

<p style="text-align: center;"> YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES <u>Joint Meeting Of</u> <u>Board of Trustees, Planning Commission and</u> <u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u> 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2017 Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	<p> FINAL MINUTES Jel draft Approved by Bd. 4-13-17 </p>
<p>Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</p> <p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></p> <p>Roll Call: <u>Board of Trustees:</u> Present: J. Lippert, M. Englerth, R. Rottschafer (<u>via remote</u>), S. VandenBerg.</p> <p>*Alice Jansma, Treasurer, joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.</p> <p><u>Planning Commission:</u> C. Strickland, S. VandenBerg, Greg Purcell (<u>via remote</u>), Paul Heystek (<u>via remote</u>), F. Fiala, T. Knowles, R. Beukema.</p> <p><u>Zoning Board of Appeals:</u> Ron Heilman, J. Welch, (<u>Remote: R. Rottschafer –Bd. Rep.</u>), R. Beukema, Chuck Biggs.</p> <p><u>Zoning Administrator:</u> Larry Knowles</p> <p><u>New Appointments to ZBA:</u> Dave VanHouten, John Frigmanski, Todd Delamar</p> <p><u>Visitors:</u> (1)</p> <p><u>NEWLY APPOINTED ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS:</u></p> <p><i>M. Englerth introduced the following new appointments:</i></p> <p>John Frigmanski, Dave Van Houten, Todd Delamar (alternate) to the ZBA.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>PLEDGE</p> <p>ROLL CALL</p>
<p><u>LETTER OF SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION –BOAT WASH – Gun Lake</u></p> <p>Motion by Lippert with support from Rottschafer to send letter to the Gun Lake Tribe Environmental Department, Attn: Elizabeth Binoniemi-Smith in regards to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatic Invasive Species Program Proposal Support. ROLL CALL VOTE: A. Jansma: absent, VandenBerg: Yes, Lippert: Yes, Englerth: Yes, Rottschafer: Yes. Yes: 4, Absent: 1, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.</p>	<p>Attach Letter</p> <p>LETTER OF SUPPORT GRANT- APPLICATION BOAT WASH – Gun Lake</p>
<p><u>COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS</u></p> <p>Frank Fiala reviewed the <u>Highlights of the Yankee Springs Citizen Survey - Fall 2016.</u> F. Fiala noted that Greg Purcell has put a lot of work into this survey. G. Purcell noted the third to last paragraph on the last page, noting a compliment to the township regarding the fire ambulance services. Purcell mentioned that in a few years this would be worthwhile to do again (have a survey).</p>	<p>Page 1 of 6 YST Joint Meeting 3-2-17</p>

It was noted that the survey should be put on the township website.

With the survey information, J. Lippert inquired if it were possible to get the speed limit lowered on M-179. Englerth commented that the township has tried all that it could in regard to the speed limit. Englerth mentioned non-motorized pathways being a possibility in that area to help with safety issues.

M. Englerth opened it up (discussion) to the audience:

D. Van Houten, New ZBA Appointment: commented 147 responses seemed like a very low response.

It was confirmed that 2300 surveys (sent to parcel owners) were sent out.

John Frigmanski: inquired as to how many parcels are actually rental properties.

J. Lippert commented the township has record of who owns property, but no stats specifically if the property is rented..

Cathy Strickland commented that a survey in 2005 received 800 responses. Cathy commented on the wants and needs being pretty much consistent even over a 10+ year period. Strickland also noted that a good share of renters were identified in the 2005 survey. C. Strickland also commented that the community really was involved with the 2005 survey.

Ron Heilman inquired as to what would be our township's role in having a boat wash.

Mike Cunningham commented that there was not an "end date" on the survey. Cunningham and his wife found the survey was impossible to complete. There was missing information regarding the uses of the survey when the survey being put out. Cunningham noted the timing of tabulation of the survey was during a time when many people are away from the area (seasonal residents/snowbirds). Cunningham felt the information and response of the survey could not be used for anything because it could lead to the wrong conclusions. The wording of questions and prioritizing of items were critiqued by Cunningham as well. Cunningham recommended duplicating the 2005 survey questions. Cunningham commented on being transparent with the community by getting more of the community involved.

Frank Fiala commented a prior survey involved a professional planner. The survey of Thornapple Township was taken as a base for this survey. Fiala commented that he felt meaningful feedback did come back from the recent survey.

Greg Purcell: commented that the goal of the survey was to take the pulse of the community; a barometer of what citizens are thinking. It was not a scientific survey/project.

Mike Cunningham commented the goal was admirable, but what was achieved was not. The data is to be used for actions justified by the township, and the data is flawed according to M. Cunningham. "You failed. You need to try again," added Cunningham.

Alice Jansma commented that a large amount of the surveys (mailed with property taxes) went out to mortgage companies.

John Frigmanski questioned the mailing of surveys as to outside of the local area, and to snowbirds.

Chuck Biggs commented that a certain percentage of people will throw things away (when opening up their mail).

Rich Beukema felt that it was good that the survey went out.

Tressa Knowles felt that the PC learned a lot from survey. Maybe a few things could be done a little differently next time.

C. Strickland – commented on today’s society being kind of a “drive thru nation” suggesting that maybe a future survey could be pre-stamped, a drop off box available or emailed responses accepted – for the sake of convenience.

Shane Vandenberg - would like to see the Board not to blame itself for not having a lot of people responding. S. Vandenberg added that people are very busy.

Ron Heilman: commented that he got 3 surveys and only sent one in because he has three properties.

Mark Englerth turned attention to the **WISH LIST** - written on the white board of the township hall.

Wish List 2016-2017- 2017/18 (Calendar/Budget years)

- **Veteran’s Memorial/Location/Committee/Twp. Park**
- **Township Hall/ Expansion**
- **Water Committee/Wellhead/Funding/Expansion**
- **Walkable Communities- sidewalks, paths, trails**
- **Roads- millage**
- **Fire – millage/allocation/rollbacks**
- **Walkable Communities – millage**
- **Cemetery – ordinance & maintenance**

Added at this meeting:

- **Libraries –**
- **Water Quality- environmental**
- **Boats – Access/volume**
- **Economic Development**

When M. Englerth asked Board and committee members what was most important to them on the list:

Rich Beukema and Tressa Knowles commented “Walkable Communities.”

Cathy Strickland – spoke of “Economic Development”.

Alice Jansma mentioned Millage/roll back and millage renewal.

Shane VandenBerg felt that Board members/committee members should be kind and respectful to each other.

Roger Rottschafer commented that it’s a good start on the board with what’s written down, and that the board has to look at 4 or 5 things - not 20 + items and try to get something accomplished. Rottschafer felt that the Board needed to prioritize down to 4 to 5 items and focus on them. Rottschafer also noted a tendency to start a lot of things, but leave them and not get back to them.

Jan Lippert agreed with Roger – she mentioned the township expansion goes back to 2012. The Veteran’s Memorial as being something to be focused on, as there’s an established committee for it (which Jan is on) and donations have been made to the memorial.

Alice Jansma mentioned the importance of the water committee – and the expansion needed in the future.

Larry Knowles commented that the faster the water committee is put together the better - because the wellhead meetings are held up waiting on that (water committee).

Ron Heilman – would like the township to consider “per household” contributing instead of a millage. Heilman asked that the millage idea not be considered for walkable paths.

Shane VandenBerg added walkable communities and water committee as important issues to him on the list.

Greg Purcell – commented on getting citizens involved in prioritizing the wish list suggesting public meetings/forums.

Mark Englerth- posed a question, “If you had \$50 per parcel (not a millage)- for 5 years- would you give to walkable communities?”

Raise of hands: 13 out of 17 said “Yes”.

John Frigmanski added that people need education in regards to walkable community information.

Discussion on Roads began with an inquiry from **Todd Delamar** regarding who does the Road work. Discussion of the Barry County Road Commission and the work the BCRC does and that they do use some subcontractors as well- occurred.

J. Lippert commented that she thinks the roads in the township are awesome.

M. Englerth posed a similar question to the walkable communities (per parcel contribution) question except this would be a contribution to roads and 9 out of 17 said "Yes".

D. VanHouten - referred to C. Strickland's statement on Economic Development being important and asked if the township has a vision regarding economic development.

J. Lippert noted that the M-179 Corridor would be where economic development could go with water and sewer in place.

Discussion moved to way signs/welcoming signs.

Englerth noted that in the next month Barry County will be coming in to meet with the township and interested business people of the township regarding helping small businesses in Yankee Springs- possibly through a tax break.

D. VanHouten asked, "Is there a vision statement? Do we want to grow? Do we want to be a 'sleepy hollow'?"

C. Strickland commented on the free enterprise system pushing the change. Cathy noted that if businesses come here, we need to work with them and have an attractive retail outlet. Strickland also noted that 1.5 million people drive thru every summer to the state park. "We need to get some of their dollars."

J. Frigmanski noted that November thru April is tough on local businesses.

C. Biggs spoke of his experience running a business in Yankee Springs.

Englerth noted the sewer line at the beach was closed at the beach (four years ago). It devastated local business along with diminishing property values on the lake according to Englerth.

Roger Rottschafer had to leave the meeting for another meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Englerth noted the uniqueness of the township with a lot of state land. The feeling of community isn't there with no downtown, and 3 different school districts- according to Englerth.

Frank Fiala: suggested spending some time with the right people - for a vision/mission statement and then see where it fits, and then prioritize goals.

Englerth asked if anything should be taken off of the board (Wish List).

D. VanHouten – commented that he didn't know about the township hall expansion.

Discussion took place with many issues of the building being noted – lack of storage space, private conference area, as well as other items.

D. VanHouten – didn't know all the items were needed in regards to the township hall and office. He felt that a series of articles could be written to educate the public.

M. Englerth commented on communication and connecting with public as being a goal on the wish list as well.

J. Frigmanski – inquired if the ZBA receives information from the zoning board prior to the ZBA meeting coming up. Englerth confirmed information will be received and that ZBA members have the responsibility to go and look at the site involved in the ZBA meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:56 p.m., Englerth motioned to adjourn with support from Lippert. Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted
D. Mousseau
Recording Secretary
3-2-17

Approved Date: April 13, 2017 by Bd Trustees

Janice C. Lippert, Clerk _____

ADJOURNMENT

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