



**ACME TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, April 16, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present: B. Carstens, K. Engle, W. Kladder, R. Sayler
Members excused: B. Garvey (Joined by Conference Call)
Staff present: S. Corpe, Township Manager
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary
Also present: B. Bourdages, Farmland Preservation

Garvey asked Kladder to act as Chair for the meeting.

1. Limited Public Comment: None

2. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2007, Meeting:

Motion by Carstens. Seconded by Engle to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2007, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

1) Update on conservation easement term negotiations for appraisals/Update on letting appraisal bids/Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Update

Bourdages met with Send and one of his brothers. They wanted to exclude 5 acres on the northeastern portion of the parcel for potential homestead for family members.

Engle is excluding 20 acres which is a woodlot and Sayler 5 acres for residential use.

Bourdages commented that this would have no material bearing on the applications.

Bourdages gave a summary of the appraisal procedure. There will be legal notices published that the township is accepting bids for appraisals. This information also will be posted to the Acme Township website. Information will contain County ordinances, maps, summary sheets.

Appraisers will sit down with landowners. Kladder asked if Bourdages would be there. Bourdages did not feel he needed to be in attendance. Kladder also asked who gets the reports and are they confidential. Bourdages said the reports go to the Township Manager and they are public information.

There is a lead time of three days for publishing legal notices. There is a turnaround time of 10 days to 2 weeks. Board will make the final decision.

Bourdages read the appraisal letter that was drafted a few weeks ago.

Bourdages attended a conference recently in Lansing regarding the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. The ground is being laid for this bill.

While in Lansing, Bourdages, attended a listening session conducted by Senator Stabenow. He was surprised how well educated she was about specialties crops and all the components of the Farm Bill, which include free school breakfast and lunch programs, food stamps and food security.

Michigan is #2 in Agriculture with Manufacturing being #1. 70% fruit and 80% vegetables are grown in Michigan. We are being threatened by Development. Agriculture has a gross of \$20 million a year.

4. New Business

1) Review of Budget for 2007-08/Report on private funding efforts of the Conservancy in support of Acme Township's Farmland Preservation Program

Committee members had handouts of the proposed 2007-08 Budget. Bourdages commented that it is basically the same as last year. Kladder questioned Bank Charges. Corpe said it was a management account based on percentage of funds. We receive interest with fees taken out.

MOTION BY CARSTENS. SECONDED BY ENGLE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bourdages, Garvey and Kladder met with Glenn Chown at the Conservancy recently. There was discussion about the Kellogg Foundation. In late June of this year, the Foundation will be hosting a invitation only party at the Resort. Bourdages commented that Kellogg may wish to visit some of the applicants property for the Farmland preservation. Bourdages commented that Kellogg viewed this area as a regional model. Bourdages feels very energized and believes the future for this program to be promising.

Garvey very impressed with Bourdages and all his work and efforts.

ADJOURNED AT 5:15 p.m.