

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Regular Board Meeting</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Thursday, September 10, 2015</u></b> 7:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yankee Springs Township Hall</b> <b>284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b></p>	<p><b>DRAFT MINUTES</b> Website 9-23-15 Janice Lippert</p>
<p>Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</p> <p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</u></p> <p>Roll Call: Jerkatis, J. Lippert, Englerth, Rottschafer, Campbell.</p> <p>Staff Present: Cathy Strickland, Jim Orr- Constable, Greg Purcell, Frank Fiala.</p> <p>Visitors: 6 (not including staff present).</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p><b>PLEDGE</b> <b>ROLL CALL</b></p>
<p><u>ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:</u></p> <p>Add: <u>Under Public Comment:</u> Letter from Mr. David Minnaar, Elmwood Beach and Nancy Near, Twp. Office, regarding Twp. Park</p> <p>Add: <u>Under Clerks Report:</u> Assessor contract has expired and the Cemetery Sexton Contract</p> <p>Add: <u>to Clerk's Report</u> School election for Delton-Kellogg and election meeting after meeting tonight for Jan Lippert, John Jerkatis, and Mark Englerth</p> <p>Add: Supervisor's Meeting- applicant for PC</p>	<p><b>ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA</b></p>
<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES:</u></p> <p>Special Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2015- (6:00 p.m.) meeting: Motion by Campbell with support from Rottschafer to approve minutes of Special (Fire) meeting of August 13, 2015. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2015: Motion by Lippert with support from Campbell to approve minutes of Regular meeting of Aug. 13, 2015. All Ayes. MOTION CARRIED.</p>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p>
<p><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:</u></p> <p>Russ Yarger, Barry County Drain Commissioner commented that they will be going through who is responsible (regarding GL Dam) - R. Yarger commented it might be a Board of Public Works project- a meeting will be held next Tuesday. Deed to Dam was found to be the property of Barry County per R. Yarger. Discussion took place regarding efforts toward determining responsibility and obtaining information. At this point the county has paid the repair bills and there is a debit on the account right now, no particular departments or entities have been assigned the cost at this point according to R. Yarger.</p> <p>Cuddy Drain Informational Meeting will be held at YS Twp. Hall Sept. 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.</p> <p>A separate <u>Gun Lake Dam meeting</u> will be held at the County Building on Sept. 15, 2015 as well.</p>	<p><b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS</b></p> <p>Page 1 of 6 YST Bd Trustees 9.10.15</p>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: cont'd**

**TTES** –Chief Middleton on Duty. Paper report submitted.

**Barry County Board of Commissioners** - Vivian Conner, County Commissioner V. Conner gave a report on the current activities of the Barry County Bd. Of Commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. Minnaar- of Elmwood Beach** sent letter dated March 12, 2015 to Board Members. Mr. Minnaar would like to re-request consideration by the Twp. Board of how the administrative fee is handled as part of the the tax billing process. "...I basically request the board rescind the 1%, either eliminate it all together, because I think the percentage fee is inconsistent with the idea of what an administrative fee should be..." D. Minnaar also commented that the alternative would be is to figure a fair rate for what the bill would be- what it costs for mailing out a bill. Minnaar commented that about eight years ago, it was figured to be about \$5.00 per year. Minnaar commented that to replace this with a 1% fee (1% of the property tax bill), seemed to be "unjustifiable" from the point of view of a treasurer's perspective, as opposed to just a flat fee. D. Minnaar also referenced the CPI. Minnaar would like the board to re-consider the flat fee (a set equal cost for each property tax bill issued). After some discussion, it was noted that this request will be put on next month's meeting agenda. Mr. Minnaar was happy to oblige with this.

**Nancy Near of Parker Drive**, has worked for the township almost 16 years. N. Near would like to address expenditures for the Township Park. N. Near commented that in the past two years, N. Near and Marge VanderMeyden have received only two calls regarding the park gazebo. At this time, N. Near feels that another survey is needed to get an update on the thoughts and views of our current residents before spending any more money on the park.

**Vivian Conner** – commented that Craig Stolsonburg wanted to apologize for not being here at tonight's meeting due to the fact that he is moving and has a lot of things to do with the move.

**Fire Committee Update Report: Trustee Roger Rottschafer**

R. Rottschafer commented that a recent meeting was held last week with J. Jerkatis, G. Purcell, F. Fiala, M. Cook, R. Beukema, and P. Heystek.

