



**ACME TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2005**

Meeting called to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance 7:00 p.m.

Members present: B. Boltres, D. Dunville, B. Kurtz, E. Takayama, F. Zarafonitis
Members excused: W. Kladder, P. Scott

INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None noted.

A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: None

C. CORRESPONDENCE: None

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Consider adoption of proposed 2005-06 Budget:** Kurtz indicated that this is a rescheduled public hearing regarding the budget, because it was found that the notice for the hearing held June 22 was published incorrectly.

Public Hearing opened at 7:02 p.m.

Lewis Griffith, 5181 Lautner Road, asked if the budget was discussed prior to this meeting. There was discussion about the budget at the June 7 and June 22 meetings.

Public Hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

Zarafonitis asked about the amended revenue and summary pages distributed. Corpe explained that the summary page and revenue pages for the General Fund worksheet were redistributed due to a correction. Previously, the figure the spreadsheet was using for the projected 6/30/05 Fund Balance Forward to add to 05-06 revenues was the fund balance from the 04-05 year-to-date column, which was only updated through 03/31/05. The correct fund balance forward projection to use is in the 04-05 amended budget column. This does not affect the projected surplus for the year, which is calculated as expected revenue minus expected expenditure and does not factor in the fund balance forward.

Motion by Takayama, support by Dunville to approve the Acme Township General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005-06, Resolution #2005-09. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Consider adoption of documents amending Acme Township Retirement Plan** to bring the form of the plan into conformance with current IRS regulations and to permit employees to defer compensation from their paychecks for deposit to the plan in addition to annual contributions made to the plan by Acme Township on behalf of eligible employees (**Resolutions #R-2005-10, #R-2005-11 & #R-2005-12**): Kurtz stated that he, Boltres, Dunville and Corpe met with ALCOS, the company that assists the township in plan administration. They have suggested the plan updates and prepared the proposed resolutions. He noted that the documents were dated for the meeting scheduled for July 12, so that date should be changed to June 30.

Motion by Takayama, support by Zarafonitis to approve Resolutions #R-2005-10, #R-2005-11 and #R-2005-12. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. **Consider request by Planning Commission for approval to distribute proposed Farmland Preservation Map amendment to Acme Township Master Plan to surrounding governments and other parties as required by statute for comment:** Matt McDonough, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, stated that the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has funding available to match local farmland preservation dollars. A list of the qualifications for applying for the funds has been distributed; requirements include having a map in the Master Plan indicating areas within the municipality desired for preservation and having text in the Master Plan describing the need and desire for farmland preservation.

Mr. McDonough has prepared a proposed Agricultural Preserve Zone map based on the MDA definition of "farmland" which includes four criteria and was adopted as the township's definition of "farmland" in its Farmland Preservation Ordinance. The proposed map is based on the first two criteria, which describe land area, and was an attempt to map out all areas of the township that might possibly be eligible for participation. There was no attempt to narrow down the preserve zone areas to likely sites, based on an assumption that the application scoring process will make those areas clear. The map is based on a 2003 aerial map, and Mr. McDonough did his best to interpret the images to figure out where farmland areas lie. This map was displayed at the June 27 Planning Commission meeting and generated some discussion and corrections.

Mr. McDonough is also proposing that some of the text from the beginning of the Farmland Preservation Ordinance be included in the Master Plan within the existing appropriate section.

Zarafonitis asked Corpe what impact on the Master Plan the map would have; she replied that people reading our plan will interpret that the township intends to preserve these areas as farmland. Zarafonitis noted that the map can be amended at future points in time; Corpe concurred.

A draft of the preservation application scoring system is in development, and the Farmland Specialist hired to be shared by Peninsula and Acme townships and the County Agricultural Board, Brian Bourdages, begins work full time next week.

Mr. Griffith asked if this is a public hearing, or if the discussion on June 27 at the Planning Commission was a public hearing? Corpe stated that according to the schedule for master plan amendment adoption, the public hearing comes after the time set aside for neighboring township and county input, about 75-80 days from now. Mr. Griffith asked that Corpe's comments about inclusion of the map becoming an indication that the township intends to protect the outlined areas for farmland be specifically included in the minutes. Mr. McDonough stated that he views the map as simply fulfilling a state requirement for applying for matching dollars. It does not mean that all of the land has to be zoned agricultural, nor used in that manner. For him, it is "a base from which to work."

Mr. Griffith asked questions about the parcels indicated as part of the agricultural preservation zone. He noted that his property is zoned agricultural but is not included in the zone. He asked about the Meijer and Village parcels. Mr. McDonough drew the outlines based on where the aerial photographs appeared to indicate crops being grown and tried to be liberal. The Meijer and Village

parcels were removed from the zone.

Corpe explained the process involved in adopting new master plans or amendments to existing master plans.

Kurtz referred to an e-mail dated June 30 from John Hull, which is included and incorporated by reference. Corpe acknowledged the contents of the message, but expressed reservations about them. The materials Mr. McDonough provided indicated that the map is "indicating the areas intended for agricultural preservation." Disclaimers notwithstanding, if the map is included in our Master Plan it will be assumed and perceived to be a statement of our future intentions.

Motion by Zarafonitis approving distribution of to distribute the proposed Farmland Preservation Map amendment to Acme Township Master Plan to surrounding governments and other parties as required by statute for comment. The map is intended to make the township eligible for funding but not to be interpreted as a future land use map with planning implications. Motion carried by a vote of 3 in favor (Kurtz, Zarafonitis, Takayama) and 2 opposed (Boltres, Dunville).

F. PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:
None

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.