in support of L. Knowles for Trustee and praised Knowles for his work as a former Zoning Administrator in YS Twp. Kuipers noted his disappointment at the resignation of L. Knowles from the Zoning Administrator position. Kuipers commented that Knowles brings “so much credibility to the table” and Kuipers is very impressed with how Knowles handles clients that he (Kuipers) has sent to Knowles. Kuipers commented that the quality of Knowles' work is “such a rare thing to find in today's world.”

Recess at 7:09 p.m.

**First Interviewee:
Larry Knowles**

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Second Interviewee: Ron Heilman: 7:30 p.m.

Answers of R. Heilman to the same questions #1-5 with a final comment:

#1/#2) Heilman commented that he thinks that this board is a good functioning board and he can contribute because he knows about zoning and has done a lot of building in his day. Heilman noted that he has been involved in some of the township issues in the last few years and has been coming to a lot of meetings as well. Heilman feels the Board made the right move with opting out on the marijuana issue right now. Heilman noted his interest regarding short term rentals and the township ordinances. Heilman noted that he had spent time today with Representative Julie Calley speaking about Senate Bill 329 (involving short term rentals and township authority). Heilman commented that he feels the board is a good functioning group. "Everyone has been around for a long time and knows what is going on," commented Heilman. Heilman added that he didn't see any problems.

#3) No. Heilman commented that he was the only one in his family from around the area.

#4) – Heilman commented that he was aware of the fact that trustees have commitments to other committees. Heilman commented on Roger Rottschafer sitting (formerly) on the ZBA, and he (Heilman) was on the ZBA also, so it would be a good fit. Heilman commented that he didn't have an issue with time commitment and that he was retired.

#5) – Heilman noted that he felt Planning and Zoning should be kept local. Heilman noted that the township had really good people, noting Greg Purcell as the chair of the Planning Commission. Heilman noted the good camaraderie he has with those in Planning & Zoning. Heilman noted that by keeping everything internal (local), the township has control of it.

Last Comments by Ron Heilman: Heilman commented that it bothers him that a small faction has a problem with this Board. Heilman noted that everyone on the Board was elected by this community. Heilman asked the Board "Who are you going to represent? Are you going to represent a majority of the people or are you going to represent the few that are the problem?" Heilman noted that the board members were elected for a reason. Heilman noted that Jan Lippert was voted in many times for Clerk for a reason. "Everybody's got their niche here. Everybody does a good job. I don't see a problem with anything going on with this Board. It's just simply a matter of everybody's got to do their job. Be respectful. Treat everyone with dignity. Just do the best you can for the people," commented Heilman.

A five minute break was taken before the third, and final, interview of the evening.

Greg Freeman, third and final interviewee of the evening:

#1/#2) – G. Freeman commented that he has spent most of his life communicating with other people and helping them with health care issues and just learning how to deal with people on a one-to-one basis and making them feel comfortable with what is happening in their lives and what is happening with everything around them. Freeman feels he can help with a good rapport between the community and the Board and helping people get involved and feel comfortable and happy about the Board here, locally. "I think that would be a good contribution," added Freeman.

**Second Interviewee:
Ron Heilman: 7:30
p.m.**

**Greg Freeman, third
and final interviewee
of the evening**

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Continued Interview question responses of Greg Freeman:

#3) – No. (Regarding having relatives involved with boards or committees, etc., of the Township)

#4) – Freeman noted that he was retired and has “plenty of time to do that.” (regarding time commitment.)

#5) –Regarding Planning & Zoning, Freeman commented, “We are in a unique area with all the state game area. No one knows our needs better than those who live right around here. Hastings is close, but not really close. A lot of people don’t understand our lifestyle and how we want to live our lives out here is very different from those within the boundaries of the Hastings area. I think we should keep it here and promote what we have here, locally.”

Last comments – Freeman commented, “I’m coming to the Board because I want to help the community that I live in.” Freeman commented that he has no hidden agenda. He just wants to see the zoning be administered fairly to everybody “whatever the situation might be. If it fits within the Planning Commission, and all of the rules are followed as they are put in the by-laws etc., etc. I have no hidden agenda. I’m here just to help,” added Freeman.

***M. Englerth commented that a notification by phone call would be given to candidates on Thursday, after the 7 p.m. meeting.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Lippert with support from Vandenberg to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Approved by all.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 12.4.17

Date: _____
jcl Draft Distributed 12-7-17

Approved : January 11, 2018

Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

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