John Jerkatis commented regarding the subcommittee formed to investigate and research a fire authority. The subcommittee composed of Roger Rottschafer and Greg Purcell, has been researching the route to go to on it, the feasibility of it, cost and interest of neighboring communities. Jerkatis reported that the committee has kind of centered their attention on a fire authority at this time for research and to bring a report back to the Township Board (after the research/exploration is done). Further discussion occurred regarding a possible mission statement for the fire committee and treating the fire committee as the Board treats the Planning Commission.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: cont'd**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

October Agenda Item

Clarification was made regarding the understanding that the Fire Committee is looking into a Fire Authority. A meeting was held last month regarding a possible authority with Wayland Township and the City of Wayland possibly involved. Future meetings have also been scheduled regarding the fire authority or association possibility.

This month's 911 report is available and the report will be put in a township file for reference.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: for August 2015: John Jerkatis, Treasurer**

Motion by Lippert with support from Campbell to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

**CLERK'S REPORT: J. Lippert**

• **Accounts Payable & Approval:**

Motion by Rottschafer with support from Campbell to approve Accounts Payable chk# 913112-913140 for the amount of \$19,355.18. **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Rottschafer with support from Campbell to approve Payroll chk. #s 5444-5463 for the amount of \$10,720.21. **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Englerth with support from Campbell to approve EFT of \$2,606.36 for the above payroll amount. **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Yankee Springs Precinct #2 (YS Fire Station) will be consolidating with Orangeville Twp. for Delton-Kellogg School election on November 3, 2015. (This cuts down expenses for the school system).

**SUPERVISOR REPORT- MARK ENGLERTH**

**August Water Inspection/ Water Report (Booklet) Distributed**

**Utilities to the Park:** Englerth presented quotes for Electric \$3,500 (attachment), Sewer \$5,600 (\$4,600 excludes seeding, dewatering, asphalt) add \$1,000 for asphalt and misc. (see Attachment) (Does not include the tap fee for the sewer.) M. Englerth commented about having a stub for future use. Discussion occurred. J. Lippert would be willing to send out a survey regarding residents' views about the Township Park. It was noted that \$30,000 had been set aside in the budget for the Twp. Park.

**BREAK:** 8:05 p.m.

**RECESS:** 8:12 p.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: John Jerkatis, Treasurer**

**CLERK'S REPORT: J. Lippert**

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Approved**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT- MARK ENGLERTH**

Motion by Rottschafer support from Campbell to look at this item next month and see/review Master Plan and if it (Twp. Park electric and sewer proposed work) fits the Master Plan (5 year plan). **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to look at this item next month and see/review Master Plan and if it (Twp. Park electric and sewer proposed work) fits the Master Plan (5 year plan). MOTION CARRIED.

**Cuddy Drain Update – Informational Meeting – September 15, 2015 (Tuesday) at the Township Hall at 7 p.m.**

**\*Special Meeting - September 19, 2015 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m.** regarding Pine Meadows Development request to review and discuss Consent Judgement extension of time.

**Dam Update: (discussed previously in meeting)**

**YS Emergency Services Appreciation Day/ Blood Drive 9/12/15** – will occur this Saturday at the YS Fire Station. Thornapple Twp. (TTES) was invited to participate. Letter of response received from Mr. Mike Bremer.

**Recycling/Grant for metal recycling to be moved to agenda for next month per M. Englerth (due to time constraints in tonight’s meeting).**

October Agenda Item

**Snowplow Contract 2015-16:**

Motion by J. Lippert with support from Jerkatis for J. Lippert to prepare advertisement in newspaper. Ad is to include all specifications. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion for J. Lippert to prepare advertisement in newspaper. Ad is to include all specifications. MOTION CARRIED.

**Facilities Update (by R. Rottschafer):** Cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000 estimated for addition and upgrading of existing facility.

Comments came from Board members. Hastings, Rutland Charter and Thornapple Township buildings were noted as recently having office upgrades. M. Englerth posed the question: What direction do we want to take on this? Englerth felt consensus was not to spend \$250,000 to \$300,000. Discussion took place on possibilities. Weight load on floor in Assessor’s office was noted, storage of chairs and file cabinets in hall were noted as well. J. Lippert will look into revamping of the current offices. Lack of privacy for conversations was mentioned. Issues with insulation/ceiling were noted. It was mentioned that a separate meeting should be held regarding the update since there is usually a full agenda at regular board meetings.

**Applicant noted for the Planning Commission-** application for individual is enclosed in packets. M. Englerth announced the applicant for the PC, as Tressa M. Knowles. Discussion took place.

