

Regular Meeting  
Charleston Township Board  
November 23, 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, Samson, Schug, Hiestand and Kramer. Absent: None. Also in attendance: Jim Whitehead, Patsy Longfield, Dennis Ward, Larry Combs, Phyllis Rose, David Henson and Larry A. Bolhuis.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Motion by Schug/Hiestand to adopt the agenda with one addition, 11 e. Wellhead Protection Program. CARRIED Schug/ Kramer moved to approve the October 26, 2004 regular meeting minutes as presented. Hiestand and Samson abstained. CARRIED Schug/Kramer moved to approve the October 26, 2004 closed session minutes as presented. Hiestand and Samson abstained. CARRIED Hiestand/ Schug moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2004 special joint meeting with the City of Galesburg as presented. CARRIED

POLICE, FIRE, ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS:

6. No Zoning Administrator's report
7. Art reported that the Planning Commission would not have a December meeting. The Planning Commission will meet again in January at which time they will probably have a Public Hearing to make a change to the zoning ordinance. Art also mentioned that the PC had reached an agreement on the Right to Farm portion of the zoning ordinance and that the Coleman development and Phase II of Lakeview Meadows would be coming up. Because he had been elected to the Township Board on November 2, 2004, Nelson tendered his resignation from the Planning Commission. He will be appointed as the Board representative on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Art will remain on the Planning Commission as the Board representative.
8. Nelson presented the fire report and answered questions. Samson/Schug moved to accept the fire report for October. CARRIED Nelson pointed out that the Fire Board would not have sufficient funds to meet payroll in December unless the Township or the City of Galesburg was willing to make their next contribution a month early. Nelson/Kramer **moved to make the next payment to the Fire Board in December, a month early, to resolve the current need for funds.** CARRIED

CITIZEN TIME:

No comments were offered.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Fran reported that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners approved an increase in monthly fees charged to the thirteen local jurisdictions receiving fire dispatch services from the Sheriff's Department commencing with the start of each jurisdiction's next fiscal year. The fees had not been increased since their inception over twenty years ago. The fees will increase from \$769.92 to \$1,179.50 per year.
- b. Fran presented a letter from Lewis Reed & Allen P.C., our attorneys for the Drain Commissioner assessment challenge, requesting payment. The court ruled in our favor. There is still a balance of \$21,000 owed. Based upon the amount of SEV in the township that was part of the Big Marsh Drain, the township's share was \$1500. The township contributed \$1000 last year. Hiestand/Schug **moved to contribute an additional \$500 to defray the cost of the attorney fees for the court action.** CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Hiestand/Schug moved to authorize approval of the Household Hazardous Waste Contract in the amount of \$1300 for 2005 and to have the supervisor sign the contract. CARRIED**
- b. Fran announced that there was an opening on the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for District B. William French had held the position but had to resign when he was elected to the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner's Office. David Henson offered his credentials for the position and asked for the township's endorsement. **Hiestand/Schug moved to authorize Fran to send a letter endorsing David Henson for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission from District B. CARRIED**
- c. Fran submitted a letter from Lloyd & Nancy Schug requesting that three acres of their property be removed P.A. 116. Their son, Mike, and his wife, Vicky, have lived on the property for seventeen years and need to be able to show ownership in order to apply for home equity loans for improvements etc. The Farmland Preservation Office requires a Resolution of Approval from the local government. **Hiestand/Schug moved to adopt a resolution in support of the withdrawal of the specified three acres from the P.A. 116 agreement. Roll Call Vote: Hiestand – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Schug – Y; and Samson – Y. CARRIED**
- d. Fran referenced a motion made on February 24, 1998 that changed the 50/50 split agreement to an annual evaluation with the differences to be addressed at that time. He suggested that the motion be repealed in light of the new agreement made at the November 9, 2004 special joint meeting with the City of Galesburg. **Hiestand/Kramer moved to rescind the 65/35 split of variable expenses. CARRIED**
- e. Charleston Township has previously endorsed a Wellhead Protection Program for the township. In order to get the ball rolling a Request For Qualifications is needed from three or four engineering firms. **Kramer/Samson moved to authorize an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) from three or four engineering firms so that the township is able to proceed with the Well Head Protection Program. CARRIED**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fran announced that Nelson Hiestand and Art Samson would be attending New Officials Training and that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission allocation for next year would be less. Some discussion took place about U.S. Signal's failure to apply for a Metro Act permit from Charleston Township. The township has been unable to get any satisfaction from U.S. Signal and has expended a considerable amount in attorney's fees. Fran will check to see if it is possible to recover the attorney fees.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Year to Date receipts: \$113,699.11, disbursements: \$213,376.17, transfers to savings to general fund: (\$7.11), General fund balance: \$81,316.57, Beginning balance was \$181,000.74, Received since October Board meeting \$21,613.54. **Samson/Hiestand moved to accept the Treasurer's report for November as received. CARRIED**

MEMBERS TIME:

Brenda has tax bills ready to go into the mail. Linda requested a policy for rocks with plaques on gravesites. A resident has made a request, but there is no policy in place to address the issue. Fran suggested that we revisit cemetery policy next month.

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS:

**Hiestand/Schug moved that the bills be allowed and that warrants be drawn on the treasury for their respective amounts. CARRIED**

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

**Hiestand/Samson moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. CARRIED**

Linda Kramer, Clerk