

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009**

**Meeting** called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Ridley.

**Members present:** McGinnis, Balazovic, Ridley, Fisher, Waldron

**23** citizens were in attendance

**Minutes** of the December meeting were approved as published.

**Motion** by Clerk Fisher to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Treasurer Balazovic and it passed with 5 yeas.

**Police Report:** Submitted monthly and 2008 annual incident report, snowmobile patrol has begun.

**Airport Report:** No report, Norm unable to attend meeting

**Treasurers Report:** Without interest the regular accounts have \$514,905.01 and \$838,117.52 in the tax accounts.

**Steven Schnell**, Cheboygan Ct. Community Development Director, explained the Village Center Zoning district that could possibly rezone parts of Indian River. Village center zoning addresses more densely populated areas and was incorporated into the County Master Plan to accommodate areas such as Indian River, Topinabee, etc. Village Center Zoning allows properties to build as close to a property line as their neighbors, it allows for the reduction or elimination of businesses to provide on-site parking if a similar number of parking spaces are available on public streets, it restricts maximum size of buildings and it allows for buildings to exist closer together. The process to rezone can take from four months to a year; and the Township and County Planning Commissions would work jointly on the possible rezoning.

Schnell addressed an area (Club Rd. and M-68) that is currently zoned lake and stream to be rezoned to commercial that would be more appropriate for the land development of that area.

A motion was made by Trustee Waldron and seconded by Trustee McGinnis of looking into Village Center Zoning for the downtown area of Indian River. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion made by Trustee Waldron and supported by Clerk Fisher to support the rezoning of the area near the I-75 corridor passed with five yeas.

**The** motion by Clerk Fisher to approve the Resolution for changing MERS benefits was supported by Trustee Waldron and a roll call vote was taken: McGinnis, yes; Balazovic, yes; Ridley, yes; Fisher, yes; Waldron, yes. The resolution covers a change in the retirement benefits approved with the last police contract negotiation but never formally adopted.

**Discussion** was held regarding the requirements of implementing the new planning enabling act. The state took the planning enables acts of villages, counties and townships and merged them all into one act. The Planning Commission is required to make a few minor changes to be compliant with the new act.

**The** motion by Trustee McGinnis was supported by Treasurer Balazovic to approve the 2009 Fire Protection Contract and a roll call vote was taken: McGinnis, yes; Balazovic, yes; Ridley, yes; Fisher, yes; Waldron abstain.

**No** action was taken on a bill submitted by Gourdie Fraser for services performed on an environmental assessment and on an application submitted for a USDA Rural Development grant for a sewer proposal. The Township Board had in the past stated that it would not approve any costs associated with the new sewer proposal until the engineering costs from the previous attempt at a sewer district was paid off.

**No** formal action was taken by the Board regarding a request from the County of Cheboygan for any roads to be closed to ORV usage. The County is preparing to adopt an ordinance regulating the use of ORV's on public roads within Cheboygan County. Trustee Waldron suggested closing Straits Hwy. from River Street to Barbara Street. Chief Wagner suggested the Township explore implementing its own ordinance.

The Board set February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. as the date for a public hearing to discuss "no towing" behind boats on the Indian River.

Citizens comments: Where are the County Recycling permits? Dan O'Henley, Recycling Coordinator, informed Clerk Fisher that the permits will be mailed within the next week but for township residents to start using the bins now. Trustee McGinnis requested that all Township committees present written reports for the regular monthly meetings.

Motion by Trustee Waldron to pay the bills, supported by Treasurer Balazovic and the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fisher, Clerk