

Regular Meeting
Charleston Township Board
October 26, 2004

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Supervisor who led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Roll was called and members present were: Bell, Kramer, Kasson, Schug and Balkema. Also in attendance: Don & Ann Elzinga, Patsy Longfield, Phyllis Rose, Nelson Hiestand, Art Samson, Wally Beaver, Jose Escandon, Dennis Ward, Garry Henson, Larry Combs, Jeff Brinks, Joe Coleman and other concerned citizens.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Motion by Kasson/Balkema to adopt the agenda with the addition of 11. New Business c. Appointment of Representative to Galesburg Memorial Library Board, d. Annual audit, and e. MTA New Official Training. CARRIED Balkema/Kasson moved to approve the September 28, 2004 regular meeting minutes with one clarification to the Public Hearing, sentence 6 which was changed to read: Chuck argued that the annexation of the high school into the city would cause the City of Galesburg alone to assume the expenses that were the responsibility of everyone in the school district and that the 425 agreement wouldn't stop the school or individuals from requesting annexation. CARRIED Balkema/Kasson moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2004 closed meeting. CARRIED

POLICE, FIRE, ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS:

6. Fran reported that substantial progress had been made on the repairs to Roger Mason's garage and that no demolition bids had been received yet for the William Blank property.
7. Chuck explained that the Department of Environmental Quality had signed off on the Rambling Trails plat. He also detailed the ways the attorney recommended changing the township's zoning ordinances to comply with changes to the Right to Farm Act and recent court rulings in order to protect the township from intensive livestock operations in residential areas. The Planning Commission expressed reluctance to adopt such drastic changes in order to get agricultural uses out of districts where agriculture wasn't a primary use. There were no recommendations at this time.
8. Kasson/Schug moved to accept the fire report for September.

CITIZEN TIME:

Wally Beaver expressed concern over the action taken by the Township Board at the September 28, 2004 to direct the supervisor to look at other means of fire protection with the possibility of Charleston considering alternatives to the Joint Fire Board Agreement. Chuck reiterated that the Board's action was not directed at the Fire Department and that every effort would be made to resolve the township's differences with the City of Galesburg at an upcoming joint meeting. Garry Henson reported on Fire Prevention Week activities conducted at area fire departments.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Jose Escandon, developer of the Rambling Trails plat and Jeff Brinks, the plat's engineer, explained the numerous permit requirements needed by the development by the DEQ, the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority, the City of Galesburg and the Drain Commissioner and where they were at in the process. They stipulated that all Planning Commission contingencies had been met and all they still needed were permits from the Drain Commissioner and the DEQ. Kasson/Balkema **moved to grant final preliminary plat approval on Phase #1 of the Rambling Trails Plat contingent upon receipt of all necessary permits.** CARRIED
- b. Fran reported that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission had approved the transfer of ownership of a Class C liquor license from Gene Smith- Galesburg, Inc. to Arkom Pradithavanij. Mr. Pradithavanij has purchased the former Olive Tree Restaurant. Fire Chief Garry Henson

indicated that he would like to do a joint inspection of the property with AGS due to unresolved fire code violations from the previous owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Balkema/Kasson **moved to adopt a resolution to authorize the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority to set a user fee of \$60 per quarter for each township user of the system as stipulated in the resolution.** Roll Call Vote: Balkema – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Kasson – Y; Schug – Y. CARRIED
- b. The closed session was postponed until the end of the meeting.
- c. Balkema/Schug **moved to appoint Shirley Kasson to the Galesburg Memorial Library Board to fill the unexpired term of David Lawrence.** Chuck Kasson abstained from voting. Motion CARRIED
- d. Fran said the annual audit report had been received and that copies were available at the township office for perusal.
- e. Schug/Kasson **approved sending anyone who was interested to the MTA training for new officials on December 9, 2004 at McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek.** CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fran presented letters to the Galesburg City Council concerning a joint water project, and to BFI confirming a quote for the Fall Trash Drop-off.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Year to Date receipts: \$89,649.87, disbursements: \$200,260.87, transfers to savings to general fund: (\$6.23), General fund balance: \$72,819.21, Beginning balance was \$181,000.74, Received since September Board meeting \$2,435.70. Balkema/Kasson moved to accept the Treasurer's report for October as received. CARRIED

MEMBERS TIME:

Chuck expressed his pleasure at having been able to serve on the township board for the last six years and what a learning experience it had been. It was an opportune time for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer to present to Chuck Kasson and Don Balkema certificates of appreciation for all their time and effort in support of township government while serving on the Board. THANK YOU! Fran also thanked Jim Whitehead and Ken Thoroughman for their help at the Fall Trash Drop-off.

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS:

Kasson/Balkema moved that the bills be allowed and that warrants be drawn on the treasury for their respective amounts. CARRIED

Kasson/Balkema moved to enter into closed session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss property acquisition. CARRIED

Kasson/Balkema moved to close the closed session at 9:02 p.m. CARRIED

Kramer/Balkema **authorized the supervisor to seek an asking price for the Egbert property.** CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Balkema/Kasson moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk