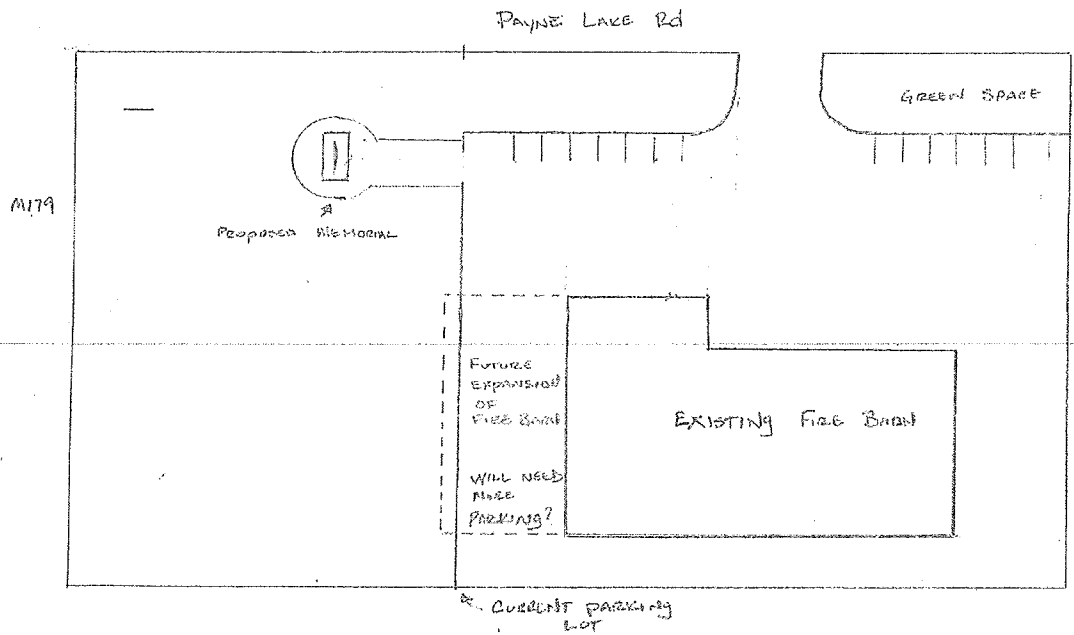


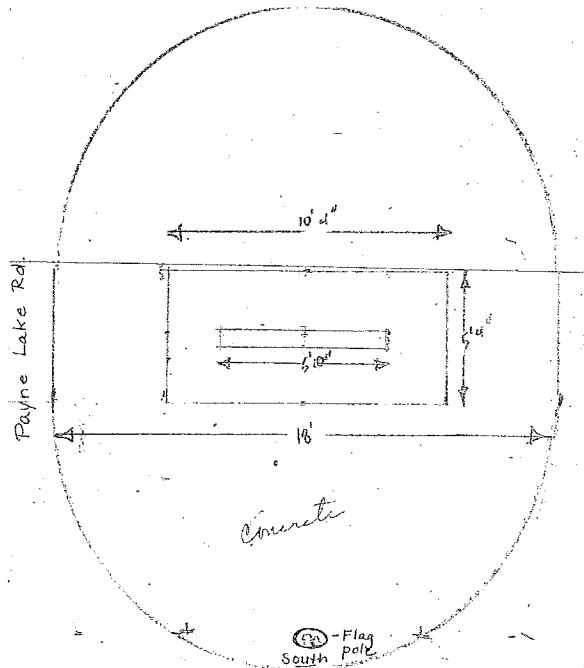
<p style="text-align: center;"> YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP <u>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</u> <u>Special Meeting</u> <u>Veteran's Memorial Update</u> <u>Wednesday, April 17, 2019</u> 6:00 p.m. Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333 MINUTES </p>	<p> FINAL MINUTES Page 1 of 7 Spec. BOT Vet. Memorial Plan/Wording 4/17/19 Approved 5/9/2019 </p>
<p> Meeting called to order at approximately 6:11 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth. <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u> <u>Roll Call: Township Board:</u> Present: A. Jansma, M. Englerth, S. VandenBerg, L. Knowles. <u>Absent with notice:</u> Jan Lippert, Clerk <u>Also Present:</u> Frank Fiala, Cathy Strickland, Sandy Marcukaitis <u>Visitors:</u> 2 visitors <u>PURPOSE OF MEETING:</u> At the Regular Township Board Meeting of April 11th, 2019 Township Board: Approved- a Special Meeting for Wednesday – April 17th, 2019 at 6 pm- to be held at the Township Hall. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Finalize Plans</u> (submitted 4-11-10 Board Meeting) for the Veterans Memorial Site Located at the Yankee Springs Fire Station; corner of Payne Lake Road & M-179. <u>Wordage on the South Side of the Memorial Monument Approval</u> <u>PUBLIC COMMENT: at 6:13 p.m.</u> Bruce Campbell, YS Resident and owner of The Sand Bar, commented regarding parking at the fire station and the future expansion to the property where the monument is planned. Campbell passed out sketches of his own, a current one and future one (sketch). (See the latter sketch on next page). Campbell had reviewed the sketches presented prior to tonight's meeting. Regarding the sketches (previously presented), Campbell commented that the drawing isn't an actual plan of much of anything. "It shows kind of a layout, but are there any flags, any flagpoles? ... What are you passing tonight?" Campbell asked how much consideration was being thought of regarding the final "Phase I"- construction of the memorial, and then what is going to happen in the future, moving forward, as the township grows. Campbell mentioned that the monument is going to be placed in a location that's going to be in between two driveways in the future. "I want some consideration and thought into that please," commented Campbell. Sandy Marcukaitis, Planning & Zoning Assistant commented that after the original plan came out, "the reason I planted those two trees on the south side was because that was going to be in the walkway to get into the property- deeper. And those trees now have nothing to do with an entryway or anything (to the Memorial) because obviously the plan has moved somehow, some way." </p>	<p> CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE ROLL CALL <u>PURPOSE OF MEETING</u> </p>

Bruce Campbell's submitted sketch allowing for future expansion of Fire Station:



BOARD DISCUSSION:

Questions were asked by A. Jansma regarding the sketches of M. Englerth- (see below) (distributed prior to the meeting).

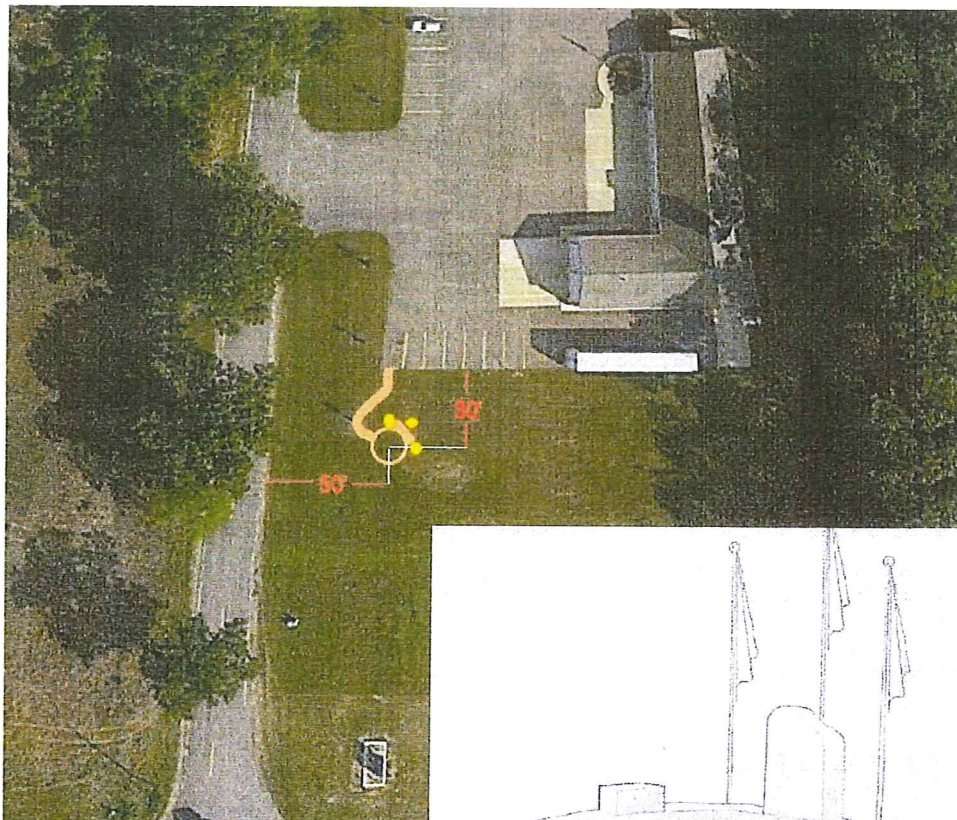


It was noted that the wordage for the south side of the monument would be \$7,300 for either of three options. (See page 5 for sketches of the three wording choices).

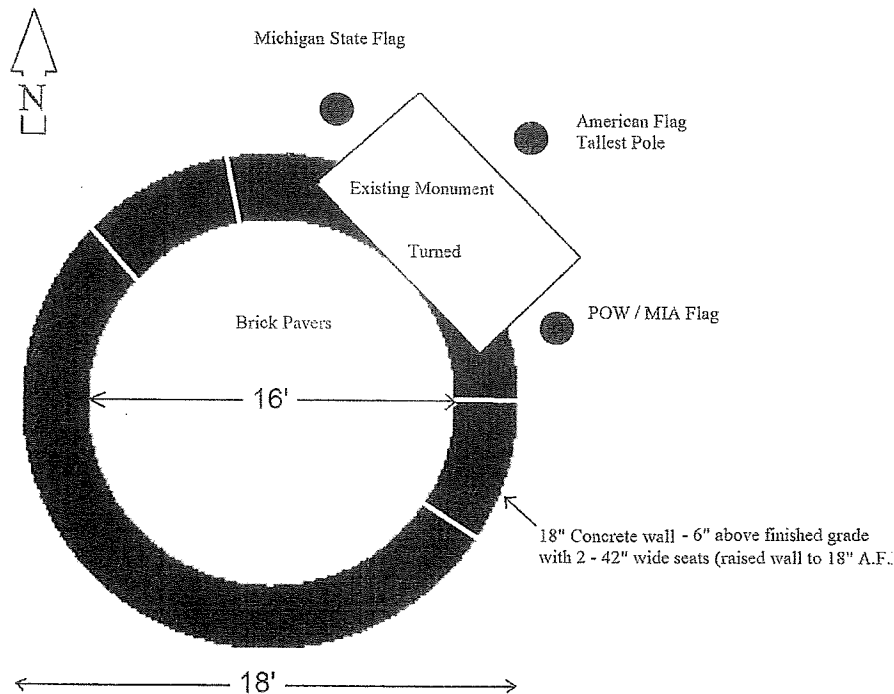
For the concrete (shown on M. Englerth's sketch on pg. 2) was estimated at the 4/11/19 board meeting at \$3,000.00.

Englerth reviewed paver/brick information with Jansma. Jansma inquired as to placement and location of additional pavers. Englerth commented that there was room for roughly 400 pavers leading out to the parking lot.

L. Knowles, Trustee, asked to address the project "as a whole first", before dissecting or getting into wordage on the other side of the monument. Knowles took the rendering from what was at the township and went out in the newsletter and changed it to three flag poles for symmetry and envisioned the American Flag being the tallest of the three. The American flag would be centered behind the monument and the two other (side) flags would be shorter. Knowles commented that he did not favor the two-sided gathering area, nor a two-sided monument (for an additional \$7,300). Knowles distributed aerial pics/diagram: (see below)



Knowles' diagram of monument (turned) and flag(s) placement:



Englerth spoke of Ron Heilman and the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) working on donating flagpoles for the monument. Englerth spoke of options of using the existing flagpole at the fire station, as well as, another possible donation from a business in Hastings.

S. VandenBerg commented that his neighbors were ecstatic about it (the Veterans Memorial). VandenBerg commented "Mr. Jackson, by the way, said make sure you thank Mark Englerth for all the hard work him and the prisoners are doin' ". VandenBerg commented that he's getting a little tired of this whole thing, too. "Let's make some decisions and move on," added VandenBerg.

At approximately 6:35 p.m. discussion occurred between VandenBerg and Knowles regarding the need (or not) for meeting(s) on the Veterans Memorial.

Motion by Englerth with support from A. Jansma to move ahead with the drawing (M. Englerth's on page 2) and tentatively setting flag pole directly south (center) of the monument. Roll Call: Knowles: No, VandenBerg: Yes, Jansma: Yes, Englerth: Yes, Lippert: Absent. Yes: 3, No: 1, Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Knowles commented that he did not like the design (plan) (reason for "No" vote).

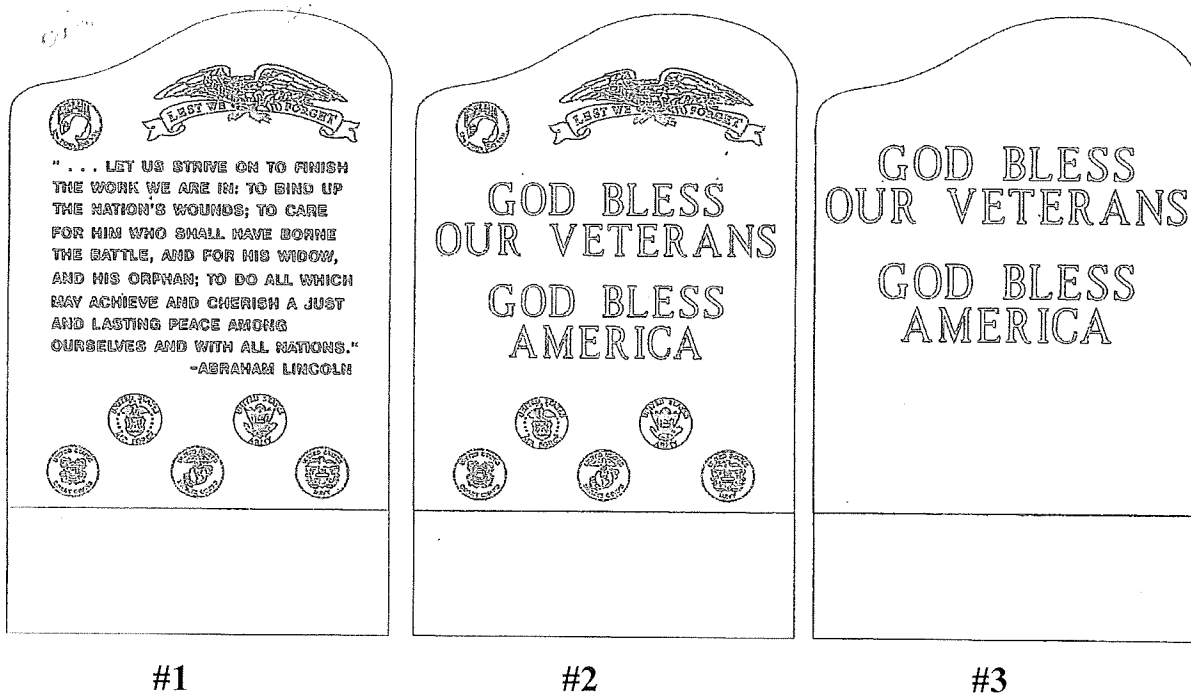
Motion to move forward with sketch of M. Englerth.

Purpose #2 of Meeting: Wording on the back or south side of monument-

Motion by Jansma with support from VandenBerg to wait on decision of wording/etching on back side of stone. Roll Call: VandenBerg: Yes, Jansma: Yes, Knowles: No, Englerth: No, Lippert: Absent. Yes: 2, No: 2, Absent: 0. MOTION FAILS.

Knowles voted "No" to waiting- commenting "I'd rather move forward. I'm fine. I don't have to win." Englerth commented that he voted "No" because he'd rather move forward as well.

Englerth commented on taking a moment to look at the options- See **wording/etchings** below:



S. VandenBerg commented that he'd put just "Thank You" on the back. "Thank you gets people thinking," commented VandenBerg.

L. Knowles commented that he'd vote for doing nothing (on the back) and saving the money.

Motion by Englerth to have #3 (on the right) engraved on the back of the stone adjusting the words "GOD BLESS" and making them larger; put the word "OUR" centered, and the "VETERANS" underneath it so that it could be very legible; and the "GOD BLESS AMERICA". MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT.

Knowles commented that he's not opposed to any of the wording/etchings; he's opposed to the \$7,300.

Englerth commented on going to the Gun Lake Tribe regarding support and committed (casino) funds to the trail, and to the monument.

Motion to wait on wording/etching of back side of monument.

Motion to select #3 with adjustments.

Englerth also commented on working on this Memorial for 5 to 7 years now. Englerth would like everyone to be proud of what has been done and “how far we’ve come. And I do believe it is going to be a tribute to the Veterans and they are going to be grateful and that is our goal.”

PUBLIC COMMENT was reopened at 6:49 p.m. by Englerth at the request of Frank Fiala.

Frank Fiala, of the Planning Commission commented that he is a Veteran. Fiala referred to a Payne Lake Association meeting last year. The Trustees of the Lake Association were very upset regarding the Veterans Memorial. They said the only thing that was done right on the Monument was putting the thank you sign out on the right side of the monument. Frank commented that he gave Ron, of Patten Monument, a call and found out that for roughly \$1,500 or \$2,000 the back side could have the same thing on the front side. “Whatever you guys will do with that, it will be satisfactory,” commented Fiala.

Cathy Strickland, of the Planning Commission, commented that she has never seen so much anxiety and angst over “housekeeping” issues. Strickland commented, “It is not a big deal where we put the flagpoles, and this much time should not be spent on it. As far of the back of the monument, I think that nothing should go there.” Strickland added that \$7,300 could be used on half a dozen arborvitae(s) (shrubbery/trees) to go across the back. Strickland suggested taking the \$7,300 and purchasing something like benches. Strickland continued, “And thirdly, if you decide to go ahead with the wording on the backside and not the shrubbery, I find all three of the suggestions unacceptable. Two of them specifically refer to “God Bless” and “God Bless” and that may be unacceptable to some people in our township who are not, necessarily, ‘people of God.’ So we need something that is a little more politically correct. The Abraham Lincoln one only refers to male veterans, not female veterans, and I think that’s pretty sexist. Women should be mentioned too...”

Sandy Marcukaitis, P & Z Assistant, commented of her concern and said “I know Shane you say you don’t hear anybody complaining” and S. Marcukaitis commented that she has the opposite. She has people asking why the monument is facing only north and not south. Marcukaitis referred to the original drawing by Don Williamson, and walking it out (placement of monument). She commented on the monument getting placed too close to the road, but “it’s done. It’s over with.” Marcukaitis referred to all of the meeting minutes for the Veterans Memorial and asked “Where did the concept that we needed something on the back of that monument ever come?” Marcukaitis noted that there’s nothing in the minutes prior to the stone being set. “Once it was in, that’s when people started saying, ‘Why is it facing that way?’” Marcukaitis feels this is the point when it came up that there should be something that goes on the back because people going down there were looking at a ‘blank stone’. Marcukaitis agrees with C. Strickland that the board has to be careful as to what goes on back of the monument. Marcukaitis commented that she agrees with L. Knowles as to where to put benches. “You’re kind of landlocked in that back little corner,” Marcukaitis added. Marcukaitis referred to going back to the minutes and there was never anything mentioned about something being etched on the back of the monument. Marcukaitis believes it was placed wrong. S. Marcukaitis concluded, “Nobody’s taking away what you’ve done (Mark), but I just don’t think it’s done correctly. But it’s done. So how do you fix it?”

S. VandenBerg commented, “And all the people that I’ve talked to, they think it’s beautiful, and they think it’s well done, and done very tasteful. And you can’t please everybody. And obviously we’re not pleasing everybody.”

S. Marcukaitis asked why they even had Don Williamson design the Memorial.

A. Jansma commented “We’ve been at this for seven years”.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. Knowles with support from Englerth to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Approved by all.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 4.17.19

Date: Approved by Board of Trustees May 9, 2019
Approved : _____
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

FINAL MINUTES
Page 7 of 7
Spec. BOT Vet. Memorial
Plan/Wording
4/17/19

ADJOURNMENT