Motion to accept Mark Englerth’s recommendation for Tressa M. Knowles to be on the Planning Commission for term that expires in January year term. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Rottschafer with support from Campbell to accept Mark Englerth’s recommendation for Tressa M. Knowles to be on the Planning Commission for term that expires in January year term. Roll call: no, Lippert: yes, Campbell: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Englerth: yes. Yes: 4, No: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Larry Knowles**

Written August Activity report distributed.

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Frank Fiala, PC Chairman**

- Article XII to be before board soon after going through the professional planner and YS attorney.
- Notifying surrounding communities regarding update of Master Plan

Nuisance ordinance was mentioned in regards to shooting range – and safety/night shooting. Discussion took place on the nuisance ordinance. The involvement of county ordinances and law enforcement was part of this discussion.

**LIGHTS:** Englerth commented that the light at Briggs Road is now in - after six trips by Consumers Power – the light has needed replacement since the Ice Storm of 2013.

Motion by Englerth with support from Lippert to request a two-year refund from Consumer's for being charged for power for the time the light was not in service (Briggs Rd.). **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion was made by Campbell with support from Jerkatis to install two lights/poles near subdivision (by S & S Market/M-37) at \$100.00 each and utility fee of \$11.00 per month (each). **Roll Call:** Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Constance Cheesemen, Reporter:** commented on Rutland Twp.'s recent addition and remodeling that was done. – Overbeck was the contractor.– C. Cheesemen added that Jim Carr would be happy to advise our township regarding their approximately \$125,000 project.

**Frank Fiala noted:**

**September 26 (Saturday) – Household hazardous waste collection** at Barry County Expo Center. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fiala also mentioned a mini-grant for Household waste – which could possibly go toward a surveillance system near the township's recycling bin. F. Fiala noted the atrocious mess at the recycling bin after Labor Day.

**Greg Purcell** regarding YS Twp. Park, commented, "It's the best thing you got going." Purcell thanked the Board for the past work that has been done at the Park. Purcell also asked about the Veterans Memorial being located possibly at the YS Twp. Park. Purcell thinks of the Veterans Memorial as being in a more serene and contemplative environment. Purcell suggested maybe asking citizens if they would like to have the Veterans Memorial in the park in the survey. Purcell mentioned that in his experience with Parks & Recreation in Ft. Wayne, restroom facilities tend to attract vandalism. However, if the park is going to be used for events and activities a restroom would be useful. Purcell also noted that there are a lot of places that have a "Friends of" Organization - maybe it could also be asked in the survey if there is an interest in a "Friends of Yankee Springs Township Park".

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Larry**

**Knowles, ZA** (written report)

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Frank Fiala**

Motion to request a 2 year refund from Consumer's for being charged for power for the time the light was not in service (Briggs Rd.). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to install two lights/poles near subdivision (by S & S Market/M-37) at \$100.00 each and utility fee of \$11.00 per month (each). MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Discussion occurred among Board members with a majority favoring the Veterans Memorial being at the YS Twp. Park. J. Lippert noted that the Gun Lake Women's Club (The General Federation of Women's Clubs- Gun Lake Area) is already "Friends of the YS Township Park".

**M. Englerth** commented that for the last three and a half years he has put as much effort, energy and heart into the park as he could. Englerth commented on the deteriorated condition of the park when he started, as well as issues with the fire station and township hall. He doesn't possibly see how he can turn it into a 3000 or 300 hour project and be successful. Englerth commented that he is "at capacity." "We all want to be successful. We want our fire station and fire service to be the best that it can be. We don't want our picnic tables collapsing and falling apart and weeds growing up to your shoulders. And we don't want OSB. So somehow, as a Board, we need to find out how we can be successful at moving forward. For a little more research, and a little more volunteer, and some other projects, and maybe it is moving way too fast. But that's my struggle and I'm going to share my struggle with the Board and the audience tonight.... I guess I can go back and re-do it again and again. We've hired engineer firms in the past, and then I've had to take time out of my life (which really isn't in the scope of the Supervisor's job) to get driveway permits, and get trees taken down, and get a grievance with the State of Michigan." Englerth cited a recent issue with the installation of a dry hydrant. "I'm not good at Groundhog Day, folks. ... I'm not mad, and I'm not angry. I just can't do the same thing again, again, and again. I don't know where the solution is. Maybe you can come with some ideas to help me," Englerth commented just prior to asking for adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Jerkatis with support from Campbell to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:  
Deb Mousseau  
Recording Secretary 9/10/15

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved : \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Page 6 of 6**  
**YST Bd Trustees**  
**9.10.15**