



ACME TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Monday, April 29, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

GENERAL TOWNSHIP MEETING POLICIES

- A. All cell phones shall be switched to silent mode or turned off.**
- B. Any person may make a video, audio, or other record of this meeting. Standing equipment, records, or portable microphones must be located so as not to block audience view.**

CALL TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment periods are provided at the beginning and end of each meeting agenda. Members of the public may address the Board regarding any subject of community interest during these periods. Comment during other portions of the agenda may or may not be entertained at the moderator's discretion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

C. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Work Session on Ascom Building with a visit to the building**

PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

ADJOURN

From: Brian Kelley, Acme resident
To: Acme Trustees

April 29, 2024

Re: Ascom building - flooring choice and chairs

Good morning,

1. Flooring

At the April 9th Trustee meeting there was discussion regarding meeting room flooring for the new township hall, and whether vinyl or carpet would be a better choice.

During the previous township hall renovations meetings were held at the former Acme Laundry. The acoustics of that room were terrible. Many expressed difficulty in hearing the PC, and at least one member of the public reported in public comment that they could not understand anything. That was due to hard surface echoes in a larger room. The laundry floor was either concrete or linoleum. I expect the problem was worse for the public than those closely seated at the meeting tables.

I am sure we all agree that good acoustics are critical in the new hall. Public address systems tend to make room acoustic problems even worse. If the frequency of non-governmental meetings creates wear and maintenance issues with carpet, then a possible solution is to cover those costs with a portion of rental rates, and set aside those funds as appropriate. Suitable floor treatments at entry areas would help with shoe cleaning.

I reached out to some nearby townships about their meeting rooms - floor material, seating capacity, acoustics, and utilization. Carpet was common, and not surprisingly was always associated with excellent acoustics.

Elmwood

Spoke with Kerry

Capacity 70 people

They have old 'tile' (it needs to be polished, etc)

They like the tile because they have community group rentals, etc. and it is hard on the floor. Would not be a concern if just township meetings.

Acoustics are pretty good. She takes minutes.

Blair

Spoke with Deputy Clerk, Cindy Wicksall

Capacity 163 people. Old building, will renno in 2 years

Currently old tile floor and soft tile ceiling

Sometimes they cannot hear. Hearing is an issue, for public and secretary.

They have microphones but no longer use. *Microphones make it harder to hear*

They stopped renting for community events 15 years ago.

Garfield

Spoke with Karen
Capacity 312 people
Carpet floor and drop ceiling with sound absorbing tiles
Acoustics are excellent
They hold some community events

Whitewater

Small room. Capacity 70 (jam packed)
Old tile. Pitched ceiling
"Sound is not bad"

East Bay

Carpet
Excellent acoustics, from personal experience

2. Chairs

A number of public seating chairs have been removed from the township hall meeting room and apparently moved to Ascom. That created issues at the April 22 PC meeting when embers of the public were forced to stand during the meeting, and some left because they had no chair. There would have been enough chairs if they had not been removed. If the public must now bring their own chairs, that should be part of every meeting notice. I think I might bring a recliner, for extended meetings. I hope any snoring will not create acoustic issues.

As someone who has sat through hundreds of meetings in those chairs, I can confirm that the old saying "time heals all wounds" is not true in this case - those chairs have not gotten better with age, even with the calluses I have probably acquired. Those chairs are very uncomfortable after an hour or so.

I know that there are many community members who are unable to sit for long periods due to back issues, and especially in those chairs. The township should explore chairs that are more comfortable.

Thank you,

Brian Kelley