

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Work Session #5 on TRAILS
Monday, April 30, 2018
6:30 p.m.
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333

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Circulated Draft 5-7-18
Board Approved May 10, 2018

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

**PLEDGE
ROLL CALL**

Roll Call: Jansma, J. Lippert, Englerth, M. Boysen, VandenBerg.

Staff Present: Greg Purcell, Frank Fiala, C. Strickland

Visitors: 1 (Jerrie Fiala)

PURPOSE OF MEETING- Trails Project Information

Purpose of Meeting

Mr. Rick Moore was unavailable. Boysen commented that he is eager to come and speak with the board, but he sits on other boards and was not able to come tonight. M. Boysen mentioned speaking with Laketown Twp. near Lake Michigan. It (Laketown) has a trails project and is willing to talk with our township about it. May did not work out. The regular meeting for June is June 14th.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**
(Unable to attend tonight's meeting.)

S. VandenBerg commented that **Geoff Moffat** will come in June and speak at no charge.

Englerth mentioned that the State is interested and they have literally 32 miles of trails that YS Twp. could connect to.

Englerth commented on an overlay district involving Orangeville, and Yankee Springs that was considered over ten years ago. Englerth mentioned talking to the Sheriff and 13 weeks of summer is when the area is the busiest. Englerth commented on pursuing a working relationship with Orangeville (intergovernmental cooperation).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Fiala referred to Tom Rook (Orangeville Twp. Supervisor) actively looking at recycling/working with the County coordinator. Fiala wondered if the (YS) township had been contacted regarding recycling and having YS (and Orangeville) coming to the next meeting and giving an update. Fiala noted Public Act 38 was passed by the county regarding the township being allowed to access a fee up to \$25, everyone can opt out, " and with that they think they can go to curbside recycling...rather than having their batch container there – of charging people that want to opt in, and they pay one time per year, up to \$25, can be less than that, and then applying that toward recycling and then supplementing it a little bit if they need to. And everybody will have a nice little basket or a big container ... that they push out there on recycling day." F. Fiala has conversed with Tom Rook of Orangeville regarding this. T. Rook is exploring the recycling possibility. Fiala also commented that Rook spoke with him regarding the expense of Zoning, and possibly sharing efforts involving the nuisance ordinance. Englerth confirmed that he had conversed with Tom Rook as well.

Englerth commented on sending a zoning officer to a party rather than having someone with a badge show up. Englerth noted that at 11 p.m. at night, the latter would be more effective.

G. Purcell commented that the GLPA is very interested in moving in the direction of a common zoning district/overlay on Gun Lake. Purcell would like to know if a public meeting regarding the possible common zoning takes place so he can update the GLPA website and also inform GLPA members. G. Purcell also asked about rescheduling of the Joint Meeting that was cancelled (for May 8th). Purcell has some items that he would like to be put on the agenda of that meeting.

A. Jansma commented that Gun Lake Improvement Board had a meeting last week at the township and they (GLIB) didn't leave until 5:30 p.m. The township assessor was present until the end of the meeting.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL:

Englerth, regarding the Veterans Memorial, commented that even though the meeting was cancelled (Saturday, April 28th) he met with M. Boysen and they measured off the Memorial (site) from the fire station parking lot.

M. Boysen commented that the Memorial (physical site) is bigger than one may think. "I don't think it is a wise idea (regarding location), but we have to honor the wishes of the community. If that's what they want, that's what we'll do. It seems foolish to me, to put it there. But the main thing is that we have to keep moving forward on it. So Mark has graciously offered to dig a hole for the footer. Then we can get McKinney Poured Walls to come in and pour the support foundation for it and then we can set it," commented Boysen.

Englerth commented that Memorial Day is May 28th. Saturday, June 2nd will most likely be the date of the annual Memorial Program at the Fire Station. Englerth would love to have the stone set by then. "We will run out of money before we run out of project," added Englerth. Discussion took place.

A. Jansma spoke of doing what was done when the Veterans' Memorial Committee started out with a loan of \$2,500.00 from the township. Boysen agreed with exploring A. Jansma's suggestion. Englerth commented that he didn't want to take the taxpayers money for the Veteran's Memorial. VandenBerg agreed with Englerth. Further discussion occurred.

Discussion took place on volunteering of time. Planned work for the Memorial in the next few days and weeks was noted. Englerth commented that Boysen would be partnering with him (Englerth).

Motion by Boysen with support from VandenBerg to move forward as a Board with the Veterans' Memorial and to dig hole, pour foundation, backfill and set the stone not to exceed up to \$21,000 total as soon as possible. Roll Call: Englerth: Yes, Boysen: Yes, VandenBerg: Yes, Lippert: Yes, Jansma: Yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

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**VETERANS'
MEMORIAL
 Discussion**

MOTION TO GO FORWARD (As soon as possible) WITH WORK ON VETERANS' MEMORIAL not to exceed \$21,000.

RECENT MTA CONFERENCE/WIND TURBINES/POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FORUM:

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RECENT MTA CONFERENCE/WIND TURBINES/POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FORUM

M. Boysen commented that the MTA conference was fantastic. “I learned a ton, it was super-informative, a good spend on the part of the township,” noted Boysen. He wished he could have stayed for the third and fourth day. Boysen commented that other township boards are really fighting. “I think we are doing really well,” added Boysen.

J. Lippert commented that she will be filling up the township mailboxes with the literature she has received from the conference.

G. Purcell felt it (MTA Conference) was very worthwhile, as well. Purcell noted learning particularly about what was happening in legislature and how it affects the township. Purcell spoke of a session involving water issues. G. Purcell also mentioned a session on wind turbines. F. Fiala commented to Purcell that approximately six years ago it (wind turbines) was brought up in the Planning Commission but it did not proceed. Purcell commented that township would be favorable for a wind turbine location. Purcell mentioned that he would like wind turbines on the agenda for a Joint meeting at some point. C. Strickland was familiar with work on the Planning Commission regarding Wind Turbines as well.

F. Fiala commented that it (Wind Turbine Ordinance) was already to go for public hearing but the township board had decided not to move forward with it at that time.

G. Purcell commented on the height of wind turbines not falling into the township zoning ordinance.

VandenBerg commented that the legislature just changed things recently regarding residential sites not being reimbursed as they were and it is no longer “as flush” as it was (to use alternative forms of energy).

Englerth mentioned that Greg Moore is now the liaison for Consumers Energy. G. Purcell worked with G. Moore with Calhoun County.

Englerth commented on getting different (alternative energy) groups together and having a public forum to educate the public. Englerth mentioned misinformation being given out previously. Englerth’s example was fracking, which he commented fracking didn’t occur in YS township after all because of state game land.

Englerth commented on contacting Greg Moore to speak.

Boysen commented on the “smart grid” which a lot of time and money is being spent on. Meters are now read by satellite. It is all computer-driven. Regarding solar energy/panels, churches are one of the biggest consumers of solar – because of roof space and use only once a week. Issues aren’t usually with residences, but large farms (for energy). Boysen noted that this part of Michigan is not the greatest for solar, but more for wind.

Cathy Strickland mentioned contacting Great Lakes Energy as well.

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE:

Boysen commented on a lot of confusion of what is reported in the newspaper. “Some of it’s not clear. Some of it is just plain wrong. They just get it wrong.” Boysen feels it is important to let them (reporters) know the board has oversight and they (The board members) are watching the press.

VandenBerg felt there were a few issues with press coverage that need to be cleaned up. VandenBerg commented that the truth needs to be told and the board has a responsibility for clarity.

Jansma commented on having corrections/retractions made in following editions (in the back of the paper). These corrections dealt with financial figures.

Englerth commented that he had been crucified (in the press), but the media is going to say what it wants. Englerth also commented on working toward a good relationship with the media.

Jerrie Fiala commented that she covered township meetings in Kalamazoo, Texas Township, Paw Paw Township and some school board meetings. J. Fiala would have a contact (at each coverage location) to check out information of these meetings that she reported on.

J. Lippert commented on Fran Favermen (retired reporter) always checking to confirm information.

Purcell commented on having scrutiny and striving for accuracy.

VandenBerg commented that someone on the board told the reporter that he was “charged”. VandenBerg also commented on a couple dozen people asking him what was going on, referring to the Feb. 8th, 2018 edition of **The Banner** – saying that VandenBerg was “charged” with a conflict of interest while being on the board. VandenBerg felt that the board needed to contact Mr. Jacobs. After further discussion, VandenBerg commented that at least it’s on the record that the Board didn’t do it (say VandenBerg was “charged”).

Englerth commented on thinking they (the board) will have to take the high ground.

J. Fiala never covered anything in the city where she lived.

Englerth commented on when he first became a Supervisor. He got “screamed at” for violation of Open Meetings Act. Fred Jacobs was involved. The Prosecutor wrote Englerth a “spank you” letter. Englerth commented on sending a letter back denying a violation of the open meetings act. Englerth spoke well of C. Yonkers, and that he (Yonkers) may have a different perception of things. Englerth spoke highly of the article for the YS Clean Up Day.

VandenBerg commented that he would ask C. Yonkers someday about a correction on the “charged” word used in the paper.

VandenBerg commented that he’d like to talk about the recall petition when the board is ready (to talk about it). VandenBerg commented that he has talked with the township engineer.

J. Lippert commented “I call a point of order right now. We cannot discuss this... I’m not going to talk about this. We should not be talking about recall as a board.”

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Discussion took place about the board **-not** being able to **or** being able to- take a political position or discussing the recall. Vandenberg commented that he was seeking clarity.

Englerth felt that Jan was “100 percent right” that the board can’t take a political position (as a board). “We can take a political position as individuals,” added Englerth.

Vandenberg commented that he was talking about slander not a political position.

Englerth commented that when the board discusses the closed minutes of the attorney “is something that we are going to have Thursday to decide if we were going to move forward of what was true and what wasn’t true and what was said.”

Vandenberg commented “All right. I’ll agree with that.”

Englerth commented that he felt the issue that Vandenberg was seeking clarity on will be clear in the minutes of the closed session.

J. Lippert commented that she met with Catherine (Kaufman) at the MTA conference. Lippert commented that she has the (legal) opinion from the MTA and noted, “We can never open those closed session minutes up, one year and one day. And even opening them, at that point, they get destroyed...forever.” J. Lippert commented that she would copy the opinion.

Englerth commented that he was told differently, but “we will get Catherine’s opinion.”

Meeting to Set the agenda for May 10th (Regular Board Meeting):

Set the agenda for May 10th (Regular Board Meeting)

(Setting of agenda to take place on Saturday, May 5, 2018 as May 3rd Workshop was later cancelled)

- **Board appointments (for Planning Commission)**
- **Information from attorney on Closed Session minutes opinion.**
- **NO signed contract with PCI**
- **Readopt ordinance on land division** - passed on August 10, 2017 but not published. Just a matter of publishing it – effective asap. (7 pages long given to Eric of PCI today, 4/30/18. Eric will do a synopsis for the publishing in the newspaper- per Jan).
- **Wording for EMS millage ballot language**
- **Water Contract change** - specs given on March 26- not accepted yet by board. A. Jansma asked “Are we going to go through it word by word?”
- **Jansma would like to do something with CDs of the township.**

Brief discussion took place of tabling an item, and continually tabling items.

WATER ADVISORY BOARD/GLASWA/WATER SPECS:

After discussing the agenda items for the next regular board meeting (May 10th), discussion occurred regarding “**Water Contract change** - specs given on March 26- not accepted yet by board.”

M. Boysen inquired as to why the board was going thru water specs.

G. Purcell (Member of the Water Advisory Board) commented that the water board made a recommendation (as to the specifications in the Water Contract).

Boysen commented that it seems the board should take a committee’s recommendation, or “Why do we have a committee in the first place?”

VandenBerg commented that the same firm works for GLASWA and the township. VandenBerg commented that if there is a problem, then you have a firm with both sides represented from the same firm, and that can’t happen.

Discussion occurred between Boysen and VandenBerg regarding subcontracting, and VandenBerg’s attendance at a water meeting and clarifying the definition of water utility.

Englerth commented on how the water authority was formed starting with a contaminated aquifer and the DEQ. Englerth commented on more recently appointing people and creating “this water board” and having a monthly report. Englerth commented on asking the water board last meeting, what they’ve achieved over the last six months or a year, and what are the plans for (the future).

Boysen commented “Either we trust a committee or a board, whatever you want to call it, to help give us solid recommendations. We take those recommendations or we don’t trust them. The reason you have committees, the reason you have boards, is to help drive your decision. We don’t have time to wade thru specifications.”

VandenBerg commented, “I would suggest, if you want to be clear on the issues in the very near future, you better get Fleis & VandenBrink and he can clean this all up.”

A. Jansma, commented “You get the report every month. It’s in the audit. Does anybody look at the audit? The water authority is in the audit... Larry’s (Knowles) is the first guy to every ask, ‘How do you want me to spend the money?’”

Englerth commented that he felt they were taking steps forward. Englerth remarked to Jansma, “I don’t know why you are so flustered.”

Jansma commented that she was mad, “because you don’t trust us.”

Englerth commented that he felt the discussion wasn’t distrust of the water board, but it was about being in the dark and being knowledgeable. Discussion took place of information (on March 26th) that A. Jansma provided regarding the water board and had to make copies of again for the next meeting because it (information) was never brought up or read.

VandenBerg commented that he was mad about a few other things that Jansma didn’t inform the board about. “I’m mad about that. If you want to be mad.”

Englerth commented about being lucky to get through a meeting let alone digesting it and

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talking as a board, and then having to go through specs (water), and talking intelligently and being on the same page regarding specs.

Boysen commented “ I’m just saying...that we have to either trust our committee and our boards to give us proper information or we don’t, because we can’t spend forever spinning our wheels over specifications. We have a lot of other things we should be doing as a board, or we shouldn’t even have a committee. We shouldn’t even have an authority or whatever you want to call it.”

VandenBerg (referring to M. Boysen’s previous comment), “And I’d be good with that, because I think all we need is an engineer. And I’m serious.”

Englerth commented about revisiting (as a committee) and say, “What are we accomplishing? What are our goals? What do we want to do?”

VandenBerg commented “Anytime an engineer comes in, somebody with that type of an education, I’ll throw the word ‘sanitarian’ out there, they need to be speaking to our Regular Board. I don’t want things second hand. I want to be able to ask the people that have the certificate. I want to ask them directly. It’s nothing to do about trust. I can get so much more out of talking to someone who’s on a different level. I think everybody can.”

Boysen commented “I think Alice has a pretty valid point. If we are not doing our homework, then shame on us. If we’re getting reports that we are not reading, then shame on us.”

Englerth commented “We are not getting anything presented to us. And I’ll give you a real good example.” Englerth commented on six months ago getting a complaint from an individual regarding nitrate levels in his well. “I was told that we weren’t going to bring it up in a meeting and we weren’t going to bring in the health department and the water board is going to take care of it... Nothing ever came of it.” Englerth commented that he talked to Regina of the health department several different times. “And low and behold it comes back to the water board six months later. Regina couldn’t make our board meeting, because of comments of individual(s) (or an individual), but she could make the water board meeting. So back to that level of trust, that specific piece went to the water board. We never got information back. We never got any results. We didn’t talk about testing of water. The health department finds it next to impossible to do. Jump up and correct me if I’m wrong. Mr. Kraai from Kraai Well drilling, says, ‘I have a vehicle that nitrates are a problem in Yankee Springs and they’ve historically been a problem. And we can find a vehicle to where the citizens of our community can get their water tested, so they can monitor it. But if the Barry County Health Department has the means or desire, I still haven’t figured that out.

But it is our job to the public to provide things to make a safe community. It got left on the table. So it isn’t them or nothing. It’s us working together and being on the same page and it’s having discussion and having dialog. That’s where I’m coming from. I don’t think its throw the baby out with the bath water.”

Purcell commented, “The township is the owner of the water utility and you can do as you see fit. GLASWA (Authority) is your contracted agent to operate the utility. You (YS) are the owner. GLASWA is the operator.” Purcell commented on having a conversation with

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M. Englerth (2 to 2 ½ years ago) about a water utility advisory board, (which has now been created)... “to get into this in some higher level of detail, more getting down to the nitty gritty of things and being able to advise the township board and make recommendations to you (the Board).” Purcell commented that minutes have been made and submitted from the Water Advisory Board and possibly the last set of minutes came as a group to the board. Purcell noted that Englerth asked that Purcell would prepare a report. Purcell commented that the advisory board hasn’t even existed for a year. Purcell told Vandenberg if he didn’t like the Water Utility Board, “you can dissolve it.” Purcell commented that the Water Utility/Advisory Board tries to be helpful to the township board. Purcell commented that he (Purcell) and Alice addressed the nitrate issue and put together some work on that issue for the board. A resident had an issue with it last fall. He had a filter system put it. The resident wanted to sell his property and that was what his concern was about. Purcell commented that he didn’t know if the township or the water authority really had responsibility for this issue (water systems). Purcell commented on it being a health department function. “In terms of monitoring those wells, we brought in Chad Kraai as kind of an informal board member, several times, because he is the most knowledgeable individual I know about wells in this area. We’re here to try to be helpful. We’ve submitted recommendations to you. It’s your prerogative in terms if you want to accept the recommendations or if you want to go through them in fine detail... We stand ready to be helpful to you.... You’ve got five (5) individuals on this board that receive zero (0) compensation. We’re devoting our time and our energy to this. We’d like to be of service. We’ve gone through some educational programs.... If we have done something to offend you, I’d like to apologize.... We serve at your pleasure. This shouldn’t be an adversarial relationship, this should be a complimentary relationship. We’re trying to be of assistance to you. I hope that gives a better understanding and calms the waters here a little bit.”

Vandenberg commented that he was trying to have clarity. “This water advisory board ... it’s not the way I would set up a committee of applicants, instead of five (5) people handpicked to set on the board. Maybe there was collaborating that I don’t know about.... It was still put together behind closed doors with other board members not knowing what was going on.... We need to be a little more clearer. There’s things that just don’t get said. They came in all of sudden, there was a resolution 3 – 2.... And it was just said and done. ...All of sudden we had a resolution in front of us, and we voted on it one evening... I walked out thinking, ‘Is this government? Is this the way we do business in government?’ I sure hope not, but obviously it was.... Maybe we should ask for applications, and everybody can apply.... giving some sense of democratic value- which we did not do.”

Boysen commented on having to have a certain level of trust.... Boysen commented that he’d rather have committees of people who are “interested in what they are talking about and having people that are educated in what they are talking about give me recommendations so I can say ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. That’s what committees are for. I don’t think we have to go through a democratic process for a committee.”

Englerth offered to give history on the matter... “I don’t want to do this in a meeting, but I’m going to. We’ve gotta either get over it and move past it, or keep fighting.”

Englerth continued, “Back in the day, I come in and this water board is something I’ve been wanting to move since I’ve been elected and before... The sewer authority collected

the bills, we contracted with them, whatever. Good or bad it paddled down the road.” Englerth commented that he said to Jan (Lippert): “At the next meeting, we are going to advertise for positions (on the water board.) The next meeting comes up. Board decision. Resolution. Everybody’s appointed. Not one position ever advertised for the community or whatever else. There’s one person that is actually from his trade, his skill, his work ethics, brings something from utility services to the board that’s on the system. There are other people in the community that would bring this, but we didn’t have an opportunity to go get them. So the level of trust and happiness was not good from Day One. OK. One of the individuals is wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. I like him, and he’s a great guy. He’s not even on the system. And one minute I hear it’s not the board’s decision to worry about nitrates in the water...It was the water authority board’s responsibility and I got told they were doing this cause it’s their job and we never heard back from them. We’ve got one guy who’s managing the sewer authority going to recall one of the trustees. And we have one guy on the water board, that on his own, not a decision of the Planning Commission, not a decision of the water board, came after with an extension of the subdivision. Now I’m not beating you up, Greg. We’re just putting everything on the table. We’re either going to put it behind us or keep fighting. All of us. ...You came up with a resolution with an extension on the loop on the trustee’s subdivision he was building. In the meantime, you guys get in a fight. Larry gets smacked side the head because he just happens to be there. And we’re paying for that every day we’re trying to do business at the township. And that’s where we live. And either something’s gotta straighten up with everybody here, or we can continue to live in the same dam drama that we’ve been in. And I’ve not seen anybody lifting a finger to try to resolve that. ...I feel sorry for Mr. Boysen, he had no idea what he was getting drug into. I think everybody’s made some mis-steps. And we either gotta back up and win that trust and win that confidence and move forward or continue to live in the world we’re living in. And the choice is everybody’s here. Frank asked me about your (Greg Purcell’s) appointment a couple weeks ago on the phone. I told him I didn’t know. But do you think you have a little responsibility to mend some fences, Greg? And have you lifted a finger? We all do. I’m pointin’ at you right now. I can point all around the room.”

