

<p style="text-align: center;">YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES <u>Regularly Scheduled Meeting</u> <u>Business Session</u> <u>Wednesday, September 25, 2013</u> 7:00 p.m. Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	<p>FINAL MINUTES Approved Oct 10, 2013 As presented</p>
<p>Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</p> <p>Roll Call: Bruce Campbell, J. Lippert, Englerth, M. Cook. (4 Present).</p> <p>Absent: John Jerkatis, with notice.</p> <p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></p> <p>Staff Present: Zoning Administrator Larry Knowles, Sandy Marcukaitis, Alice Jansma, and Frank Fiala.</p> <p>Visitors: 2 (not including staff present).</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>PLEDGE</p>
<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>Motion by J. Lippert with support from M. Cook to table approval of September 12, 2013 meeting minutes until meeting of October 10, 2013 because of the absence of John Jerkatis at tonight's meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.</p>	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>Motion to table minutes approval until Oct. 10. Motion Carried</p>
<p><u>CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:</u></p> <p>Jan Lippert asked to strike the word "Work" out of "Business Work Session" at the top of tonight's meeting agenda.</p>	<p><u>CHANGES TO THE AGENDA</u></p>
<p><u>PUBLIC COMMENT:</u></p> <p>Frank Fiala, PC Chairman, and also of Payne Lake, commented that Payne Lake is going to pick another firm for its Weed Control Program. The firm chosen is Lake Management of Caledonia. Fiala commented the cost and duration of the program will be the same as planned with the other firm. (Progressive Engineering AE (Tony Groves)).</p> <p>Jan Lippert commented that to the best of her knowledge there were no complaints called into the office regarding weed growth in Payne Lake. Frank Fiala commented the association directors received complaints.</p> <p>Discussion occurred regarding the role of the Lake Association(s) in the weed control programs, as well as, the township's role.</p> <p>Mike Cunningham, also of the PC, and of Barlow Lake, commented that maybe the wording should be looked at regarding who has the final approval of the weed</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u></p> <p>Page 1 of 6 YST Bd Trustees 9-25-13</p>

control program (Lake Association or Township). Cunningham also questioned if the cost of Barlow Lake's program would now change due to Payne Lake choosing another firm for its weed management.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None.

CLERK'S REPORT: by **J. Lippert**

- Clerk Lippert fielded any questions and explained any items relating to **accounts payable** checks presented.

Motion by M. Cook with support from B. Campbell to approve **accounts payable** checks #912192 - 912202 for the total amount of \$23,621.65 which includes EFT of \$2,831.00. ROLL CALL: J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: yes, Campbell: yes, Jerkatis: Absent. Yes: 4, No: 0. Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by M. Cook with support from Campbell to allow Jan Lippert to purchase 1,000 First Class stamps at the price of \$0.46 each (before price increase). ROLL CALL: J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: yes, Campbell: yes, Jerkatis: Absent. Yes: 4, No: 0. Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Jan Lippert also provided a **combined month end report and quarter report** from Pam Jarvis, County Clerk, dated Sept. 9, 2013 for informational purposes. J. Lippert noted a date discrepancy on the report, but was unable to reach Pam Jarvis for verification.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: **Mark Englerth**

- **Mute Swan Resolution-** Englerth commented that he put his trust in the DNR for managing the mute swan control program. Englerth cited the DNR's expertise, doctorate degrees, and the knowledge in the management in this area. Englerth personally knows Susan Schaefer, Wildlife Biologist for the DNR in the Barry County State Game Area, as well as, people on his staff whom have retired from the Plainwell office. Englerth has also worked with DNR Department of Fisheries. Englerth feels that the people of this community would be much happier putting their trust in the DNR, rather than the township which may not have the staff, knowledge or resources, to handle it.
- **M. Cook** commented that she would rather err on the side of caution. Cook also commented that she has had very little feedback on the subject, just a few emails. Cook mentioned that an invasive species is an invasive species citing Emerald ash borers, purple loosestrife and Autumn olive trees which grow rampant in this area. However, mute swans are different because they seem more flesh and blood-like. Cook commented that it has always been that any lake association could start an action if they wanted to without having the DNR just come in and do it. It could take away the right of the people on lakes to say yes or no to it. Cook's preference is to say no and let the lakes decide for themselves. However, Cook commented that if the

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS (none).

CLERK'S REPORT
Jan Lippert

Accounts Payable approved

Motion to approve stamp purchase. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:
Mark Englerth

township goes with the county concept and their plan, she would want nest and egg eradication only.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT -
Continued**

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Continued

- **Campbell** inquired whether the trumpeter swans would be introduced back into the community. Englerth commented that the trumpeters will introduce themselves. Campbell has not heard much feedback from the community. Englerth commented that taking the emotions away from it, the program comes down to game management.
- **J. Lippert** commented that she was waiting to hear what Orangeville Township is deciding to do. Englerth mentioned that two-thirds of Gun Lake is under the jurisdiction of Yankee Springs Township.
- **Cunningham**, representing Barlow Lake, was at the meeting because it was planned to have all of the lake association presidents at this meeting to get their feedback. Cunningham hasn't talked with anyone who was having problems with the swans. Cunningham commented that there really wasn't much concern either way. He suggested to let it wait until the people really see a problem. Currently, Cunningham feels that people don't see a problem (with mute swans). "From a governmental standpoint, ...the opt out doesn't mean you can never get rid of them, it means the lakes have the say," commented Cunningham. Discussion then occurred regarding getting petitions signed. Campbell asked if the DNR plan would affect management at the State Park to control state land.
- **Fiala** (from Payne Lake) commented that Payne Lake didn't seem to mind having the DNR come in, but there weren't any strong feelings. There are only three or four mute swans on Payne Lake according to Fiala.

Motion by Englerth with support from Campbell to support the DNR's plan with the county for the mute swan control program. ROLL CALL: J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: no, Campbell: yes. Jerkatis: Absent. Yes: 3, No: 1. Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Updates:

- **Lynn Dr. Meeting-** a group of neighbors in the Lynn Drive area got together with Brad Lamberg, of the Road Commission and Russ Yarger, the Drain Commissioner. Their discussion revolved around their current problems, drainage issues, and would they like sloping or grading, etc. Englerth felt the neighbors all had a voice at the table and future discussion will continue. Englerth felt it was good to address matters before a project begins.
- Englerth also had a meeting in the past few weeks with the Road Commission and they talked about drainage.

**Updates/Supervisor
Drainage**

- Englerth spoke of a lot of problems in the township due to drainage.

Copper pipe – issues: Englerth has a meeting with an engineer Friday, September 27. Englerth mentioned a possibility of \$100,000 of liability being out there. Discussion occurred regarding the funding of the problem, the water system fund, YS Township’s responsibility, YS Ordinance regarding water supply/pipe/repair and authority to contract with engineers/metallurgists to find the solution.

Motion by M. Cook with support from Campbell to allow up to \$1,500 from water fund for copper pipe testing. ROLL CALL: J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: yes, Campbell: yes. Jerkatis: Absent. Yes: 4, No: 0. Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

- **Electric Use/Lighting:** Discussion took place regarding having a timer for the parking lot lights of the Township Hall. It was commented that lights were installed in the last ten years for security reasons. A motion detector light was mentioned as well.

Motion by M. Cook with support from J. Lippert to allow up to \$150 to install a timer on parking lot lights to see how it works for a one year period. ROLL CALL: J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: yes, Campbell: yes. Jerkatis: Absent. Yes: 4, No: 0. Absent: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

- **Appreciation Day – Sept. 14th:** 144 hot dogs were served. Music was provided, cars were washed, a helicopter touched down, firemen were presented plaques, township rescue vehicles and fire equipment were on display, Veteran’s Memorial received \$195 and the Red Cross went over their limit by 25%. The cost of the event came out under budget. Parking was discussed. Englerth commented that it wasn’t perfect, but it was a great first time event.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: by Larry Knowles, ZA (formal report will be given at Regular Board meeting on October 10, 2013)

A stop work order went out on an outbuilding on Shady Lane. The owner had gone to the PC for an SEU for an outbuilding on a lot without a primary structure. It was approved and he built it. It was noted that the outbuilding was turning into a dwelling. It didn’t meet the ordinance of 720 sq. feet on the first floor. So a stop order was placed. It has since been removed, because the owner has been placed on the agenda for the ZBA. The owner/builder provided the township with a hold harmless paper to get the township to that point. His storm water issues are being upgraded.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion took place on the ability for township personnel to write a ticket. It was noted that a person had to be sworn in by the board to do so. It had been discussed to possibly have an enforcement officer who would be separate from the Zoning

(copper pipe issues)

Motion to allow up to \$1,500 from water fund for copper pipe testing. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to allow up to \$150 on parking lot lights to see how it works for one year. MOTION CARRIED.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: by Larry Knowles, ZA

Administrator.

Former Zoning Administrators, Ken Worsham and Bob Lippert have written tickets in the past. Regarding handling of complaints, Englerth commented that he didn't feel they would be writing out citations, but it would be an alternative. Discussion then took place regarding having an official person to handle citations, if needed. Englerth doesn't feel that time is of the essence to have the person in place, but it is something to be considered.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank Fiala commented that Sept. 13 was a Joint meeting regarding with the Solid Waste Oversight Committee and five County Commissioners. The commissioners like townships doing what they (townships) want to do. It was decided that it was not a good time to discuss fees. There doesn't seem to be a consensus to proceed with county wide recycling at this time.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Bruce Campbell commented that he was unable to attend the meeting to be held October 23. Campbell asked if the board would table the issue regarding volunteering. Campbell would like to be present when the board voted on the issue. It was noted that Burnham & Flowers, Risk Management, and John Lohrstorfer would have to be rescheduled.

Motion by M. Cook with support from Englerth to table discussion of volunteering until first Board of Trustees meeting in November to allow all members to be present. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion took place regarding the sign ordinance, which the PC has worked a great deal on. It was noted that the township board had to make a decision regarding signage; is the township going to commit to nothing or commit to a dollar figure?

*It was noted to put this item on the agenda for next month's meeting. (It was discussed later in the meeting to possibly not add the item to the next meeting agenda).

Campbell personally felt that the board should put some funds toward signage/way signs, particularly at the M 179-Patterson corner.

M. Cook doesn't necessarily favor putting any money toward the (Welcome) sign. Cook feels that the Chief Noonday Corridor Overlay District still has its standards and it can be developed and look nice, with or without a sign.

Jan Lippert agreed with Mary Cook. Question is where the (Welcome) sign would go. M-179 & Patterson is not the only entrance area into the Township. There are several signs already in the Township identifying "Yankee Springs".

Englerth mentioned having Valerie Burns and Rebecca Fleury from Middleville come in and give their perspective that healthy businesses are healthy for the community. Sustainable communities would be another topic.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Motion by M. Cook with support from Englerth to table discussion of volunteering until first Board of Trustees meeting in November to allow all members to be present. MOTION CARRIED.

M. Cook commented that she favored grants or other funding mechanisms.

M. Cook favored the business concept of the (Welcome) sign, but she didn't favor taking out-of-pocket money of the township to support signage right now.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS cont'd

Alice Jansma commented that she would like a letter written to the Allegan County Road Commission for fixing the road on Patterson. It was approved that a letter should go out on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

A. Jansma also mentioned that the Board had agreed to have quarterly budget meetings and that a meeting should occur sometime in October. Jan Lippert commented that she would have a Revenue & Expense report available for the October meeting.

Englerth commented that Larry Knowles, ZA, does a lot of township work from other locations. Knowles commented that a Notepad or I-pad would be very useful with his position especially for email communication. J. Lippert will check with the township's current supplier to see if they have something to offer that would be compatible with the township's computer system.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Campbell to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 9-27-13

Date: _____
Approved :10-2-13 _____
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk
Final Approval of Minutes: Oct 10, 2013

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS
cont'd**

ADJOURNMENT