

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Work Session #4
on TRAILS
Monday, April 16, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333

FINAL MINUTES
 Page 1 of 3
 YST Bd Trustees
 4.16.18
 Circulated
 Approved May 10, 2018

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

Staff Present: Greg Purcell

Visitors: 0

PURPOSE OF MEETING- Trustee VandenBerg and Boysen Report on Trails Project

Boysen commented that he has met with two townships and plans on meeting with another township (Zeeland) next week. Boysen met with Park and Holland Townships. Boysen spoke with these townships regarding how they did their trails. These townships have miles of trails. He asked #1) How did you organize for this? #2) How did you fund it?

Boysen noted that Holland (Twp.) has been at it since 1984. They passed a millage of 1 mill in 1984, specifically for trails and sidewalks. When they do developments now, they ask for additional footage easements so they can build their trails into their development program. Park Township is very similar. There is no usage data available at this point from these townships. Boysen noted that they have a giant tax base. It has also been going on since the 80's. Boysen mentioned Rick Moore who has been involved with the trail system for at least 25 years. Boysen would like to have R. Moore come to a township meeting as a resource on Trails.

Boysen commented that what has been done in the past (Yankee Springs Trails Study) is a good building block. Boysen commented on funding available.

Boysen would like to propose a series of steps the board can take. Workshops would be involved. A priority list needs to be formed. Routes have to be established. Then getting a cost per foot. A presentation of steps will have to be proposed to the public. Boysen would like to set milestones to make sure: funding is in place, public is informed, taking this first "chunk", and if we have to open our checkbook to get funding moving along.

VandenBerg commented that first, we have to make sure the community is behind the board with this project. Secondly, "We're undoubtedly, going to have to go for a millage. Win or lose, we're going to have to get it out there and people will speak..."

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE
ROLL CALL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Purpose of Meeting
(Agenda)

VandenBerg commented that Geoff Moffat, who had a lot to do with the Paul Henry Trail, will give the township leadership on this. He will look at the information that the township has, for a fee, and he'll try to show the township the right direction. Moffat will try to show the township how to fund it and get the people to back it and get it (trails project) rolling. VandenBerg commented that he felt G. Moffat would be a real asset, and we will need some real professional help.

Boysen commented on having a township bank account that lends itself to a discussion of "What that wise spend is."

Discussion occurred:

A. Jansma, Treasurer, noted amounts for Phase I in the previous study at \$1,160,000. Jansma provided budgeted amounts for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 fiscal years. (*Non-motorized Trail* under "**Recreation & Culture Park/Trail**"). A. Jansma commented that next year a mill would generate approximately \$330,000 (amount checked after meeting was adjourned.)

Englerth commented on location of project, and the project has to encompass Payne, Cobb and Barlow lakes.

Funding was noted as the main hurdle and then perception of the public regarding the project.

Lippert commented that the 2014 study never went before the public.

Jansma commented that Roads was the first priority on the last township survey. "Trails" was on the survey and it was a priority.

Jansma also noted concern about having too much language on the ballot if there were two millages: Trails AND EMS/Fire Millage. (Discussion took place regarding this issue.)

Englerth commented that it seemed that the Board wanted to move forward with Trails and ultimately, the public will have to commit to the project with a vote. Englerth also mentioned that a professional sales/marketing presentation would cost more than \$500. Englerth wanted to know how much the board was willing to give towards this.

Further discussion occurred on: marketing the project, intentions vs. commitment, fall ballot proposal language, inclusion of Trails in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), financial commitment towards a presentation of the project, professional help in developing the presentation, and a possible powerpoint presentation by VandenBerg and Boysen.

M. Boysen commented that Rick Moore, or Geoff Moffat may be willing to be involved in a workshop regarding presenting/marketing the project. Boysen referred to Rebecca Harvey or Greg Purcell as having possible contacts to lead the board with a Trails presentation to the public. Boysen invited Purcell to comment.

A. Jansma mentioned Patricia John's husband as being an experienced individual regarding Trail projects.

G. Purcell commented that leadership was important. Purcell noted the importance of public support. Purcell added that he has been supportive of Trails for some time now. Purcell mentioned that funding was available, noting previous conversations with the Gun Lake Tribe possibly being interested in the project and coming along side of the township. The township would need to take the leadership of the project. Purcell also mentioned going to the Joint meeting “group” and having the ZBA, and Planning Commission on board with the project as well. Purcell commented on engineering expertise still being needed, and without advocating a specific option, funding options can be noted in the proposal/plan. Due to past experience, Purcell also would be hesitant to put two millages on the same ballot. After an inquiry from Jansma, Purcell also commented that he would possibly put more detail into the CIP regarding the Trail Project. Purcell also noted that there’s talk of the current Governor wanting Trails. Further discussion occurred regarding contacting R. Snyder.

A. Jansma commented that the Fire Millage will be on the ballot in August.

M. Boysen noted that his fear was that the project would get bogged down. Boysen also noted the amount of funds that township has in the bank. He noted a perception problem. Boysen also mention a Board of Public Works becoming more of a priority in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Englerth mentioned a possible township issue regarding a land split decision. Englerth commented that a special meeting will be held on this when the time comes.

Workshop Meeting #5 was scheduled for Monday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Twp. Hall. Boysen will contact Rick Moore regarding addressing Trails at this meeting. Englerth will contact Geoff Moffat to speak as well. (Fees were discussed).

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Jansma with support from Boysen to adjourn at **7:27 p.m.** Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 4.16.18

Board Approval May 10, 2018

Approved : _____
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

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Page 3 of 3
YST Bd Trustees
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OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT