



**ACME TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Tuesday, June 22, 2010 7:00 P.M.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

Members present: D. Dunville, R. Hardin, W. Kladder, P. Scott, E. Takayama, L. Wikle, F. Zarafonitis
Members excused: None
Staff present: S. Vreeland, Township Manager and Recording Secretary

- A. STUDY SESSION:** None
- B. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Dunville to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None noted.
- E. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
Motion by Dunville, support by Wikle to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, including:

RECEIVE AND FILE: None

ACTION – Consider approval:

- 1. [Township Board meeting minutes of 06-01-10](#)

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- F. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** None
- G. REPORTS:** None
- H. CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- I. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. **2010-11 Fiscal Year Board Salary Resolutions:**

- a. **Supervisor:** _Supervisor Kladder excused himself from the Board, turning the meeting over to the Clerk temporarily. Scott expressed concern that even in difficult financial times, if we reduce elected official salaries it may tend to limit the people who run for office to those who have some other sort of income independent of public service. Wikle believes that Board salaries should be moving up rather than down to attract qualified individuals to leadership roles in the township by offering a liveable wage. She believes it was a mistake for the former Supervisor to reduce his wage drastically, and believes the wage the township is paying for this position is well below that offered in other comparable townships. Takayama observed that in the past the position of Supervisor was a part-time role and the salary offered was fair on that basis. The current Supervisor has made the job his full-time mission, and this is the first time Takayama recalls someone approaching it from that perspective. He believes that many government officials are overpaid or in unnecessary positions, more on a state-wide level than in our township currently. Dunville agrees that Kladder is working on a full-time basis. Takayama believes the salary should remain

at its current level but not be raised. Zarafonitis agreed, and looking at the most recent comparable salary study from MTA finds comparable townships where Supervisors are paid more, and some where they are paid less. Scott concurred with leaving the salary at its current level as well, noting that there hasn't been a raise for this position in six years. He would like to see young people who might make politics their career and be the Supervisor as a starting point interested in the position. Hardin stated that much of the reason why there might be a current year revenue/expenditure budget deficit is related to the shoreline project. We paid for this out of the savings account that we put aside for larger projects, and it shouldn't be causing the township to consider a reduction in this salary now. It might start a round of cuts that is ill-advised in the long-term. Zarafonitis noted that there may be a few hard economic years ahead yet, and this is one reason why potential wage cuts were considered. Hardin does not see reductions in incomes as the solution to any problems that may exist.

Motion by Scott, support by Wikle to adopt Resolution #2010-15 as amended to keep the Supervisor's Salary at its current \$30,000 level, with the hope that economic times will improve and an increase will be possible. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining (Kladder).

Kladder rejoined the Board and re-assumed the Chair. He commented that he appreciated the Board's comments, and that if economic times remain difficult the township may have to look at reducing services and possibly reducing salaries in consideration of a reduction of services.

- b. **Clerk: Motion by Scott, support by Wikle to adopt Resolution #R-2010-16 as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining (Dunville).**
- c. **Treasurer: Motion by Scott, support by Hardin to adopt Resolution #R-2010-17 as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining (Wikle).**
- d. **Trustees: Motion by Scott, support by Kladder to adopt Resolution #R-2010-18 as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) and 0 opposed.**

- 2. **Resolution allocating available 2010-11 Fiscal Year Farmland Funds for PDR Program:** The Township's Farmland Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance (PDR) requires that the township adopt a resolution annually stating how much money will be made available during the fiscal year for development rights purchases from farmers. The resolution has been prepared to include the expected payments to be made this fall as the first installment of three that will make full payment for the remaining development rights offered to Round 1 of the program. The funds will be available both from those on hand from prior and December 2010 millage collections and from the first installment of a grant the township expects to receive.

Motion by Scott, support by Dunville to adopt Resolution #R-2010-19. Wikle noted that the current fund balance is more than sufficient to cover the proposed payouts. **Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

- 3. **Amendments to 2009-10 Fiscal Year budget:** The township's annual general appropriations act (budget) is adopted on a cost center basis. This means that it is legal for there to be a variance from budget as to each line item, but final expenditures for the fiscal year in each cost center must not exceed approved appropriations. Vreeland has prepared a final budget amendment to the 2009-10 fiscal year budget based on expectations for spending through

June 30 so that no cost center's actual expenditures will be over budget.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Dunville to adopt 2009-10 budget amendment Resolution #R-2010-20 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Proposed General Appropriations Act (2010-11 Budget)** (continued from 06/01/10 meeting): Kladder noted that there has already been some discussion and a detailed memo explaining the proposed budget figures was provided, so he suggested a question-and-answer format for the discussion. Yesterday an e-mail went out stating that the summary page originally distributed had an incorrect formula in it, but earlier today it was realized that the original page was correct after all, so the materials originally distributed with meeting packets were used. The following key points in the budget were discussed:

- Unemployment: The proposed budget projects possible expenses of up to \$20,000 in the coming fiscal year in the event that our former Zoning Administrator files for and is awarded unemployment. This is one of the two unusual possible expenses that has created the significant proposed current year revenue/expenditure deficit, which the Board has historically avoided.
- Septage Treatment Facility (STF) bonds: principal and interest payments could cost the township up to \$47,000 in this fiscal year and continue to burden the township for up to 15 years. Kladder has suggested structuring this as a loan from the General Fund to the proposed new Septage Treatment Plant Fund. It is possible that the County may pick up as much as 50% of the potential costs. 50% of all county septage tanks are in the five debt-guaranteeing townships, with the other half in the outlying areas.
- Kladder noted that the proposed budget cuts include the contribution to the Senior Center, Fourth of July Fireworks and unpaved County road brining.
- Planning Consultant: The Planning & Zoning cost center budget contains a line item for Planner Services, where we budgeted the remaining portion of the township's standing commitment to joint New Urbanist town center planning with proposed town center area landowners/developers. An additional \$25,000 from a Tribal 2% grant for this purpose is housed in a segregated special fund. The Planning Consultant line is used to budget for any non application-related planning assistance the township might need with a special project. Vreeland has suggested performing a community-wide preference survey to support a master plan update in the coming fiscal year, and the \$10,000 budgeted is an estimated half of the survey costs. She will seek grant funding for the remainder.
- Planning & Zoning Administrator: an earlier draft of the budget contained funding for a part-time Zoning Administrator. The revised draft contains funding for a full time Planning & Zoning Administrator at the former position holder's ending salary. The Supervisor and Manager are recommending that the position needs to be filled full-time if the township is to make meaningful progress in this area.

Public Hearing reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

Barbara Kopkau, 10053 US 31 North, expressed appreciation for the Township Manager.

Public Hearing closed at 7:59 p.m.

- Fire Fund: preliminary budget would require a 0.15 mill increase in each township's special assessment. Discussions are just beginning.

- Police Fund: propose to keep special assessment at 0.25 mills.
- Liquor Control Fund: the funds contained here come from the state Liquor Control Commission and are restricted to use only to reimburse costs for liquor code enforcement. With help from the auditors, the Clerk and Treasurer have determined an amount that can be moved at the end of this fiscal year to the Policing Fund for prior years. The balance in the Policing Fund will be such that perhaps we should consider sharing an additional Sheriff's Deputy with another nearby township if one is willing to partner with us.
- Takayama does not believe that the full unemployment cost would actually be \$20,000. He would suggest removing it entirely and adding it back in if necessary. It would be better to approve a smaller potential deficit. He suggested calling the UIA for a more detailed estimate.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to adopt Resolution #R-2010-21, General Appropriations Act 2010-11. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

K. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Planning & Zoning staffing:** Vreeland noted that the Board approved hiring a Temporary Deputy Zoning Administrator only until the end of the current fiscal year on June 30. She feels that we will continue to need this assistance during the process of hiring a permanent Planning & Zoning Administrator.

Motion by Scott, support by Zarafonitis to extend the position of the Temporary Deputy Zoning Administrator until the position is filled permanently, with the wage to be paid from the amount budgeted for a Planning & Zoning Administrator in the 2010-11 budget. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:
None.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 p.m.