Purcell commented, “From my opinion, I’m not sure what I did wrong. I listened to the engineer of Fleis & VandenBrink. I listened to your fire chief and from my knowledge, having working in water and sewer in the city administration for the city of Ft. Wayne for a number of years, the water system needs to be looped. So the recommendation was to loop the water system. And then there was the question, “Who pays for it?” We made the recommendation from the water board on how you would cover the cost for that. The township board then took that under advisement. You had closed door meetings and you developed a solution in terms of how you were going to loop that system and pay for it. I wasn’t a party to that. So that’s a decision that you made. I’m not sure who I owe any kind of an apology to. I wasn’t taking any personal shots at anybody.”

Boysen commented that he was in that closed session. “One of those things that came up early on was that word ‘need’. The word ‘need’. The clarity that I got was that- that’s an opinion. Need. It was recommended. It was ideal, but it was never a need.” So I think that is where we are getting grandular about this because from what I’ve learned on this whole thing. Then it became a bit of battle of perception. There was the need camp, ‘Oh we need this.’ Then there was the ‘Well this is ideal, but it’s not’... We got that word right from our man from Fleis & VandenBrink, he told us, sitting here, that it wasn’t

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'needed.' It was just a recommendation. It would be 'ideal'. I think quite honestly, that's where the battles have been drawn on this whole thing, is that people have heard what they've wanted to hear on this. Like 'Oh this is a need and we have to do it and we have to figure out who's going to pay for it and if we have to make a developer pay for it, great.' Does that seem clear to the rest of the board where it got a little bit sideways? And maybe there was overreach and maybe there wasn't. I don't know; it's not for me to say. But I think there's a possibility, that all these personalities have gotten a little bit into a backroom battle on this. And really, it's not necessary because at the end of the day, we have enough water to fight a fire. And that's again, that's an opinion, but if I hear it from an engineer, I kind of believe it. It's what people wanted to hear. I think it's because of agendas. We all had our own little private agendas. And I've seen a lot of it in this community. But we're not alone, it happens everywhere. But to Mark's thinking, I think we can get past it. I think we can move on. Just say, 'You know what, there was probably some overreach, some miscommunication on the need vs. want', and then move on."

VandenBerg added, "And that's why earlier I suggested for real clarity, I always want to talk to the engineer. The engineer made it very clear with our meeting where he stood."

Purcell commented, "I can just tell you that I heard from the engineer, and I heard from the fire chief that best practices was that you loop the water system. My experience with the City of Fort Wayne is that you loop the water system. Your ultimate decision was that you loop the water system. The question of how you get it paid for is a question that goes to the board. You had a closed meeting. You made a decision and I still don't know how it's going to be paid for but you made a decision of some fashion about how that's going to happen. But my view was 'Loop the water system'. We need it for water pressure and for the public health in terms of best practices for that water system."

VandenBerg asked, "Where was the pressure that was not healthy?"

Purcell commented that he didn't want to "get into this, with you, Shane, because you are the developer. I think that you have an interest in regard to this because you have a vested interest in the development. (VandenBerg interrupted, "You've just made a statement.") Purcell continued, "It's inappropriate for you (S. VandenBerg) to be commenting and having that kind of dialogue."

At this point, approximately 8:18 p.m., VandenBerg removed himself from sitting at the Board table and moved to the audience, sitting next to Purcell.

VandenBerg commented, "Alright. Now the board can ask me a question. I can take myself off the board and go ahead."

Purcell commented that he said what he needed to say and, "I'm comfortable with where I'm at."

VandenBerg commented, "As a developer, sitting in the audience, I'll ask the board, 'Am I okay with this?'"

Boysen asked for clarification of VandenBerg's question.

VandenBerg commented, “Where don’t I have the correct fire flow in the new Shalinda plat? Where?”

Englerth suggested that after the meeting, “If the two of us (M. Boysen and Englerth) and the two of you (VandenBerg and Purcell) want to sit down after the meeting, and we think we’ve moved past this, I’ll spend the time. If not, I do think there are two completely different views on this, Greg. And I think that there’s where all the problems are at. And I’d like to get past it. (S. VandenBerg interjected, “I’m willing to answer his questions.”) Englerth continued (speaking to Purcell), “If you don’t want to, that’s fine, but if you look at why things aren’t working, like I’ve said, we’ve got the administrator of the sewer authority really angry, recalling this individual (VandenBerg). You two went at it like two whatever. ...It’s not the board’s problem. After the meeting, Mr. Boysen and myself, the four of us want to sit down, I’d be happy to do it, Greg. If you want Frank there, I don’t care. OK.”

Purcell commented, “This is not a personal issue, between myself and anyone here. What I said is this is what I think you ought to do and others agreed with me, and I relied upon the engineer, and the fire chief, and my personal background and experience.”

M. Englerth commented, “No. No. If you want to talk about it further, we’ll do it after the meeting. It’s up to the board.”

Purcell concluded, “That’s fine. I’ve said what I needed to say and ...”

Boysen remarked “I think everybody kinda got their laundry out.” Boysen added that it’s been talked about behind peoples’ backs for a long time and it has “been unhealthy”. Boysen mentioned that it was odd to step into this “tornado”. Boysen commented to Purcell, “What we are dealing with Greg, is interpretation and verbiage... You interpreted something one way and other people interpreted it another way.” Boysen mentioned people having agendas and that “there could have been overreach. Maybe not.” Boysen commented, “I am not a fan of us spending one dime on this loop at this point. I don’t think it’s a wise spend. I really don’t. I think it was ill-conceived. It is “ideal”. It is “recommended”. I get that. And I know that I’ve read the engineering notes and they make perfect sense to me. But, it smelled funny like it was an attempt to just stop development. That doesn’t feel right to me as an elected person, excuse me, appointed person, on a board, when you smell something, it seems like it’s personal and this whole thing just felt ‘personal’. That’s where the battles were. And I think they are still going on. But we can end it right now. We can just say, ‘You know what? There’s a misunderstanding. We’re going to move on’. I for one, appreciate your (G. Purcell’s) work. I really do. I appreciate your expertise, and all the knowledge you bring to this. I think those people like you on these committees are ideal because I don’t want to make these decisions. I don’t get down and look at specifications. We don’t have time.... That’s why you are there. That’s why Frank and everybody volunteers to do this good work for the community. It’s ideal. I want it to continue... and Alice absolutely nailed it. We are not reading. We’re not doing homework. And I’m going to be a lot more diligent about that. It just takes a while to get up to speed on what I should be reading and what I shouldn’t. I think we all need to do a little bit more homework.”

Purcell commented that he had nothing further to add.

VandenBerg moved back to the board table at approximately 8:23 p.m.

NW SECTION EMS COVERAGE:

A. Jansma met with Thornapple Township regarding ambulance coverage of the NW section. Jansma commented that Thornapple wants to “iron it out. They want to talk about it.” Englerth wasn’t able to attend the meeting.

Englerth commented on stepping back and looking at a little bit of history, and what is best for the public. Discussion took place regarding response time vs. ‘on scene’ time. Englerth also commented on having Wayland EMS on board with the township (YS) as part of the discussion – “not after the fact”.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by J. Lippert with support from Boysen to adjourn at **8:27** p.m. Approved by all.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary **4.30.18**

Board Approved May 10, 2018

Approved : _____
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

FINAL MINUTES

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YST Bd Trustees/Wkshp. #5

4.30.18

Board Approved May 10, 2018

ADJOURNMENT