

Acme Township
6042 Acme Road,
Williamsburg MI 49690

www.acmetownship.org
E-mail:
acme@netonecom.net
Phone: (231) 938-1350

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

<i>Board of Trustees</i>	<i>Acme Township Staff</i>							
<p>Bill Kurtz, Supervisor bkurtz@acmetownship.org</p> <p>Dorothy Dunville, Clerk ddunville@acmetownship.org</p> <p>H. William Boltres, Treasurer bboltres@acmetownship.org</p> <p>Wayne Kladder, Trustee tcwj@yahoo.com</p> <p>Paul Scott, Trustee</p> <p>Erick Takayama, Trustee etakayama@acmetownship.org</p> <p>Frank Zarafonitis, Trustee frankiez@chartermi.net</p>	<p>Doris Boltres, Deputy Treasurer (231) 938-6213 (work) (231) 938-9244 (fax)</p> <p>Sharma Zollinger, Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Sharon E. Corpe, Township Manager sorce@acmetownship.org</p> <p>John S. Hull, Zoning Administrator jull@acmetownship.org</p> <p>Nancy Edwardson Office Assistant nedwardson@acmetownship.org</p>	<p>Dawn Plude, Assessor dplude@acmetownship.org (231) 409-1827 Office Hours on Wednesdays</p> <p>Tom Henkel Parks and Maintenance Supervisor</p> <p>Ernie Keech, Sexton (231) 267-5735</p> <p>Bob Sillers, Community Policing (231) 938- 2583</p>						
<p>Monthly Public Meetings</p> <p>All meetings are open to the public and made accessible to individuals requiring special assistance. Agendas are available at the township hall or via the website approximately one week prior to each meeting.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Twp. Board of Trustees:</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Planning Commission:</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Zoning Board of Appeals:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">First Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.</td> <td style="border: none;">Last Monday at 7:00 p.m.</td> <td style="border: none;">Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> </table>			Twp. Board of Trustees:	Planning Commission:	Zoning Board of Appeals:	First Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.	Last Monday at 7:00 p.m.	Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Twp. Board of Trustees:	Planning Commission:	Zoning Board of Appeals:						
First Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.	Last Monday at 7:00 p.m.	Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.						

Visit Acme's Website at www.acmetownship.org

THE OUTLOOK - 2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

www.acmetownship.org



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRAVERSE CITY, MI
PERMIT #568

THE OUTLOOK

2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

"Citizen Driven"

January 2006

Supervisor's Message: *The Year in Review*

Bill Kurtz, Supervisor



Looking back at the past year, I am pleased to report that your township Board has been very successful in meeting its objectives.

◆ **After two years of deficit spending, the Board adopted a balanced budget** that anticipates a modest increase to the General Fund. We will review the budget in January and February 2006 to ensure we remain on target and make any necessary adjustments.

◆ **Our new audit firm, Plante & Moran, gave the township a clean bill of health** after a very thorough review. They suggested some ways to tighten up procedures and policies to ensure that we remain in good standing.

◆ **Eight Citizen Advisory Committees were formed** to engage a broader spectrum of citizens on an ongoing basis. Five of these advisories have been extremely active and productive in the past year, and we look to all of them to contribute significantly in 2006.

◆ **The township is actively participating in court-ordered mediation** designed to resolve differences between the parties to recent lawsuits and enable growth within the township to proceed in a manner acceptable to the vast majority of township residents.

◆ **We sponsored an initiative to add a long-overdue future land use map component to our Master Plan.** It will be one of many tools guiding development and providing clear information to support decisions about investment in our community.

This process has been at least as much about helping people identify and focus on common ground rather than areas of dissention as a starting point towards resolving

ongoing community issues. And it seems that there has been a positive effect that can carry over into future discussions. We've seen people at the opposite ends of the opinion spectrum work together on group exercises engaging in thoughtful discussion about common - and differing - values. When attendees at the most recent meeting were asked to break into four groups and produce their versions of a desired map, all four maps were remarkably similar in proposed land use pattern, while indicating that in future discussions there still needs to be discussion about size and scope of a variety of land uses. The four maps are being melded into one consensus map which is available for public viewing at the township hall and by e-mail. It will be posted to the township website on January 3. The map will be presented at the January 10th Board meeting to see if it represents a workable middle ground for the community and whether or not it is ready to undergo the formal adoption process. This process will require approximately four months and will include additional public input opportunities.

All of these things represent significant achievements, but we still have plenty of work to do. Holding the line on the General Fund budget, effectively managing the Sewer and Fire budgets, and continuing to work towards consensus-based resolution of land use planning issues are just a few. We will be exploring possibilities for a reasonably-sized downtown development authority, and there are many areas where public road deterioration needs to be immediately addressed.

Your Board of Trustees is committed to working with the community to maintain Acme Township as a special place, to ensure that basic health, safety and welfare needs are adequately addressed, and to encourage community growth at a pace and size that is healthy for the community and employs context-sensitive design to conserve and preserve significant natural and cultural resources.

Best wishes to you and your families for the new year!

Inside: Updates from our Citizen Advisories

Farmland Preservation Advisory

Bob Garvey, Chair

The Farmland Preservation Advisory has accomplished a great deal with the assistance of Land Preservation Specialist Brian Bourdages. Brian has helped the committee develop an Acme Township Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) map for inclusion in the Master Plan. The map indicates areas of the township considered highly qualified and desirable for farmland preservation programs. Because the map is now part of our Master Plan we are eligible to apply to state and federal grant programs that might contribute to development rights purchases, thereby leveraging the funds being raised through our one year-old Farmland and Open Space preservation millage.

The map was subjected to an extensive public hearing process during which concerns were raised that it might be used as a tool for making zoning decisions that might limit landowner options. In

response to this concern, the map clearly states that it is not to be used as a basis for zoning decisions. The goal is to create additional options landowners can use to benefit from their land in the eligibility area, not to decrease them. Landowner participation in the purchase of development rights program is entirely voluntary.

Brian has also been assisting Grand Traverse County to formulate a scoring system which will assist us in prioritizing eligible pieces of farmland which apply to the program.

Our goals include being prepared to accept applications to the PDR program in Spring 2006 and doubling or tripling our purchasing power by obtaining state, federal and private preservation funding. Because of the success of the Peninsula Township PDR program and the active support of our residents, other neighboring

townships are getting closer to adopting their own preservation programs.

The aim of all farmland preservation programs is to encourage continued agriculture in growing communities by providing members of our farming community with economically viable alternatives to selling their development rights for development. These preservation efforts can also enhance the value of homes in the community by helping to maintain the rural character and open spaces that make this a special place to be.

Thank you to our residents for their continued support of this worthwhile effort.

Members: Paul Brink, Bob Carstens, Ken Engle, Wayne Kladder, Richard Saylor, Nels Veliquette.

Infrastructure Advisory

Mark Lewis, Chair



In 2005 the Infrastructure Advisory studied two key issues and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees that were adopted.

Tribal Water Service: Windward Ridge, a 44-unit condominium development proposed for the west side of US 31 North, opposite the Resort and south of Dock Road, will receive water service from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians rather than providing on-site wells. The advisory needed to learn quickly about how the Tribal water supply is regulated and what the appropriate relationship between the Tribe and township in this situation would be. Generally, when an entity operates a public utility within a township's borders it must obtain a franchise from that township. The public and private water systems we have been involved with previously have been regulated by the Michigan DEQ, but the Tribal water system is currently regulated by the EPA. Township legal matters are generally handled through the Circuit Court, while

Tribal legal issues are handled through the Tribal and/or federal courts. We learned much that can be used in similar future situations.

Proposed Sewer System Upgrade: In 2003 Phase 1 of a 2-part project to reroute sanitary sewer flows through the township to improve system capacity was performed. A bypass line was placed, largely along Five Mile Road, to divide flows and direct them into East Bay Township through two pump stations rather than through just one. The second part of the project would have placed a forcemain alongside an existing gravity line on US 31 north of M-72 and would have upgraded a pump station on Deepwater Point. Without the improvements, another 350 residential unit equivalents can still be connected to this section of the system. After study, the advisory recommended that Phase 2 be discontinued, and that further study of likely growth patterns and capacity needs in the northwest portion of the township be performed to ensure that future system upgrades are appropriately designed. Discontinuing Phase 2 means that about \$1 million of an approximately \$2 million bond will not be spent. These funds will be banked and earn interest that will help

cover the township's debt service obligations until the banked principal can be used to partially call the bond in a few years. The savings to the township in bond interest payments will be substantial.

Projects the advisory expects to address in 2006 include:

- ◆ Assisting the Planning Commission and Board to develop a private road ordinance for the township.
- ◆ Assisting with the formation of special assessment districts to repair badly deteriorated public roads.
- ◆ Master planning the future of the sanitary sewer and water systems with the DPW.
- ◆ Working with the Road Commission on public road standards.
- ◆ Evaluating expected impacts to all forms of infrastructure from the future land use map.

Members: Tom Bergklint, Bill Beall, Paul Brink, Steve Feringa, Bill Henry, Larry LaSusa, Jim Maitland, Jon Stinson, Hal VanSumeren

New Urbanism Advisory

Dr. Marc Krakow and Lori Craig, Co-Chairs



Acme Township formed the New Urbanism Advisory on October 13, 2005. I was honored to be appointed co-chair of this committee along with Marc Krakow. Together

we have worked at an accelerated pace to form the committee, research the New Urbanism concept, set and follow the standard with the creation of our mission statement for our advisory.

We have worked hard to structure a workable plan with a timeline for the committee, township, developers and citizens to accomplish our goals for the year. Currently we are on track for drawing in proposals and reviewing criteria and qualifications from expert New Urbanism planners. Our committee is also striving to find solutions for funding. Thanks to a great committee and the sincere participation of the township, developers and great citizens we are working hard together on behalf of the entire community to make Acme township desirable and complete.

I am looking forward to the new year ahead. This is a monumental time for Acme. My plans include opening a business here in Acme that serves this great community in a personal way.

Members: David Krause, Denny Rohn, Nels Veliquette. Ex-Officio: Andy Andres Sr., Andy Andres Jr., Lee Bussa, Todd Gokey, Jim Goss, Scott Nowakowski (Meijer, Inc.), Lee Grant (County Planning Commission), Jim Lively (Michigan Land Use Institute), Paul Brink and Jo Collins (Concerned Citizens of Acme Township), Ron Reinhold (Acme Taxpayers for Responsible Government).

Public Safety Advisory

Pat Collins, Chair

In 2005 the Public Safety Advisory focused on fire protection issues. In the 1970's a township-wide fire protection special assessment district (SAD) was formed. Funds raised through this assessment pay for the township's participation in the Metro Fire Department along with East Bay and Garfield Townships. Each township contributes to Metro's budget according to its portion of the combined real property values within the service area.

After Proposal A capped the annual increase in taxable value of real property in the 1990's a funding gap developed: we

owed based on State Equalized Value (SEV) but collect taxes on the lower taxable value of real property. To temporarily fill the gap, the voters approved a 6-year millage in 2000. This extra millage was collected for the last time with the December 2005 tax bills.

While preparing a continued funding strategy recommendation for the Board, the Advisory found that the 1975 SAD had not been set up or maintained through the years properly. We recommended that the Board discontinue the old SAD and replace it with a new but identical one. We then reviewed the proposed 2006 Metro Fire Budget and

determined that Acme could provide its share of the needed funding by maintaining the millage rate at that of previous years. We will continue to review the Metro budget on an annual basis and to make recommendations to the Board as to its suitability and the annual millage rate required to cover those costs.

In 2006 we will expand our focus by looking at community policing and emergency medical services issues.

Members: Andy Andres Sr., Denny Hoxsie, Jim Maitland, Wayne Mervau, Darryl Nelson, Dick Smith.

Shoreline & Open Space Preservation Advisory *Paul Brink & Pat Salathiel, Co-Chairs*



Acme Township is blessed with several miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline as its western boundary. More than 20 years ago, voters approved a millage to

purchase what is now Bayside Park. About 10 years ago the Township, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the DNR Trust Fund partnered to purchase property from Helen Sanabria for what is now the Deepwater Point Natural Area across from Bertha Vos Elementary.

In November of this year, public visioning sessions were held regarding a future land use map for the township.

Participants were asked to pretend they were visitors to Acme in the year 2025 who sent postcards to friends describing their Acme visit. Almost universally these "postcards from the future" described people enjoying stretches of public open space along the bay front similar to that which exists in the downtown Traverse City area.

On August 9, 2005 the Board of Trustees formed the Shoreline Park and Preservation Advisory to explore ongoing community interest in acquiring bay front properties for public use as they become available.



We are committed to exploring federal, state and local fundraising opportunities.

Two meetings have been held to date to discuss organizational issues and waterfront properties that may be for sale. All township residents are welcome to participate in this ambitious endeavor. Please consider coming to our meetings and joining our group. If you can't come to a meeting, we'd be glad to talk to you by phone. We meet approximately once a month; upcoming meeting dates are posted on the township website. The next meeting will be Monday, January 30 at 4:30 p.m. in the township hall.

Members: Charlene Abernethy, Kathleen Guy, Francis Gingras, Dave Krause, Owen Sherberneau