

Regular Meeting
Eagle Township Board
June 4, 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: County Commissioner Sara Clark Pierson and approximately 11 township residents and interested persons.

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

3. Public Comment –Mrs. Dee Schraegle had several questions regarding the article in the June 3, 2001 Grand Ledge Independent regarding fire coverage in the township. She was at the annual meeting and thinks it is a great disservice for the Board not to go with Grand Ledge for fire service. She feels it will cause homeowners' insurance to be higher if the Board goes with DeWitt, and she can't afford the increase. She feels the people of Eagle Township have not been considered. Further, she has concerns about the location on Grand River for the Watertown substation, and the costs to the Township for putting up the building and purchasing equipment to fill it.

Supervisor Morris responded to her concerns. He stated that what prompted this discussion to some degree was the purchase of the tanker for the Grand Ledge fire department, and that the discussion has been going on for quite some time. He reviewed how we have gotten to the point of purchasing a \$450,000 pumper/tanker and explained that \$150,000 would buy a new tanker. Watertown Township has voiced that they would like better service on the Grand River corridor. Currently the Township Board is giving strong consideration to the DeWitt City, Olive Township, Riley Township, and Watertown Township authority. Now Delta Township has taken a serious interest in working with the authority as part of their township comes a far north as Eaton Highway and therefore they would benefit from a Watertown substation. Watertown does own property on Grand River where the station could be located. Delta has 30 or more full time firefighters and they would be seriously interested in manning the Watertown station. That alone caused the Board to have more interest in the authority. Supervisor Morris stated that Delta time runs indicate that their department can respond to a fire on Grange Road in nine minutes.

Treasurer Schafer stated that the Board has not declined service from Grand Ledge. The Board has declined joining the authority with Grand Ledge & Oneida. Treasurer Schafer has personally asked for costs regarding continuing to contract service with Grand Ledge and has received no response. She also reviewed the costs indicated in the Independent article and pointed out some of the inaccuracies. She reiterated that Watertown Township was the first to give its official notice to discontinue service with Grand Ledge.

Mr. Ron Hodge asked about the staffing levels of the Watertown station. Clerk Simmons stated that the Board's goal is to have equal service to the level currently being received. Mr. Hodge

stated that many of the Planning Commission surveys were returned and that 75% of the respondents were satisfied with the service they were currently receiving. The Board stated that it is not an issue of service, rather of other issues working with Grand Ledge.

Mrs. Irene Henry wanted the Board to consider that although we would not be paying for the new pumper/tanker, we would have to pay to put up a substation at Watertown and equipment for the substation. Treasurer Schafer stated that Watertown is putting up the station and buying the equipment at their own expense.

Virginia Balgoyen stated that her son's house burned on May 23, 2001, that is was a total loss. It took 15 minutes for the Grand Ledge fire department to arrive. Also, her insurance was quoted as going up \$115.00 per year if she receives service from a fire station that is more than 5 miles away.

Deputy Clerk Jane Korroch reminded everyone that if a tanker is need for a fire in Eagle Township at this time that it comes from Delta or Portland.

Mr. Hodge wondered if the issue of ambulance service has ever entered into the discussion, since both Portland and Delta have their own ambulance service? Supervisor Morris stated that the Board is pretty united in being happy with Mercy ambulance service for the Township. Treasurer Schafer stated that Portland, Delta & DeWitt all have ambulance service but that they were all fine with Eagle continuing with Mercy for service.

Mr. Hodge asked the status of the Monroe Road Bridge project. Supervisor Morris stated that although it is scheduled to be bid, there is no firm date for bidding to take place.

A short break was taken.

4. Approval of Minutes – Treasurer Schafer made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections from the regular meeting of May 7, 2001, accept as print the minutes of the special meetings of May 7, 2001 and May 17, 2001. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

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

6. Planning Commission Report – Trustee Hazen distributed the summary of the survey results. Over 1/3 of the surveys were returned, mostly by residents between the ages of 46-59. The Planning Commission would like someone from the land preservation committee to attend the to next meeting. Jim Spackman would like the Township to have copy of the boring results on file for the Landon Development project. Supervisor Morris stated that the DEQ is using the engineering firm's results. Supervisor Morris asked Trustee Hazen what the projections were for having a completed map. Mr. Hodge stated that the commission is looking at holding the first informational meeting in November. Trustee Hazen stated that before any of that is done it will be put together and a joint meeting for the Board and Planning Commission will be held.

7. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Pierson stated that the County is having an employee picnic on June 22 at noon. The County has hired land use planners to do the countywide land use plan, and a parks and recreation plan. The service is costing \$87,000. She also commented on a survey purportedly representing the County Commissioners. It is not well done. Finally, there has been redistricting done for the County, Sara now will have five townships. (Eagle, Dallas, Westphalia, Essex & Lebonon) Redistricting for the County Commissioners is done by the County Clerk, Prosecutor, and Treasurer.

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

9. Accounts Payable – Clerk Simmons 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.

10. Portland District Library – Clerk Simmons stated that the library is looking to receive a \$4.00 per capita contribution for the service area (50.81%) of the Township. Treasurer Schafer made a motion not to make the per capita contribution but to consider making an at will contribution at a later date. Clerk Simmons supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

11. Surplus License – Mr. Fred Catlin brought the application for the Federal Surplus license to Trustee Hazen. She called the Federal Surplus department and the park cannot have their own card. They can use the Township's card if they have written authorization to do so. Deputy Clerk Korroch stated that previously the Township asked the park to stop using the surplus card, as it appeared that items for personal use were being purchased using the discount. Treasurer Schafer made a motion to table the issue until she hears from Mr. Vern Thelen at Federal Surplus to provide additional clarification. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

12. Audit Comments – Treasurer Schafer distributed written comments regarding the audit and the auditor's recommendations. Treasurer Schafer made a motion to receive the audit. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

13. Pension Plan Details – Treasurer Schafer stated that the pension plan looks good. The pension plan has had the wrong Federal Tax ID number since 1987 and she has made arrangements for it to be corrected. The plan has been in effect since April 12, 2001. Treasurer Schafer distributed account information to everyone who currently has a fund balance.

14. Land Division Ordinance - Supervisor Morris stated that we can adopt our own land division ordinance that will allow different that the 4-1 ratio that the State and County have. Because of the unusual shaped parcels in the Township because of the two rivers and the highways he would suggest that we continue to research this issue.

15. Zoning Variances – Supervisor Morris distributed two zoning variances. No Board action is required at this time.

16. Hall Rental – Trustee Colby made motion to charge the residential rate for the Quinn/Jenkins hall rental on June 9, 2001. Treasurer Schafer supported motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

17. MTA Legislative Conference – Treasurer Schafer made motion to allow Supervisor Morris to attend the MTA legislative conference in September. Trustee Hazen supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

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

7-2-01
Approved

Wendy Simmons, Clerk
Wendy K. Simmons, Clerk