



**ACME TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, May 17, 2007, 8:00 a.m.  
Acme Township Hall  
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

**Meeting called to Order at 8:08 a.m.**

**Members present:** W. Mervau (Chair), L. Andres, D.Hoxsie, J. Maitland, D. Smith (8:30 a.m.)  
**Members excused:** D. Nelson, M. Krakow  
**Staff present:** S. Corpe, Township Manager  
P. Parker, Fire Metro Chief  
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

**A. Consider approval of the minutes from the September 26, 2006, Advisory Meeting**

**MOTION BY HOXSIE. SECONDED BY ANDRUS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2006, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**B. Correspondence: None**

**C. Limited Public Comment:**

Parker reported on the meeting held the day before with the three supervisors from Acme, East Bay and Garfield Townships. Each supervisor had a trustee with them. In a four hour meeting the "State of the State" was addressed. Issues from response time, training staff, infrastructure to costs of operating were discussed. Several issues that need to be addressed are first, agreement needs to be put to rest between Acme, East Bay and Garfield townships regarding document to move ahead to create a fire authority. Budget would be under the management of the three townships. Secondly to get the fire station on Three Mile Road open and running. We purchased the building and three acres three years ago. Parker said we need to go forward with the remodeling and get this station running. Thirdly to hire a consultant to see if everything we are doing is in our best interest.

Andres asked if we were to break from this group how can we hold our insurance at a reasonable rate. Andres had a conversation with a Farm Bureau agent and Andres's own personal coverage would increase about \$600.00. He would rather pay into the township. He told of two accidents involving his grandsons where the first people on the scene were firemen. He is very grateful for this service.

Andres pointed out the recent story on TV 9/10 regarding fire services.

**D. Reports: None**

**E. New Business**

**1. Discuss recommendation to Board of Trustees for preliminary 2007-08 fiscal year Fire Fund Budget.**

Mervau asked Parker if he was working on the 2007-08 Metro Budget to which Parker responded no. He needs to get State Equalization Value and Taxable figures from the County. This will show the growth over the last year. Parker said there would be a preliminary proposed budget in July.

Mervau said the first thing today was to look at the pay for the daytime/nighttime workers. We are currently paying \$25.00 a night for two people. Mervau said that

workers running with Station 9 will run with Station 8. Mervau commented that the road construction was the only thing slowing people down. Mervau asked when the construction was scheduled to be done. Corpe replied around June 29<sup>th</sup> before the Governors Convention. Mervau commented that a Acme township landmark had gone down on Wednesday, the Thirlby building. Mervau commented again on paying the \$25.00 for nighttime workers. Mervau asked Henkel how this was working out. Henkel said good. That business had increased. Response times were good.

Mervau would like to bump this up to \$50.00 a night and would like to entertain a motion to do so. Most of the other townships pay this amount. Garfield pays hourly one person which equals out to be about the same. Garfield has North Flight on sight. Hoxsie asked if this comes out of Metro. Corpe said the billing comes from Metro.

Corpe discussed the handout for the proposed 2007-08 Township Budget.

**MOTION BY MAITLAND TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD AN INCREASE TO \$50.00 PER INDIVIDUAL FOR NIGHTTIME RUNS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007. ANDRES SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Andres commented that you can't ask men to go out and receive less than what other Townships are paying. We need to encourage young men to become active in our Fire department. People are moving into our Township and are expecting the same services they had been receiving.

Mervau turned the discussion to daytime coverage. Currently we are paying \$11.50 an hour for one person. Mervau would like to propose increasing this to \$12.00 an hour, at 40 hours a week, with no benefits. This would be 7 days a week and probably run during the peak summer/early fall times, June 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION BY HOXSIE TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD AN INCREASE TO \$12.00 AN HOUR FOR DAYTIME WORKERS. SECONDED BY SMITH. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY MAITLAND TO RECOMMEND PROPOSED 2007-08 BUDGET TO THE BOARD. SECONDED BY HOXSIE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. Discuss potential recommendation to Board of Trustees regarding realignment of fire station primary coverage areas**

Mervau opened the discussion regarding realignment of fire station primary coverage areas. He said Acme Township residents are paying for service but Williamsburg is the first to respond. Parker said in the County system boundaries were drawn up as to what served the residents best. With Williamsburg they are in bad shape. They often do not respond to a call. Williamsburg has coverage to East of Bates Road, Acme Township goes to the casino driveway. Parker said in a major fire all townships respond. Maitland asked if we have an agreement with the Tribe? Parker responded no. In light of the recent tribal request for trust fund status we will need to sit down with the tribe to discuss public safety and an intergovernment agreement. We do however have an agreement to use their water. Maitland asked if we always go to the townships to change boundaries? Parker responded it was more of a political move. Acme is hurting for people. We currently have twelve on the roster but only eight are active. Henkel commented that things have changed; two working families, more TV watching. He said in the last census 80% of the township residents were over 40 years old. Henkel said we have the Eagle Scout program where one must be

18 to participate, and in some townships we do have Eagle Scouts working. Andres commented about the Young Marines program with one young man in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, who was having and causing a lot of problems. He went into the program and has done a complete turn around. Andres thought that perhaps we could offer the opportunity to those who would qualify to work with the fire department. Kurtz commented about the generation gap in the fire departments. Crews are getting older and there are not enough young men interested in filling the gaps. After all of the above discussion, Parker, commented that it comes down to what is best for the residents of the township. Maitland asked if Parker was looking for a recommendation to the Board or is Metro going to recommend? Maitland asked if Parker was looking for direction from this Advisory? Kurtz thought perhaps this could be handled internally. Parker said it could and he would talk with Metro, Central Dispatch and whoever else needed to be informed.

**MOTION BY MAITLAND TO CHANGE BOUNDARIES TO RELIGN TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE TOWNSHIP. HOXSIE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Discuss recommendation to Board of Trustees regarding potential amendment to Fire Special Assessment District in 2008**

Corpe drew attention to the memo regarding potential amendment to Fire Special Assessment District. In 2005 Acme Township discontinued a fire protection special Assessment district (SAD) formed in 1975 and pursuant to PA 33 replaced it with a new fire protection SAD that allowed a variable number of mills to be assessed yearly based on annual funding needs. Acme township also currently has a police protection millage. The original amount was 0.3 mills per year about five years ago; we expect the rate collected this year after Headlee rollbacks to be approximately 0.257 mills. December 2007 will be the last time this millage is collected. While no immediate action is required this year, this committee should inform the Board as to the situation and help them begin planning ahead for next year. Corpe presented two options; have township ask the voters for a new millage or secondly amend the Fire Protection SAD created in September of 2005, changing it from being specifically a fire protection SAD to being an emergency services SAD. This would enable us to encompass fire, ambulance and policing services under one township-wide assessment that would be determined annually to cover projected budget needs.

**MOTION BY HOXSIE TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD TO LOOK AT OPTION #2. SECONDED BY SMITH. MOTION CARRIED.**

Corpe reported that Bob Sillers, Acme Township Community Police Officer's two year contract will end the last of July. Sillers will be returning to work midnights at the County. Mike Matteucci, a Acme Township resident, will be assuming the role of Community Police Officer.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.**