

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES Special Meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – 2 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b></p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>APPROVED Dec. 14, 2017</p>
<p><b>Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth</b></p> <p><b>Roll Call:</b> J. Lippert, Englerth, Rottschafer, Jansma, VandenBerg - All Present.</p> <p><b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b></p> <p><b>Legal Counsel present:</b> Catherine Kaufman</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Frank Fiala, Cathy Strickland, Sandy Marcukaitis, Chuck Biggs-Constable, Ron Heilman, Rich Beukema, John Frigmanski.</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> 18 (not including staff present).</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p><b>ROLL CALL</b></p> <p><b>PLEDGE</b></p>
<p><b><u>PURPOSE OF MEETING: (as on the agenda)</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consideration of Formal Complaint filed by Larry Knowles, Zoning Administrator.</li> <li>2. Board consideration of Board Compliance with Rules of Engagement and Resolution No. 06-02-17 – Principles of Governance.</li> <li>3. Resolution No. 07-03-17 – Resolution Establishing Certain Policies and Procedures for the Township Board to Improve the Operation of the Township and Board Relations.</li> <li>4. Board consideration of potential action against Board Members.</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>PURPOSE OF MEETING</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:</u></b> Catherine Kaufman, YS Legal Counsel was present at the meeting.</p>	<p><b><u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>PUBLIC COMMENT:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>During the first PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD the following residents were noted as making comment:</u></b></p> <p><i>(Audio was unavailable for Recording Secretary)</i></p> <p><b>David Neeson, 3750 Tanner Lake Rd.</b></p> <p><b>Dee Ryman, 12051 Pine Meadows Rd.</b></p> <p><b>Mike P. ? , 12723 Blue Lagoon Rd.</b></p> <p><b>Robert Lippert, 12725 Park Dr.</b></p> <p><b>Julie Fox, 11126 Hastings Pt. Rd.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>***<u>MEETING DID NOT GO INTO CLOSED SESSION</u>***</b></p>	<p><b><u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u></b></p> <p>Page 1 of 4 YST BOT Spec. Mtg. 11-8-17</p>

READING OF COMPLAINT by Catherine Kaufman, YS Township Attorney.

STANDARD OF DUTIES read by C. Kaufman.

Discussion of Removal of Board Members from table in event of conflict of interest.

Request of Larry Knowles, Zoning Administrator to not attend meetings.

(Audio was now available at this point in the meeting).

- MOTION by Jansma with support from Rottschafer to allow Larry Knowles to submit a written report and not attend meetings of the YS Township. **ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION**  
regarding the  
attendance of L.  
Knowles at twp.  
meetings.

\*C. Kaufman noted that she will be attending the township Board of Trustees meeting the following evening, Thursday, November 9, 2017.

Request from audience to have additional PUBLIC COMMENT: (3 minutes each) allowed by Supervisor Englerth.

**PUBLIC**  
**COMMENT**

Tes Wolf, Cobb Lake Resident, commented that it was apparent that the Board does not know how to act as a board. The resident requested that the Board familiarize themselves before the next meeting with the Principles of Governance.

Julie Fox, 11126 Hastings Pt. Rd. commented on Roger Rottschafer's remote meeting participation. "Roger, what you characterized as what happened did not happen at all (referring to meeting of 10.12.17)" commented Fox. Fox continued to comment on Rottschafer's "teleconferencing" as distractive and that it does not work. J. Fox commented that Mark (Englerth) did a good job at controlling the meeting (Oct. 12, 2017). Fox felt it would be a "free for all" if it weren't for Mark. Fox commented that a remark made by G. Purcell with a raised voice at last month's meeting was "personal" to Shane VandenBerg. (At this time, R. Rottschafer was leaving the building). Fox commented on Rottschafer's leaving.

Rottschafer commented on announcing at the beginning of the meeting that he had to leave at 3:40 p.m.

Fox continued "I would like a little respect.... This was caused by some rogue individual who holds some type of office, not elected, whatever the heck it is. I just came hear to talk about my little business and show a few people what was going on that hadn't been in it. .... I know that these two men did not start it (Mark Englerth & Shane VandenBerg). Don't smirk at me Roger, I deserve a little more respect than that. Yeah. You leave too... I have had nothing but great experience with Larry (Knowles). The bottom line is that we have people that think they have power and think that they ... obviously me, having two businesses, a third on the way, ...and I have no say according to Mr. Purcell. He has no respect for me whatsoever. He turned around and yelled at me. Afterwards I asked him... You can stop this...This is the problem. You're going like this to me (recording on audio). That's disrespectful. You should be lucky my husband's not here. So the problem here is that everyone is trying to point fingers at people. And it is not. These guys (VandenBerg and Englerth). I never heard Shane raise his voice the whole time." Fox continued commenting on being entrepreneurial since she was 21. "When you attack somebody's business, it's pretty hard," remarked Fox.

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**Ron Heilman, ZBA member** commented on the board adding value to the board but not seeming to be able to get together. Ron Heilman commented that Larry Knowles was a big asset and Heilman didn't want L. Knowles to stop attending meetings.

**David Neeson, Tanner Lake Rd.,** commented that if coming to a meeting is part of Larry Knowles' job, then Larry should be doing it. Neeson commented on R. Rottschafer's remote participation at last month's board meeting. Neeson inquired about participating remotely himself, but no one had responded back regarding his inquiry... "It's time that everybody just start to move the agenda forward, work together and get something done. Not like Mr. Rottschafer just did. Thank you."

**Fred Wallace, 10601 Gun Lake Rd.** commented that he has lived between the dads of L. Knowles and S. VandenBerg. "We have spent an hour and 40 minutes doing nothing. That seems to be a reputation of the board. I don't know what else to say...It's a joke. The only thing that's missing today is we didn't have our Mickey Mouse ears." F. Wallace asked L. Knowles if it was in his job description that he had to come to meetings. Knowles replied that he didn't have a job description. "That makes sense too," chuckled Wallace.

**Cathy Strickland, of the ZBA and Planning Commission,** commented that she was sorry that Roger (Rottschafer) was not here to hear her comments. "I hope they will be reflected in the minutes as such," noted C. Strickland. "We've all heard what a great guy Shane is and how well he conducted himself at that meeting. And he is a great guy. He's an honest guy. He's sincere. He means well, but this guy (Larry Knowles) is honest and sincere as well. He's a good guy and they are both victims of being caught in the cross hairs of this nonsense that's been going on with the board for the last... Oh good lord, I've been here 20 years... and it's gotten particularly bad in the past three or four years because there is no trust in this board. So I'm telling you, this guy is a victim, that guy is a victim, too. Board members have been after him (Shane) for years, not just this project, but there have been other projects too. And they are taking advantage of personalities here. The real victims are both of these guys. I don't want to see this guy not coming to meetings. We've been friends. The three of us have sat down and had drinks. Haven't we? ("Yes" replied Knowles). And a lot of laughs. And you guys are getting caught in this web of lack of trust on this board. Don't let that get to you. Please."

**Bill Medendorp, 1905 Vista Point** asked Englerth about his feelings when his power was taken away. "Larry, you did a great job. And I'm talking to you and you don't even talk to me.... I don't want to see you leave." Medendorp commented on a meeting where Medendorp said Englerth was hurt "the month before because at 11:00 or 11:30 p.m., they were blowing his power away. Like he (Englerth) said 'Don't you think I got kicked in the guts?' He was hurt, too... You (Knowles) are really a guy we need on zoning because you are thorough... I wished you learned the word "forgiveness"... And I want to see you get along." Medendorp referenced G. Purcell commenting on "pushing" at the last meeting and "She (J. Fox) is saying 'This is horrible'." Medendorp ended his comment, "I pray you (Knowles) don't step down. I pray you learn to forgive. I think you're the type of person we need."

**John Frigmanski, ZBA member, 12169 Pine Meadows Drive,** commented "At the meeting where the attorney, didn't do it on purpose, but when asked if things were signed off, he said 'Yes'. That's why the Commission agreed that it was acceptable to move on to the council. They didn't have all the information. The man said it was there, it wasn't. I had met with the Fire Chief myself because

he is a personal friend and he had not approved anything yet. Number Two, as a government body, you all signed a document. We sat here for two hours and got nothing accomplished because you didn't live up to the document. The document says he (S. Vandenberg) can't talk at all. He's supposed to be set down. Why didn't we do this? This meeting should have been over in 15 minutes ... He's either off the board, on the board, or censured, whatever you're going to do, but do it. We just have to get it accomplished."

PUBLIC COMMENT  
Cont'd

**Dee Ryman, 12051 Pine Meadows Dr.**, commented that she watched "Judge Judy" almost every day. D. Ryman mentioned that Judge Judy encouraged those in an argument (on her show) to shake hands and "forget it". Ryman encouraged L. Knowles and her son, Shane Vandenberg, to shake hands. (Knowles and Vandenberg shook hands).

ADJOURNMENT

**ADJOURNMENT:**

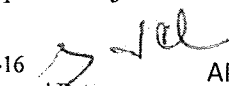
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Motion by Jansma with support from J. Lippert to adjourn at 3:55 PM. Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted:  
D. Mousseau  
Recording Secretary 11-8-17

jcl draft 11-15-16

Approved Date:

 APPROVED Dec. 14, 2017

Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk