



**ACME TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**ACME TOWNSHIP HALL**  
**6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**  
**6:30 p.m. June 5, 2007**

**Meeting called to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:34 p.m.**

**Members present:** B. Boltres, D. Dunville, W. Kladder, B. Kurtz, P. Scott, E. Takayama, F. Zarafonitis  
**Members excused:** None  
**Staff present:** S. Corpe, Township Manager/Recording Secretary  
C. Bzdok, Legal Counsel

**Motion by Kladder, support by Scott to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation in CCAT v. Acme Township v. The Village at Grand Traverse LLC and Meijer Inc. and Meijer Inc. v. Acme Township because discussion in open session could have a detrimental impact on the financial interests of the township. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

**Public meeting recessed at 6:36 p.m.**

**Motion by Kladder, support by Scott to resume public session at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

Kurtz noted that the Board holds closed sessions at the beginning of meetings so the public can be aware of any resulting action. Bzdok stated that the Board created a New Urbanism Advisory some time ago to select a New Urbanist planner to assist with planning a town center for a four-property study area including Acme Village, the Village at Grand Traverse (VGT), the Todd Gokey property and the Meijer property. The township committed \$50,000 towards such a process and invited the landowners to participate financially and in discussion as well. The Tribe gave a \$25,000 grant towards the process. The township has continued to call for the VGT and Meijer to seek a joint solution to the lawsuits in which they have been engaged. We have learned through several sources including RTKL, the planning firm selected for the project, that VGT and/or Meijer have hired RTKL to perform town center design work for them exclusively rather than as a joint process. We are unaware of any other details, as VGT and Meijer have declined to disclose any information to us. We hope that they will reconsider their decision not to move forward in a joint planning process, and hope they will disclose their plans for design work on one or both properties to the public. The Board remains committed to exploring a joint New Urbanist planning process with any and all of the aforementioned landowners.

**INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None noted.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Kurtz proposed addition of the naming of a private road to the Consent Calendar and addition of discussion regarding use of the DPW Hoch Road Property by a rugby group.

**Motion by Kladder, support by Scott to amend the agenda as suggested. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**Motion by Kladder, support by Scott to approve the Consent Calendar as amended to include consideration of a new road name, including:**

**RECEIVE AND FILE:**

1. **Treasurer's Report** as of 04/30/07
2. **Clerk's Report** as of 05/24/07
3. Draft Unapproved Minutes of
  - a. **05/10/07 Zoning Board of Appeals** meeting
  - b. **05/17/07 Public Safety Advisory** meeting

- c. 05/21/07 Planning Commission meeting

**ACTION:**

4. Consider approval: 05/01/07 regular Township Board meeting minutes
5. Consider approval: Accounts Payable of \$28,608.03 through 05/24/07
6. Consider approval:
  - a. Agreement with TBAISD to collect Summer School Property Taxes – Traverse City District
  - b. Agreement with TBAISD to collect Summer School Property Taxes – Elk Rapids District
7. Consider approval of new road name “Breeds Hill Trail” for Amy Jenema off Bunker Hill Road.

**Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

**B. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Natalie McDonald, 7131 Deepwater Point Road stated that there is a speeding problem on Deepwater Point Road. There is discourtesy towards walkers. Some sort of action is required to slow traffic down. She has owned her house since 1947 and has seen the road change from a “comfortable” road to a “freeway.”

Sherry Hedden, 7020 Deepwater Point Road finds it scary to walk her dogs down that road, and has a hard time imagining how people would walk with children in strollers. She asked if placement of speed bumps would be a possibility; Kurtz does not believe it would be but we can ask the Road Commission. So many more people are building down the road. Mrs. McDonald noted that there are removable speed bumps that wouldn't have to be left down in the winter to interfere with plows. Deputy Sillers stated that he has seen speed bumps or depressions on private roads, but never on public roads. Zarafonitis asked if some extra enforcement could be done in the area, and if we can place the radar trailer there. Deputy Sillers stated that he can perform more enforcement and can call on some dedicated traffic enforcement cars. If someone sees a speeder and takes their license plate he can contact that driver and caution them or write them a ticket. If he runs extra enforcement people slow down for a while, but the improvement in behavior is never lasting. The traffic enforcement cars are less visible. Mrs. Hedden asked if perhaps more signs could be placed along the road instead of or along with speed bumps or other physical deterrents.

Andy Andres Jr., 4946 M-72 mentioned that his family's property on the corner is also part of the town center joint study area. Bzdok apologized for inadvertently neglecting to mention them.

John Kerkhof, 4941 Deer Valley has been a resident for 35 years and a homeowner for over 20. He is a Bertha Vos School parent who would like to address the potential for TCAPS to permanently close the school in 2008-09. He feels strongly there should continue to be an elementary school in the township and asked if the township has any insight into the situation. Kurtz observed that Dunville has taken a very active interest in this concern and has provided some TCAPS handouts. She believes that if Acme loses its school it will lose its viability as a community. TCAPS has indicated that 2-3 schools must be closed to manage their budget, and that they'd like to have smaller class sizes within larger elementary schools. If Bertha Vos is closed the plan would be to send Acme children to Traverse Heights. Mr. Kerkhof quoted a Michigan Land Use Institute Study stating that growth follows schools, and refurbishing old schools serves to anchor a community. He is concerned that if the only elementary school is closed there will also be a decrease in property values. Kladder suggested that the historical records be searched for a merge agreement that may exist and create an understanding when elementary schools were previously merged.

Mr. Kerkhof asked if the Board is concerned about the potential loss of our school. Dunville and Scott are very concerned. Kurtz is also concerned, and noted that TCAPS have not stated that Bertha Vos is certain to closed. Mr. Kerkhof noted that of 15 schools 9 were excluded from consideration for

closure as being fairly modern. Bertha Vos is not considered a walkable school, but MEAP scores are always top of the list. The property is small so it would be difficult to add significantly onto it, and the current census is 300 children. With the number of new housing developments approved in Acme there could be new children entering the system. Mr. Kerkhof believes that the best defense is a strong offense. Zarafonitis stated that at the East Junior High honors program last night many of the honorees were former Bertha Vos students. Traverse Heights, Cherry Knoll and Courtade are the schools to which Bertha Vos students could be redirected and are generally at the lower end of elementary school performance in town.

June 11 is when phase 2 of the study will begin, with a final decision to be made by August. Kurtz noted that there will be an additional meeting in June; a potential Board resolution supporting Bertha Vos could be prepared. Kladder would like to see more information, but is already aware that schools are necessary to a sense of community. Scott would like to consider further discussion this evening leading to a motion supporting Bertha Vos. Mr. Kerkhof stated that renovation costs would be least for Bertha Vos than for other schools on the list.

**Motion by Scott, support by Takayama to amend the agenda to add additional discussion regarding support for Bertha Vos under "Public Comment & Other Business that May Come Before the Board." Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**1. Relative to Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians Trust Status Application:**

- a. 04/18/07 Letter to the Tribe from the Bureau of Indian Affairs: received and filed.
- b. 04/27/07 Letter to township from Senator Carl Levin: received and filed.
- c. 05/15/07 Letter to township from Representative Dave Camp: received and filed.
- d. 05/16/07 Letter to Bureau of Indian Affairs from Tribe: received and filed.

**2. Relative to TCTV2:**

- a. 05/14/07 Letter from Nancy L. Warne, 19599 Brinkman Road, Traverse City: received and filed.
- b. 05/11/07 e-mail and attachments generated by George Galic, provided by Bill Vockel: received and filed.

**3. 04/30/07 Letter to GT County Board of Commissioners from GT County Democratic Party re: election of Road Commissioners : received and filed.**

**D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**None

**F. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Continued discussion regarding proposed 2007-08 budget:**

- a. Discuss General Fund and most Special Funds :

**General Fund:**Updated spreadsheets and explanatory narrative were provided to the Board for discussion. Kurtz hopes the budget figures will be generally finalized tonight in preparation for a public hearing in about two weeks and prior to the beginning of our new fiscal year on July 1.

A column displaying projected year-end figures by line item has been added. Projected healthcare costs have been lowered moderately. The most significant change is to shift proposed capital expenditures from next year to the remainder of this year as suggested at the May 1 meeting. Also as suggested the rotary broom

Henkel requested for the Kubota tractor was eliminated.

Takayama asked if the township has considered plans other than Blue Cross. He recently changed to Priority Health and feels that he is receiving comparable coverage for premiums that are \$250/month lower. Corpe noted that the healthcare fiscal year is September 1, so even if we start the township fiscal year with the existing plan we have time to fully investigate other plan options.

Kladder recalls that the decision not to fund TCTV2 in the coming year included a statement that we would reconsider if there was evidence that changes have been made. Have we evaluated whether changes have been made? Kurtz stated that to date he has seen no evidence of this, although it could happen in the future. City manager Richard Lewis is exploring a new governmental access channel. Kladder noted that the budget includes revenue from franchise fees but no expenditures for TCTV2. Is a statement regarding the status of the situation required at this point? Boltres feels that no further discussion is needed at this time about participating. Kladder is not suggesting that we discuss participation at this time, but to start with making a finding of fact as to whether conditions at TCTV2 have changed sufficiently to warrant a reconsideration of their funding. Kladder does not feel that there have been sufficient changes to warrant renewed support, but is uncertain as to whether TCTV2 has received a clear message from Acme as to our status. Up until the last meeting Takayama was a strong TCTV2 supporter but concerned about the level of justification of their budget he had seen. He has now seen somewhat of an audit from their accounting firm that appears to justify expenditures. He is not in favor of ending our contributions entirely, but he does feel that broadcasting meetings is an important part of the public information process. He would not like to end our ability to broadcast our meetings until a backup plan has been adopted and would not like to cut it entirely from the budget. Takayama feels they deserve an opportunity to change, and if they don't respond positively then their funding should be cut.

Scott agrees that funding such things are important, but he does have a problem with being told that unless we contribute at a certain level regardless of our concerns about their performance we are out. He is unsure they are earning the 30% of our revenue they are demanding of us, and does not appreciate the one-sidedness of the situation. Takayama had thought our funding level was at our discretion. Zarafonitis agrees that having our meeting broadcast is important, and he does hear from the public that they have watched. Boltres stated that anyone who comes to the township can receive written minutes or an audio recording of the meeting, and believes that these are sufficient avenues for interested citizens along with attending the meetings.

Kladder feels the revenues are important to the township. The world is changing and people get their news in different ways. He would like to see our meetings broadcast over the Internet someday and appreciates having them televised, but he believes that right now they are not spending our money wisely. He stated that perhaps we could negotiate with TCTV2 to broadcast our meetings on a fee-for-service basis. Kurtz noted again that if Mr. Lewis proceeds with his governmental access channel we would likely be offered an opportunity to participate in that. He agreed that television is an important avenue for informing the public as to the governmental process. He called for a consensus, which was not to fund TCTV2 at this time.

Discussion turned to brining the unpaved roads. There are just over five miles of unpaved county public roads in the township. When Mark Ritter was Supervisor he would only order brining if a resident requested it. In some years including 2005 and 2006 the Road Commission paid the full cost to brine all unpaved roads. This year they have offered to cost share for the first two applications if the township pays 50%

plus a 5% contingency. Additional applications would be fully at township expense. Generally two applications per year are sufficient. The township share would be \$400/mile/application; after adding the contingency Corpe estimated the total at approximately \$4,250 to brine all the roads. Residents of South Bates Road and Bennett Road have already called to see when brining would be done, and county-wide the task is 80% complete.

Other changes since the last discussion included increases to utility cost projections based on current year usage patterns. Kurtz also noted that our current auditors, Plante & Moran have dropped their bid from \$18,000 to \$16,000 for the annual audit if we would like to utilize them for one more year. Boltres feels we should stick with them for one more year, feeling they have done a good job for us and have saved us at least that much money, putting the contract up for bid again next year. Takayama asked why the costs would increase after they are familiar with us. Boltres stated that in the first year of the contract we received a discount/competitive bid. Every year there is still considerable work to be done to meet accounting standards.

Included in the packets were two bids received for purchase or lease of a new multipurpose (copier/fax/printer/scanner) machine. The current machine is 4 years old and has run significantly more copies than anticipated. We are at a stage where there are frequent service calls. The machine was purchased outright, and we pay a service contract fee based on actual copies made of about \$0.03/black & white copy and \$0.17/color copy which runs anywhere from \$300-\$500/month. The service contract covers all costs (repairs, parts, toner) except paper. Service contracts on newer machines run \$0.015/black & white copy and between \$0.07 and \$0.09/color copy, with a minimum of about \$100/month. A new machine could be purchased outright for \$8,000 - \$9,000 or leased for about \$250/month. In summary, replacement of the machine would provide a more reliable and faster machine and a monthly operation cost lower than we currently experience. If desired the replacement could be accomplished using the current budget year surplus, but there would not be funding available in the next fiscal year. Corpe feels it is not critical now but will certainly be so in one more year. Takayama, Scott and Zarafonitis believe we should consider moving ahead with copier replacement from this year's surplus. Additional discussion on this point will be held at the budget public hearing when some year-end adjustments to the current year budget are discussed and made.

Henkel also asked that \$4,000 be budgeted to replace the well for the skating rink at Bertha Vos Elementary as part of the Townhall Skating Rink line item. Henkel used to use a spare Fire Department tanker but says he no longer has access to it. Corpe noted that this is a much loved amenity that used by the students at recess, and that the Acme Civic Association has generously donated new rink liners and warming house upgrades. However, it has been 2-3 years since Henkel has been able to flood and operate the rink, as the ground has not frozen sufficiently to keep the ice frozen. She does not believe the newest rink liner has ever been used. It seems uncertain when or if the rink can be operated again in its current location, so this seems like a large expense to drill a new well on property belonging to the school district and not the township for a questionable outcome. Metro Chief Pat Parker stated that he would have no problem with use of the current Metro water tankers to flood the rink as needed/possible, so the Board eliminated the well drilling estimate from the coming year's budget.

Absent further discussion, the official General Appropriations Act documents will be prepared based on the budget worksheets as discussed and amended this evening.

**Special Funds:** Discussion began with the Fire Fund, and Kurtz noted that Metro

Fire Chief Pat Parker was present to assist with discussion and questions. There are discussions about reworking the intergovernmental agreement that governs Metro Fire, but the structure would be such that the elected township Supervisors who comprise the Metro Fire Board would retain ultimate control of funding decisions.

The Public Safety Advisory has recommended an increase in summer daytime duty crew funding from 32 hours/week to 56 hours per week and an increase to \$12/hour in wages. They have also recommended that night crew pay be doubled to \$50/person for two people/night. Chief Parker noted that most of our firefighters are still volunteers and that requirements for training and continuing education are continually increasing. Henkel is generally available during the day to get a fire truck on the road quickly during working hours, but it's hard for others to get away from work and in the summertime he is often in a remote location of the township performing park maintenance. Having a paid person in the firehall during the day can decrease response times significantly. Likewise, having two people who are paid to be required to jump out of bed at night for an emergency call has proven important to getting to a scene quickly.

Kladder noted that there is a small stipend that volunteer firefighters received based on the numbers of calls they go out on; Chief Parker agreed that at the end of the year there is a pool of money but at most each volunteer might get enough money for a tank of gas. Station 8 is down to 7 volunteer members. Two new young men from the Holiday Hills area are joining and will be encouraged to participate heavily. Daytime duty crew shifts will be open to members of the other two Metro stations as well.

Takayama recalls that Virginia Tegel calculated each Metro member township's cost per fire run and found that Acme pays more per service call than Garfield or East Bay. He asked if greater parity could be brought to the situation. Chief Parker stated that according to the current agreements each member township contributes to cover the Metro budget based on its percentage of total Metro-area SEV. Funding formula concerns can be one topic for Kurtz to address in a meeting later this week with a consultant hired to assist with the Metro reorganization. He also noted that Metro spends a great deal of time on fire prevention along with firefighting.

Kurtz noted that the proposed Fire Fund budget will spend into the fund surplus. Corpe reported that the Public Safety Advisory has recommended spending down some of the surplus generated by past taxes as we can delay an increase in the annual special assessment level.

Kurtz also noted that there will be upcoming consideration of merging all emergency services into one emergency services special assessment district in July and merging the Fire and Policing Funds into one Emergency Services Fund.

There were no questions regarding the Policing Fund.

The Shoreline Preservation Advisory has asked for a \$5,000 contribution from the General Fund for fundraising purposes. They have also garnered a \$5,000 Rotary Charities planning grant for the township and generated private citizen donations.

The Farmland Preservation Fund Budget was prepared by Corpe and Farmland Protection Specialist Brian Bourdages and reviewed and recommended by the Farmland Preservation Advisory. It includes tax revenues and expenditures for Bourdages' salary, payments to landowners and various development rights purchase expenses. The advisory has recommended that half of the tax revenue in the fund balance plus current year anticipated revenues be available for rights purchases each

leaving a balance for special situations and future years. The goal has always been to leverage local PDR tax dollars with state and federal grant funding, as well as perhaps private funding, hopes being for a 50% match. State and federal grant dollars are hard to come by right now due to legislative delays and budget woes. Bourdages has been working closely with contacts at the Kellogg Foundation in hopes of securing a major financial commitment to the program from them. The coming fiscal year will be the third during which we contract for Bourdages services, which we share with Peninsula Township. This year the GTRLC did not ask for an increase in the contract amount. We can bid out the work next year per the Board's general policy, but when Bourdages was first hired several parties were approached but declined. There may not be many options or other service providers, and Bourdages commitment and his professional contacts have been strengths.

Discussion turned to the Sewer Fund, which actually houses revenues and expenditures for water and sewer systems in the township. This fund has been depleting steadily and could be in crisis unless a user fee increase is considered. The last regional sanitary sewer system user fee increase came in 2001. User fees for the Hope Village water system have remain unchanged for the entire 11 year lifespan of the system, and Orchard Shores common septic system user fees have been unchanged over the entire 20 year lifespan of that system. DPW Director Chris Buday provided significant portions of the packet relative to this issue. The DPW is on a calendar fiscal year. Due to the long periods since user fee increases, constant increases in operating and maintenance expenses, debt repayment needs and slow new user connection sales it is time to consider a user fee increase. Several significant growing developments such as Windward Ridge, LochenHeath, and perhaps the Village at Grand Traverse and Meijer can have a positive impact as they mature.

Mr. Buday stated that the DPW structure dates back to the 1970s. From the 1970's through recent times townships financed construction of new infrastructure mains through bonding based on projections for future growth, rather than basing construction on existing growth. Problems occur when growth and associated connection and user fees do not live up to projections, as has been increasingly the case in Acme and elsewhere in the county. Acme's particular situation has been brewing since before the current Board took office. Many townships consider fee revisions when they consider their annual budgets; Elmwood Township just did so several months ago.

The County DPW collects user fees and forwards them directly to the townships in which they are generated. As actual costs are incurred the townships are billed. The DPW adopts an annual budget but actual expenditures naturally differ. The variance is monitored monthly, and generally expenditures come in under budget. Acme's current user fees appear to Mr. Buday to be lower than average for similar townships.

Takayama asked about the \$235,763 depreciation figure for 2005-06's township sewer fund budget. Corpe replied that this was an adjustment given to us by our auditors during last year's audit; there will likely be another one this year.

Revenues are received quarterly but expenditures happen roughly monthly. The County prefers to hold two months' worth of operating and maintenance (O&M) expenditures in a fund to manage cash flow variability. Their O&M budget does not include replacement needs. Takayama asked why O&M expenses are so much higher for 07-08 than currently; Mr. Buday had predicted that two new employees would be hired who were not and the contingency budget was not spent.

Takayama asked about the problems at the septage treatment plant. All repairs have been completed at no cost to the participating townships or the County. This includes inspection costs to ensure the repairs were appropriate. The plant is operating and receiving waste from local sources as well as Bay Harbor. Kladder noted that Bay Harbor is planning to build its own treatment facility and we may lose revenues from that source. The septage treatment facility is funded solely by associated user fees – it does not take revenue from sewer or water facilities. If there were a revenue shortfall compared to expenditures the participating townships would be asked to make it up; Mr. Buday does not foresee this occurring. He does not believe Bay Harbor will be able to fully handle its own waste stream and that it will be cheaper for them to continue sending it to our facility than to treat it other ways. We are receiving their “best” waste; they are really struggling with how to manage their other “worse” wastes.

Kladder asked about the township leasing pipe space from East Bay Township. All of Acme’s wastes must flow through East Bay Township to reach the regional treatment plant so we share the costs of the lines we use. Other townships have similar arrangements that are part of the larger joint venture that is the DPW. Kladder asked if the agreement would be due for renegotiation between now and the end of 2009, the period of the sewer fund cash flow projection provided. Corpe was unsure. The other issue is the township’s lease of additional treatment capacity at the regional treatment plant. The whole DPW funding model is extremely complex; Mr. Buday reported that there are 70 different line items and at least 10 different funding formulae. Expense formulae used to be based on wastewater flow volume but increasingly it is based on wastewater strength which has increased with the advent of low-volume flush toilets. Flow and BOD meters have been put in place that were not there before to more accurately assess each community’s true share of the regional treatment costs.

- b. Discuss Sewer Fund and need for water and sewer connection & usage rate increases:** Kurtz noted that several different cash flow scenarios have been prepared beginning with \$19/month user fees (the current rate) and ranging through \$25, \$28, \$30, \$32 and \$33/month. It appears that a significant fee increase is required immediately to maintain the sewer fund through the next two and a half years. The deficit began escalating in 2002 when the relief sewer bond was undertaken. At that time the need for 80 new connection sales a year was projected to keep pace with O&M and debt expenses. Since then the annual number of new connection sales has ranged from 5 to 19. Corpe also feels it’s important to remember that as we add new users our share of O&M fees will rise as our share of regional flows rises.

Kladder and Takayama believe the township needs to more frequently review and adjust user fees up or down as needed. Small adjustments here and there tend to be more tolerable to the end user than periodic large adjustments.

Kladder asked Boltres for his feelings as an expert financier regarding an appropriate rate increase. Boltres indicated that the scenarios presented provide a fair picture of the increase level needed to keep the sewer fund viable. Kurtz does hope that over time even if we have to raise rates substantially initially and although it is rare for a fee to decrease he hope we will be able to do so. The projections for new hookup sales are extremely conservative and he hopes we will exceed them. Kladder noted that the township needs to not only meet O&M and debt needs, but also needs to save for our contribution upcoming studies regarding construction of a second treatment plant on the Hoch Road property. Kurtz feels that a fee above \$30/month would be required to do this. He feels the \$33/month fee is what’s needed initially but moving to \$30/month already seems like a substantial increase – about 52% over the current

rate. He also feels we need to review the situation and fee level at least annually when we adopt our new fiscal year budget. Kladder adopted a one-year time horizon point of view to examine the different proposed fee increase levels more closely.

Elmwood Township just raised their user fee from \$15 to \$28/month. Garfield Township is at \$18/month. Blair Township is at \$39/month. Mr. Buday indicated that areas with the most recent system construction will tend to have the higher fees, and this is true statewide and nationwide. Takayama is not as concerned about the actual amount of the monthly cost, as some people spend that much per month for cable television. He is mostly concerned with the percentage increase. Doug Dunnigan, Budget Advisory Chairperson stated that the increase will hit retirees like himself very hard. He first felt it when his home was under construction and his contractor told him mid-job that the connection charge had risen from \$1,600 to \$4,200. For him an increase from \$57/quarter to \$90/quarter will be difficult despite the fact that he has examined the numbers. He observed that the 2006 DPW budget was underspent and this year's may be as well. He would like to see a quarterly bill increase to more like \$70 or \$80/quarter. He asked when some of the bonds will start to mature; the earliest dates are in 2011 and the first call date on the partially-defeased 2003 bond doesn't come until 2013.

Takayama asked what would happen if another service provider such as the Tribe were to compete in the water and sewer markets locally.

Because we are considering such a steep increase, Takayama would prefer to minimize it as much as possible up front and revisit the matter sooner, such as in 6 months rather than in a year. The explanation letter could include the statement that we are doing our best to manage what is a long-standing situation and further increases may be forthcoming. A substantial increase will be tough to bear, but taking it in six month increments might be easier on everyone than in fewer larger increments. Kladder was concerned about a perception of "nickel and diming" if adjustments are made semi-annually rather than annually.

Kladder suggested that the initial rate increase should be to \$30/month. Zarafonitis would prefer to see it at \$28/month.

**Motion by Kladder to adopt a monthly sewer usage fee increase to \$30/month. Motion failed due to lack of support.**

**Motion by Dunville, support by Takayama to adopt a monthly sewer usage fee increase to \$28/month effective July 1 to be revisited every six months. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Boltres, Dunville, Kladder, Kurtz, Scott, Takayama) and 1 opposed (Zarafonitis).**

Discussion turned to the Hope Village water system rates. Currently we collect \$8,530 annually from them. Actual costs are \$10,000 - \$12,000. Additionally \$25,000 in well maintenance expenses are needed but not included. Kurtz has asked for some indication of a new fee level from the Board to be discussed with the management of Hope Village, currently the only user on the system. Scott suggested that they should see the same sort of percentage increase as the regional sewer users of the township.

**Motion by Boltres, support by Dunville to authorize Kurtz to meet with Hope Village water system users, Orchard Shores common septic system users and LochenHeath management to negotiate localized water and sewer system rates.**

Kurtz indicated he would involve Mr. Buday and staff in the negotiations. Kladder asked what the goal of the negotiations would be – to cover simply current O&M expenditures or to cover those plus building a reserve? Kurtz goal is for each system to be self-sustaining without subsidy from the water and sewer fund.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Establish budget adoption public hearing date (suggested Tuesday 06/19/07 7:00 p.m.):**

**Motion by Dunville, support by Zarafonitis to establish the budget adoption public hearing for Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Discuss proposed gravel road brining program:**

**Motion by Scott, support by Boltres pay for brining of all unpaved public county roads in Acme Township two times during the summer of 2007 as proposed by the Road Commission at an estimated cost to the township of \$4,250, taking the funds from the 2006-07 budget. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Boltres, Dunville, Kladder, Kurtz, Scott, Zarafonitis) and 1 opposed (Takayama).**

3. **Discuss proposal for DPW Hoch Road property to be leased to rugby club:** Buday reports the property contains 40 acres; 20 to the east of the power lines and 20 to the west. A rugby club would like to use the west 20 acres on a leased basis for recreation. Mr. Houlihan sent over some documents requesting approval to proceed with recreational lease negotiations to all townships participating in the Hoch Road purchase. All along there was an idea that part of the site could be used for public recreation. Kladder asked about liability issues; Mr. Buday stated that user groups would have to prove adequate liability insurance. There would be permanent construction of a parking lot, some lighting and perhaps some restrooms. Any improvements would become owned by the DPW/townships and not by the leaseholder making the improvements. A more detailed proposed lease document would be prepared if conceptual approval to negotiate is received. The recreational use would not conflict with the future sewage treatment plant.

Takayama is wondering if a rugby field will serve a large enough section of the general public, or if there are other recreational uses that would be more universal. If the township is in charge of operation and maintenance costs he feels the money would be better spent for more people. Mr. Buday observed that the lease amount would cover those operation and maintenance costs.

The Board wishes to have more questions answered before taking action on the conceptual resolution.

**G. OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**H. REPORTS**

1. **County Commissioner's Report- 2006 County Accomplishments – Larry Inman:** received and filed.
2. **Parks and Maintenance – Tom Henkel:** received and filed.
3. **Sheriff's Deputy – Bob Sillers :** received and filed.

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

Roy Challenger, Bunker Hill Road, asked if something could be done to better block the sun from

coming through the windows behind the Board and shining in the public's eyes. He also feels that the increase in the sewer usage fees approved by the Board this evening are within an appropriate range. He installs septic systems and is finding constantly increasing fees with no advanced notice. He also feels that the township may have to pay for the costs of installing sewer lines where people will have to abandon septic fields in which they have recent investments.

**Resolution of Support for Bertha Vos Elementary School:**

Scott is unsure how effective the Board's support will be, but feels that nonetheless a statement must be made.

**Motion by Scott, support by Boltres to have Kurtz prepare a resolution in support of keeping Bertha Vos Elementary open and present it to the TCAPS board.**

Kladder suggested that the resolution include the elements of discussion this evening, particularly the importance of the school to our sense of community. Scott urged that the resolution be prepared and forwarded quickly.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.**