

Regular Meeting
Eagle Township Board
May 7, 2001

1. Call to Order - The regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Supervisor Morris at the Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan Street, Eagle, MI.

Members present were: Supervisor David Morris, Clerk Wendy Simmons, Treasurer Patti Schafer, Trustees Stephen Colby and Patricia Hazen, and Deputy Clerk Jane Korroch. Also present were: Commissioner Sara Clark Pierson, Fire Chief Casey Godlweski, Trustee Chris Pratt of Watertown Charter Township and approximately 10 township residents.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Supervisor Morris offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Hearing – Special Assessment Roll, Clark Road Improvement Project – The second public hearing opened at 8:02, Supervisor Morris review the process for the improvement of Clark Road. The assessment to property owners would be \$1500.00 over a 3-year period. The cost to the Township will be approximately \$200,000/mile. Mr. Dale Juenker reiterated that he is not in favor of the special assessment; he doesn't think it's a fair way to charge people. He wanted to know what percentage of residents were in favor of the project. Supervisor Morris said that petitions were circulated and that there were just one or two people not in favor of the project. Mr. Junker stated that he would like to keep the area agricultural and that black topping the roads doesn't work towards that end. He feels it's unfair to residents, as other people in the township will also benefit from the road being paved. Treasurer Schafer said that the Board hasn't heard complaints about the road being paved; rather the complaints were about how the road improvements were being paid for. Mr. Junker expressed concern about the number of trees that will be lost due to paving the road. Supervisor Morris explained why the township began doing special assessments for roads. Both the county and village receive tax dollars for road improvements, the township does not. Supervisor Morris further stated that the Board is doing its best to serve the constituency.

Mrs. Judy McCollor stated concerns about the centerline of the road being moved to the north. Supervisor Morris said that road improvements and bridges are located on the section lines. Treasurer Schafer suggested Mrs. McCollor contact the road commission regarding placement of the improvement. Trustee Colby stated that the County is flexible to some extent. Mrs. McCollor also expressed concerns about the depth of the ditches.

Supervisor Morris closed the hearing at 8:15 p.m.

4. Public Comment – Mr. Fred Catlin would like to get the State surplus license back, however, he needs the Board's opinion. The Board encouraged him to get his own license for the park. Mr. Catlin feels he needs Board's sponsorship to get the license. However, in the past the license was in the Township's name and that was not acceptable, as the township would be violating its agreement if anyone purchased items for personal use. Mr. Catlin understands that as long as the item is used for a park function it is acceptable to purchase the item under the license. Deputy Clerk Korroch, Trustee Hazen & Treasurer Schafer were not aware that the township's sponsorship is necessary for the park to obtain its license. Supervisor Morris made a motion that the Board would sponsor the Park Association to obtain a surplus license if necessary. Trustee Colby supported the motion. Ayes: 3; Nays: 2; Motion carried.

Mr. Mark Therrian asked if Jones Road would have an application of chloride, as it is in dangerous condition. Supervisor Morris was told the rain would help. Mr. Therrian asked how a zoning complaint could be filed. There are three areas in the township that are problems. Residents can call Commissioner Pierson and she will file the complaint. Or, the resident can call County Planning & Zoning but Planning and Zoning must reveal who filed the complaint. Mr. Therrian also asked if there was a junk car policy in place. Commissioner Pierson stated that there was a county ordinance regarding junk cars.

When the Township Board ~~read~~ rode the roads with Mr. Mike Nobach, Director of the Clinton County Road Commission it was pointed out that Herbison Road wasn't a good paving job. That it was a good base coat and Mr. Nobach suggested waiting 2 or 3 years and apply another coat. Treasurer Schafer suggested having the Board write a letter requesting the paving company to examine their work, since if we wait 2 or 3 years we would be responsible for the cost of repaving. Clerk Simmons was directed to write a letter to Mr. Nobach regarding this situation.

Mr. Therrian asked if the trailer on the new American Eagle property is a construction trailer. Clerk Simmons explained that it a temporary, one time retail facility. Construction will begin right after the 4th of July on the permanent building. Mr. Jim Stajos of American Eagle stated that the temporary facility would be in operation mid-May to the 1st or 2nd week in July. Trustee Hazen asked Mr. Stajos to provide something in writing to the Township Board regarding the temporary tent size and length of use. Mr. Stajos stated that the tent would be a new red and white 20' X 40' tent.

5. Approval of Minutes – Treasurer Schafer made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of April 4, 2001 as printed. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report – Trustee Colby made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as printed. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

7. Planning Commission Report - Trustee Hazen reported that the public hearing would be held in January. The Township Board must endorse the plan before it goes to the County for approval. In November or December the Planning Commission would like to meet with Township Board to discuss the plan. Also, 31% of the planning questionnaires were returned, areas of concern to residents were growth and the proposed mobile home park.

8. Commissioner's Report - Commissioner Pierson reviewed the Public Health and the 911 annual reports. She further mentioned that jail revenues have stayed stable and that the County has 1½ years of money set aside to pay jail bonds.

9. Letters to Board - Clerk Simmons review the letters to the Board.

10. Accounts Payable - Treasurer Schafer made a motion to pay the Township bills as listed, and all other regular bills that occur during the month. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

11. Portland District Library per Capita Contribution – Treasurer Schafer made a motion to table the issues until all materials are available for review. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

12. Check Purchase - Treasurer Schafer reviewed that the proposed new checks would be two part, the clerk would get the second copy, the treasurer would get a small stub and the check would look the same. The cost for 1000 checks would be approximately \$106.00. Treasurer Schafer made a motion to purchase the checks. Clerk Simmons supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

13. Fire Coverage – Supervisor Morris asked Treasurer Schafer to give a summary of where the fire coverage issues stands.

Proposed City of Grand Ledge/Oneida Charter Township/Eagle Township Authority:

- The Authority Board would be made up of residents, not elected officials (three seats for the City, two each for the townships). The City of Grand Ledge would like three seats since they currently have the fire barn and equipment.
- Eagle's share of the proposed minimum budget of \$509,000 for next year would be about 20%, plus an additional \$100,000 for the new pumper/tanker. Also, items that were not covered in the minimum budget but that the Fire Department would like to have include a command vehicle, training, and hiring an outside party to do the authority's accounting. (Eagle Township would not agree to any one of the participating municipalities performing the accounting.)
- The City of Grand Ledge would like the authority to lease the current fire barn.
- Watertown Charter Township will not be in the authority, so the authority would have to pay out their portion of the jointly owned assets. (Per Loren Sengstock, City of Grand Ledge Treasurer this amount is \$46,400 book value. The authority must pay out at resale value, which is usually more.)
- This authority would be an Emergency Services Agreement, which leaves room for the addition of ambulance service. Eagle Township is not interested in having ambulance service provided by the authority.
- Also, the authority is talking about purchasing a ladder truck in 3 to 4 years. Eagle's share of such a purchase would amount to \$200,000. Treasurer Schafer asked Chief Godlewski if the ladder truck would fit in the existing fire barn. He stated that if it would be a mid-mount it would fit. It is going to be a tight fit with the new DNR truck. Treasurer Schafer asked Chief Godlewski if the City of Grand Ledge will be building a second fire barn. He could not answer to that.
- Treasurer Schafer asked Chief Godlewski what the two best things about Grand Ledge are, he stated full time staff with shorter response time.
- Also, there are some concerns that the current Grand Ledge fire budget went up 31.5% for the coming fiscal year.
- At a minimum the City of Grand Ledge/Oneida Charter Township/Eagle Township Authority would cost Eagle Township \$127,000 for the first year, without the pumper/tanker purchase. (Eagle Township would incur \$148,000 additional expenses in the first year.)

Proposed City of DeWitt/Olive Township/Riley Township/Watertown Charter Township/Eagle Township Authority:

- The Authority Board would be made up of elected officials (two seats for each entity). The City of DeWitt would like equal representation for all municipalities, even though they currently have the fire barn and equipment.
- Eagle Township's share of the first year budget, with full time fire chief is about 15%
- Watertown Charter Township is putting up a fire station at their expense.
- The City of DeWitt would like the authority to only pay the utilities on the current fire barn.
- In the current contractual agreement with the City of DeWitt, Olive Township, Riley Township, and Watertown Charter Township \$165,000 for future equipment purchases has been accrued. This will be given to the new authority at no cost to Eagle Township.
- The first year expense for the City of DeWitt/Olive Township/Riley Township/Watertown Charter Township/Eagle Township Authority would be \$55,000. (The second year costs would be \$60,000 including money set aside for future equipment purchases.)
- Also, the willingness to work together in this group is outstanding.

Mr. Chris Pratt, Trustee, Watertown Charter Township offered comments on the situation. These issues do not relate to the service received from the Grand Ledge Fire Department, they however, relate to issues of working with the City of Grand Ledge. Watertown has been clear for the last 1½ years that they want a substation on the Grand River corridor. They are currently moving forward with that plan. At the last Board meeting, they had action to work with the existing partners (City of DeWitt, Olive Township and Riley Township) in a joint use agreement to form an authority. He stated that within the next 90 days the township hopes to do a building plan, make a site selection, and develop an equipment plan. The goal is within 60 days to close on the Articles of Incorporation with the City of DeWitt, Olive Township and Riley Township. At that time the authority will take over the plans for the substation. Much work has been done to accommodate the future needs of the authority. Currently, negotiations are being conducted with Delta Township to provide interim coverage. Mr. Pratt is confident that these negotiations will be successful and that Watertown will be signing with a full time fire department for interim coverage. The door is open for Eagle Township to join the forming authority.

Trustee Hazen asked Mr. Pratt when Eagle Township would need to notify the forming authority of their intent to join. Mr. Pratt responded that the door would be open even in six months or a year. Further, that the authority would be glad to extend the same invitation to the City of Grand Ledge and Oneida Charter Township.

Treasurer Schafer noted that the biggest issue with fire coverage has been manpower. The proposed Watertown substation is 3.6 miles from the Grand River/Wright Road corridor. The current Grand Ledge fire station is 2.7 miles from the Grand River/Wright Road corridor. The City of Grand Ledge has discussed moving the fire station, but there appear to be no concrete plans to do that at this point.

Supervisor Morris suggested putting into writing itemized questions that are issues that must be resolved before Eagle Township will consider joining the City of Grand Ledge/Oneida authority. They are: equal representation for all municipalities, elected officials to serve on the authority board, all accounting must be done by an outside party (not one of the participating municipalities), coming up with an acceptable way to add additional services, agreeing on an acceptable method of calculating lease payment for current fire facilities, the authority must

purchase its own workman's compensation insurance and hire its own employees. Treasurer Schafer made a motion to direct Clerk Simmons to prepare a fax to Mr. Don Cooley, Oneida Charter Township with these issues, asking him to be prepared to resolve them at the next authority meeting. (Courtesy copies provided to Mr. John Bayless, City of Grand Ledge and Chief Casey Godlewski.) Clerk Simmons seconded the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

Chief Godlewski stated as a resident, not as the fire chief, if Eagle Township is that uncomfortable with the City of Grand Ledge, why didn't the Township go with DeWitt?

14. QVF Software Yearly Maintenance Fee – Clerk Simmons notified the Board that she was made aware that there is a mandatory maintenance fee of \$250.00 per year for the Voter Registration software the Board had previously approved. The Board voiced no objections to the fee.

15. Grand Ledge District Library - Supervisor Morris stated that he and Clerk Simmons met with the President of the library board last Friday to discuss the library's need for funding.

16. Spoedoske Variance - The Board was informed that Mr. Spoedoske received approval for the zoning variance for his garage.

17. Land Division Ordinance - Supervisor Morris informed the Board that he is pursuing information on enacting an ordinance to allow greater than 4-1 ratios for land splits.

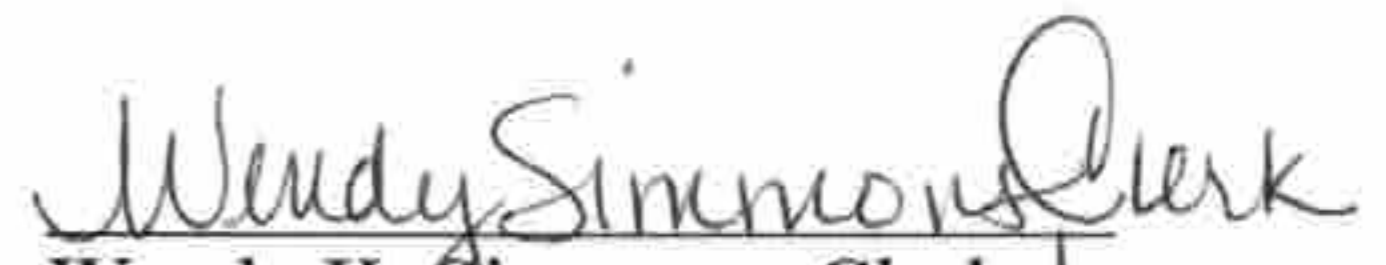
18. County Road Commission Contracts - Supervisor Morris made a motion to approve the contracts with Clinton County Road Commission for the cost of the Clark Road project (\$306,000), chloride – 2 applications (\$13,258) & spraying brush (\$1457). Clerk Simmons supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

19. Niles Cemetery – Commissioner Pierson would like to purchase a new flag and a new trash container for Niles cemetery. Clerk Simmons made a motion to allow Commissioner Pierson to purchase those items at her discretion. Trustee Colby supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

20. Clark Road Special Assessment – Supervisor Morris made resolution to confirm the special assessment roll in the amount of \$1500 divided into three equal installments of \$500 each. Trustee Colby supported the motion. By roll call vote, Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Resolution carried.

21. Adjournment - Supervisor Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m. Clerk Simmons supported the motion. Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Motion carried.

10-4-01
Approved


Wendy K. Simmons, Clerk


Eagle Township
Resolution Scheduling Hearing On Assessment Roll For Clark Road
From Eden Trail West To Grange Road

WHEREAS the Eagle Township Board wishes to improve roads within the Township, and
WHEREAS a second public hearing was held May 7, 2001 on a Special Assessment District of property owners on Clark Road between Eden Trail West and Grange Road, and
WHEREAS townships are given authority to establish a special assessment district by PA 188 of 1954 as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Township Board has approved an agreement with the Clinton County Road Commission with estimated costs of the project to be approximately \$306,000.
2. That the Township Board does hereby create, determine and define as a Special Assessment District to be known as Clark Road Special Assessment District within which the costs of such improvements shall be assessed at \$1,500.00 per parcel, paid in \$500.00 instalments over a three-year period. The area being assessed is Clark Road from Eden Trail West to Grange Road.
3. That on the basis of the foregoing, the Eagle Township Board does hereby direct the Supervisor/Assessor to make a special assessment roll in which shall be entered, parcel numbers and owners names and the amount to be assessed against each parcel.

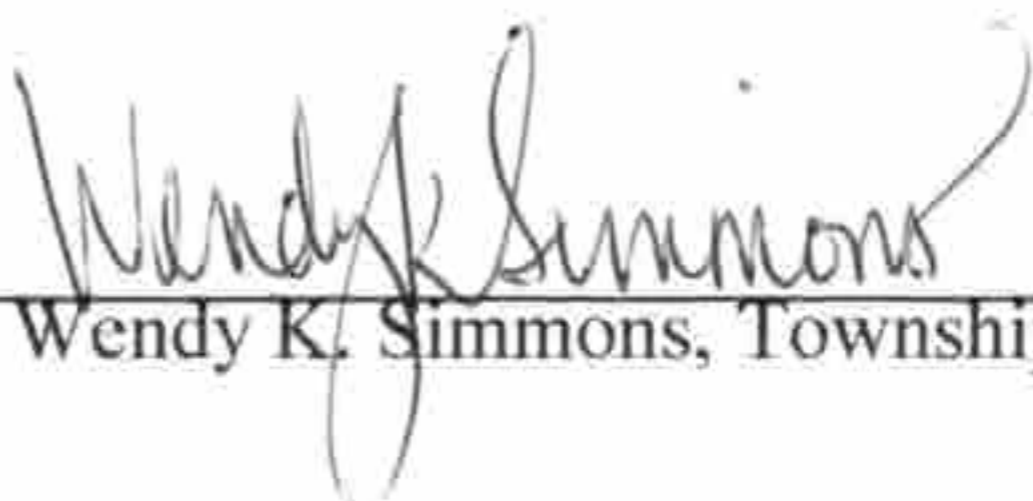
The foregoing was offered by board member Morris, supported by board member Colby and was declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote.



Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy K. Simmons, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Eagle Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board at its regular meeting held May 7, 2001 at which meeting a quorum was present and was declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote.



Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk