



ACME TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Tuesday, July 6, 2010 7:00 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

Members present: D. Dunville, R. Hardin, W. Kladder, P. Scott, E. Takayama, L. Wikle, F. Zarafonitis (7:33 p.m.)
Members excused: None
Staff present: S. Vreeland, Township Manager and Recording Secretary
M. Radtke, Temporary Deputy Zoning Administrator
J. Jocks, Legal Counsel

- A. STUDY SESSION:** None
- B. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Wikle, support by Dunville to approve the agenda as amended to remove consideration of the purchase of updated BS&A software, remove discussion of the disputed sewer bill regarding Dr. Saunders, add a presentation by the Shoreline Advisory and add a presentation by the Temporary Deputy Zoning Administrator. Motion carried unanimously (Zarafonitis absent.)
- D. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Takayama expressed a conflict of interest with approving appointees to the Planning Commission, as he is a close friend of one of the candidates.
- E. CONSENT CALENDAR:** Motion by Hardin, support by Dunville to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, including:

RECEIVE AND FILE:

1. [Treasurer's Report](#) as of 05-30-10
2. [Clerk's Report](#) as of 06-29-10
3. Draft Unapproved Meeting Minutes:
 - a. [06-28-10](#) Planning Commission
 - b. [05-25-10](#) Metro Emergency Services
 - c. [06-16-10](#) Shoreline Advisory
4. [Parks and Maintenance](#) – Tom Henkel
5. [Metro Emergency Services Newsletter June 2010](#)
6. [Status Update – VGT-Phase I SUP Application #2009-01P](#)

ACTION – Consider approval:

7. Township Board meeting minutes of [06-01-10](#) and [06-22-10](#)
8. [Accounts Payable](#) of \$66,333.59 through 06-29-10 (recommend approval: Dunville)
9. [Resolution R-2010-22](#) approving July 2010 Board of Review meeting date
10. [Letter of Support](#) for Tribal EPA Climate Grant
11. [Letter](#) to GT County Road Commission regarding North Bates Road
12. [Annual rate schedule](#) for Olson, Bzdok & Howard effective 07-01-10
13. Purchase [BS&A Assessing & Tax Program](#) Net Versions

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (Zarafonitis absent).

F. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:

1. [Commission on Aging](#): August millage request: George McBath addressed the Board. He

is on the Commission on Aging (COA) Board of Directors, appointed by the G.T. County Board of Commissioners for a 3-year term. On August 3 a renewal for an existing dedicated Commission on Aging millage will be on the ballot. The millage covers 95% of the operating budget, with the balance covered by fees for service and donations. They do not receive any federal, state or county funds. The renewal would be for 0.5 mills for 6 years. Services provided to citizens aged 60 and up are listed in the provided brochure, and a pamphlet describing the millage was also distributed. All employees are subject to thorough background checks, and the COA makes every effort to have the same people serve each customer every visit.

A separate current issue deals with the future of the Traverse City Senior Center. The center is funded primarily by the city, with several townships, but not all, helping with funding as well. In November they will be seeking 0.1 mills to operate the Senior Center, which would replace the funding from the city and the participating townships. The center would become a County facility under the management of the COA. They expect to be able to expand services to outlying areas in the county at satellite senior centers.

Additional copies of the brochures are available at the township hall.

2. **Shoreline Advisory – Paul Brink and Pat Salathiel, Co-Chairs:** Ms. Salathiel summarized the history of the Shoreline Advisory beginning in 2005. A strategic planning session followed in early 2006 to determine a vision for the advisory, which led to receipt of \$5,000 from Rotary Charities for a planning grant to conduct public visioning and produce a report about the type of amenities citizens would like to see on public shoreline. In general the public seems to desire basic amenities but overall to have the park remain fairly natural. Restrooms, benches, non-motorized trails and winter access were all seen as desirable. The Advisory has been focusing on shoreline acquisition and fundraising since 2008. A critical decision and factor in our success has been partnering with the GT Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant money along with grants from other sources have been critical as well to our success in completing Phase I of the acquisition process: purchasing the three mom-and-pop motels immediately south of the existing Bayside Park boundaries. Mr. Brink and Ms. Salathiel wanted to thank the Board for its leadership, celebrate the success of Phase I, and thank the committee members, all of whom were named. Appreciation was also expressed for Dunville for organizing a Civic Association yard sale, to Kladder for leadership, and to Vreeland for grantwriting and staff support.

During Phase I over \$4 million was raised to purchase the 3 properties. 75% of this funding came from the MNRTF. \$360,000 came from the Oleson and Biederman Foundations, Rotary Charities, The Carl's Foundation and the Consumers Energy Foundation. Over \$472,000 came from an assortment of 214 individuals. This is a testament to the broad appeal and understanding of need for the project, and need to preserve and enhance the "gateway to Traverse City." Approximately \$56,000 is available to begin the fundraising for Phase II acquisition of the former Mountain Jack's restaurant, the Sun n' Sand Motel, and a vacant property. The Conservancy already has several grant applications underway. Investigations are also underway as to whether East Bay Harbor should potentially be acquired as Phase III.

One question that has been raised is the fate of the main house at the Knollwood Motel. Some people would like to preserve the house on site for park-related use, while others believe it should be removed from the site. Some are concerned with costs and other issues associated with potential rehabilitation for public use. The Advisory has not delved deeply into this issue to date, but would be willing to do so and make a recommendation to the Board if desired.

Some individuals have been concerned with the loss of tax revenue to the community due to the public land acquisition. Vreeland has provided statistics stating that the loss of taxes to Acme Township from Phase I is slightly over \$600, with the total from all taxing authorities

at about \$27,000. Studies have shown that returns to local economies and tax base from public parkland tend to exceed any lost revenues.

Both co-chairs have indicated interest in new terms on the advisory. They would be willing to have others become the leaders of the committee if they desire. In general they continue to be willing to help as the Board directs and desires.

Kladder suggested that making a recommendation about the future of the Knollwood might be a good task to assign to this advisory. He believes that it would be good if the house were preserved in some way, whether on-site or if purchased to be relocated and refurbished whole, or if portions are used in other structures. As part of the investigations it would be important to know how much people would pay for parts or all of the structure, how much it would cost just to maintain the structure empty on-site and how much to refit for future use.

Dunville supports a study, and hopes it will make sense to maintain the house on-site. Scott also supports having the advisory look into the matter and make a recommendation, and he would trust their advice. Takayama and Hardin also supported the concept. The Board was in consensus that the advisory should examine all the options, particularly ongoing costs of maintenance and operation. Mr. Brink said that by September they should be able to provide at least preliminary advice as to whether or not maintaining the building is a viable option.

Motion by Scott, support by Dunville to have the Shoreline Advisory examine options and potential associated costs for the Knollwood home. Motion carried unanimously.

G. REPORTS:

0. **Zoning Administrator's Report – Marvin Radtke, Jr.:** Six sign permits have been issued during 2010, along with 14 Land Use Permits. Two involve new single-family dwellings, with the others involving significant additions to homes. The Planning Commission evaluated fencing and signage requirements at their last meeting and has directed staff to draft fence ordinance amendments to update fence height standards while maintaining community aesthetics and sign ordinance amendments that would permit placement of uniform traffic control signs on private roads (currently not addressed and therefore not permitted.) Radtke has established a good working relationship with Deputy Matteucci and together they have resolved several junk violation issues. Radtke and Vreeland have some ongoing business property ordinance concerns that they are addressing.
1. **Sheriff's Deputy – Mike Matteucci:** During June there were 45 citations, 13 property damage accidents, 13 criminal arrests and 239 total calls for service. 19 were criminal complaints and 51 non-criminal complaints. Things are customarily busy now that it is Cherry Festival. Scott noted that he saw a radar trailer recently that has a red light that flashes if the car being tracked is speeding. He wondered what it would take to retrofit the township's trailer this way and asked to have this examined. Some people have objected to having the township's trailer placed near their house. Hardin has noticed that when the trailer is out, people do slow down...and speed up again once it is moved.
2. **County Commissioner's Report – Larry Inman:** The County received [survey results](#) from all of the townships regarding solid waste preferences. The report includes information about the volume of materials coming through the recycling drop-off stations and the costs for each. Comments regarding Priority Health were good; the County has been using them for health insurance for a long time. Services have been good and costs have been consistently lower than Blue Cross/Blue Shield. There have been no problems with desired doctors not being participants. Inman thanked Kladder for his leadership on the issue of combating invasive Phragmites, and said he hosted a good public meeting last week. Inman has volunteered to be a group leader in the township effort. The County will be working on its budget over the next few months, which should be a challenging process because property values were flatter or declined more than anticipated. There will be a \$750,000 revenue shortfall that will be

covered from the general fund balance this year, but the shortfall will be at least \$1 million in a \$39 million budget in the 2011 fiscal year. Revenues are expected to continue to decline with costs continuing to rise; all departments have been asked to try to cut 5% for discussion with the Commission.

3. **Farmland Preservation Program** – **Brian Bourdages**: A written summary of farmland activity for the past 6 months was provided, as well as anticipated activities. He is pleased to report this evening that a promise made to the voters that the township would seek matching funds for their millage funds has been fulfilled, and the township has received a Federal Farm and Ranchland Program Grant of just over \$611,000. This funding will permit the township to complete acquisition of the Engle Ridge Farms, Send Family and Cherry Country Cove farmlands offered to Round 1 of the Farmland Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The Sayler Farm would be the only outstanding Round 1 farm, and we will continue to work closely with the family through the next 15 months. The first time we applied for the grant we were unsuccessful, but subsequently Bourdages and Tom Nelson from the Leelanau Conservancy lobbied hard and successfully to have the scoring system amended to correct some inequities. Bourdages also drew the Board's attention to the significant contributions made by the Round 1 Farm families to the tune of \$921,000 of "bargain sale" donations – discounts from appraised fair market value of the development rights applied to the purchase price. Later on the agenda the Board will be asked to authorize the Supervisor to sign the grant agreements.

Zarafonitis asked for a description of how the landowner donations work. Early in the process the value of the development rights is determined through appraisals of the land in both restricted and unrestricted states, with the difference being the value. If the landowner accepts a purchase price less than this amount, the discount counts as a charitable donation that the landowner can use to offset taxes. The current version of the Acme Township Landscape Protection Map was discussed.

H. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **06/25/10 Letter** from TC-TALUS explaining membership benefits: received and filed.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Farmland Program support contract** with GT Regional Land Conservancy: This contract is reviewed and updated annually. Services added under the proposed contract include monitoring of the acquired easements and the required baseline studies of the properties to document its state at acquisition; previously these were at an additional per-item cost. The proposed contract with additional services would be for the same annual fee as for the past year. We can pursue additional grant funding to help with acquisition of the Sayler development rights. Other items to consider are when to open a second application round of the PDR program.

Motion by Scott, support by Takayama to approve the Farmland Program support contract as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Bourdages thanked the Board and expressed his pleasure at working with the township.

2. **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Project Grant Contract**: Zarafonitis noted how positive it is that the township is attracting so much federal grant money, both through the FRPP program and through Metro Emergency Services from stimulus money for the new fire station in Garfield Township. Bourdages noted that the payment schedule may vary slightly to help farmers manage their capital gains in each calendar year. Money on hand in the fund plus grant reimbursements will be sufficient to make all payments as planned; no bonding such as was needed for the Shoreline program will be required. Hardin recalled that early in his Board tenure he wasn't sure farmers would see a benefit to participation in the program.

Not only has the farming community been enthusiastic, but they have offered bargain sales as well, which to him remains incredible. Bourdages complimented the farmers on valuing the conservation of their farming resources. Land Preservation Director Matt McDonough noted that in Peninsula Township's PDR program, funded by \$10 million in tax dollars plus various grants, there have been no bargain sales offered by farmers. The commitment of Acme Farmers is truly significant.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Dunville to authorize the Supervisor to sign the FRPP Grant Contract as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. **Resolution approving [banquet facility liquor license](#) for DJK Restaurants, Inc.:** Vreeland summarized her cover memo.

Motion by Scott, support by Zarafonitis to approve Resolution R-2010-23 as presented.

Wikle asked if this will impact the liquor control revenues from the state or the way the township can expend it. The township will still have to conduct liquor inspections. Liquor control revenues are a portion of the annual license fees paid by the establishment and could be impacted. Vreeland was asked to research this for future information. Most of the concern was that there should be no change to the character of activity at the Williamsburg Dinner Theater.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **Resolution approving [banquet facility liquor license](#) for JBM Partners, Inc.:** Vreeland summarized the staff memo. The applicant was present. He is taking over the food service tent from Mabel's and has upgraded the facilities. He would like to institute alcohol service as part of the food service. The aim is to provide any alcohol by the glass with the food service, and not to run a bar operation. A Class C license allows any type of alcohol to be served; beer, wine or hard liquor. This license would permit service at all events held at the horse sports park only within the tent. Any change in the facility would require an amendment to the license. If the horseshow no longer contracts with him, the license would not automatically transfer to his successor. If he were rehired he would have to obtain a new permit.

Motion by Dunville, support by Takayama to approve Resolution R-2010-24 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

5. **Resolution approving [liquor license classification change](#) for GT Resort Beach Club:**

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to adopt Resolution R-2010-25 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. **Heritage Advisory [calendar and parade participation](#):** Dunville has collected \$90 in calendar pre-sales, which would be used to actually have the proposed calendars printed. The advisory has collected 21 oral histories from long-time residents and fire department members so far and has more scheduled. They are appreciative of the coverage of their activities in the e-newsletter.

Motion by Scott, support by Takayama to approve Heritage Advisory pursuing creation of 2011 or 2012 calendar as a fundraiser, with the details of the financial plan to be brought back to the Board for review and final approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Takayama, support by Zarafonitis to permit requested expenditure for Heritage Advisory participation in Cherry Festival Parade. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. **Appointments to expired terms on the Planning Commission & ZBA and citizen advisories:** Kladder is reappointing Jay Zollinger and Doug White to the Planning Commission, and appointing Virginia Tegel to the Planning Commission seat vacated by Matthew Vermetten. He is also appointing Robert Hopkins to the expired term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion by Scott, support by Hardin to confirm the Supervisor's appointments of Jay Zollinger, Doug White and Virginia Tegel to 3-year terms of office on the Planning Commission and Robert Hopkins to a 3-year term of office on the ZBA. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Wikle, Zarafonitis), 0 opposed, 1 abstaining (Takayama, conflict of interest).

Kladder provided a list of individuals he would like to appoint and re-appoint to expired terms on various citizen advisory committees.

Motion by Dunville, support by Scott to confirm the Supervisor's appointments to various vacancies on the township Citizen Advisory committees as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Hardin and Scott expressed hope that farmers who excused themselves from the Farmland Advisory due to potential conflicts of interest as PDR program applicants will rejoin the advisory once their transactions are complete.

8. **Community Growth Grant application for Master Plan Update:** Vreeland is seeking approval to submit a grant application on behalf of the township to the NW Michigan Council of Governments Community Growth Grant cycle. This program will provide up to \$20,000 towards projects that support the goals of The Grand Vision. Vreeland believes that this grant could be matched with other grants applied for to conduct marina feasibility studies, shoreline park redevelopment public visioning and low-impact development engineering, and help fund a new community preference survey to update the last one taken in 1996 and support a Master Plan update. All of these initiatives are intertwined in the process of appropriate placemaking and comprehensive land use planning for the township. She spoke with a representative from the COG who said that this seemed like an appropriate application for the program. The application is due July 23.

Motion by Dunville, support by Scott to approve application for a Community Growth Grant through the NW Michigan Council of Governments. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Annual Health Insurance Plan Renewal:** Dunville, Wikle and Vreeland met with the township's health insurance agent to review our annual plan renewal. Our agent presented a Priority Health POS A alternative to our existing Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan that would retain our healthcare savings account program and would enable the township to add high-level dental and vision coverage for all covered employees to comparable medical coverage at premium levels approximately 60% of our current medical-only premiums. Vreeland checked with three organizations that recently made the same switch from BC/BS to Priority Health to see if their employees have been satisfied with the process of obtaining care and the level of care they are receiving, with all reporting that there is some adaptation to new pre-approval processes but that all employees have been satisfied. The township's covered employees were also consulted and asked to check the Priority Health website to see how they would be impacted in terms of who their doctors are and what prescription medicines they take; all employees indicated that they thought changing plans would work for them.

Motion by Scott, support by Takayama to approve an employee health insurance plan switch from Blue Cross Flexible Blue 2 to Priority Health POS A with BC/BS

Traditional Plus Dental and VSP Plan C vision coverages as presented by Larkin Group, and with Acme Township to continue paying 85% of the premiums for employees and 50% of the additional premiums for a second person. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10. [Disputed sewer maintenance bill](#) from Dr. Mark Saunders
11. [Property Boundary](#) between Knollwood and Bay Villa Properties: Vreeland summarized the packet materials. At the Knollwood Motel purchase closing with the Coes, the township learned that when the Coes bought the property in the 1970's they learned that one of the storage buildings along the south boundary of the property encroached onto property to the south where the Bay Villa Condominiums are currently located. They said that they were deeded an area of land approximately 40 sq. ft. in size on which the structure sits to correct the problem. This information had not turned up during the title search preparatory to closing, so the matter was re-examined. At this time and based on additional title search, it is believed that the individuals who created the Bay Villa condominiums still own this small piece of land. The absence of this small piece from the Bay Villa Condo common area is noticeable on the original condominium documents.

This creates an unusual and counter-intuitive situation, as well as a practically unusable piece of land that is not currently on the tax rolls, although it would have little or no value by itself. The title company has located the address of the individuals who may own the property, which is in Peninsula Township, so they should be easy to contact. The question is what the best way to resolve the situation would be? The piece is additional to what the township thought it was purchasing. Should the township try to acquire it? Should it be deeded to Bay Villa? There would be costs involved for surveying and property acquisition.

Motion by Scott, support by Zarafonitis to attempt to contact the potential property owner to see if there is a simple and inexpensive solution, and otherwise to do nothing until the township is in a better financial position to explore the situation, as it seems insignificant from a practical standpoint.

Takayama's experience says that such things that seem simple can really come back to haunt. The people who may own the property are probably elderly and may have some information close at hand that would help, but his heirs might not have it be so simple. Vreeland asked if the township is concerned over whether it obtains ownership or whether the property is added to Bay Villa. The general answer was that we should see what the landowner originally intended, and not to expend money at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. [Letter of Support](#) for TC Visitors & Convention Bureau 2% Grant Application: Late last week Kladder received a call from Brad Van Dommelen, who in turn had received a call from Tribal Councilor Brian Napont suggesting that the TCVB apply for a Tribal 2% grant for advertising in the cycle closing on June 30. The request was made at the very last minute, similar to a request made through the same channels for the December 31, 2009 Tribal 2% grant cycle. Mr. Van Dommelen was not available late last week, but Kladder was able to speak to Mr. Napont today. He explained that the township cannot legally expend funds it gains unless there is a clear benefit directly to the township. He also expressed concern that supporting the bureau's application might reduce the chances that the township's application to the grant program for shoreline project-related expenses would also be approved. The request also seems like it would be better suited to County sponsorship, since Mr. Van Dommelen has stated that the Visitors & Convention Bureau serves the region and not any one governmental unit. Mr. Napont in his turn stressed that there would be a benefit to Acme as well as to the entire region, and that the Tribe might not be pleased if the township chose not to support the application.

Kladder has proposed an agreement for the Convention & Visitors bureau to enter into with the township if the grant is awarded that would require the submission of invoices on a reimbursement basis rather than the township providing all the money up front.

Concern was expressed by the Board because this is the second time in 6 months that the township has been asked to sponsor this type of application at the very last minute with little time to deliberate. When Kladder suggested that the County would be better suited to being the facilitator for this request, Mr. Napont indicated that the bureau's relationship with the township is better than with the County in certain respects important to this application. Inman stated that there was concern between the County and the Visitors and Convention Bureau when K. Ross Childs was the County Administrator and he advocated a hotel/motel tax that the local tourism industry adamantly opposed. Since that time the Bureau has generally diverted 2% grant applications through other avenues than the County. Inman believes the County would be glad to consider sponsoring their requests in the future.

Another concern is the potential impact on the township's relationship with the Tribe if we do not accede to this request. There was consensus that if the township supports the application the Convention and Visitors Bureau must demonstrate the particular value of the grant to Acme Township. Kladder reported that Mr. Napont agreed that any future requests of this nature should be discussed with the township well in advance of deadlines.

The Board was skeptical that billboards are the most effective use of advertising funds, feeling the money might be much more effectively spent on direct marketing or other marketing methods, and that most people ignore billboards when travelling at high rates of speed. Targeted advertising in magazines and other venues may be more effective with results that can be more readily evaluated.

The Board indicated that it would not supply the suggested match to the grant application.

Motion by Scott, support by Dunville to suggest that support of the application be deferred until the December 31, 2010 Tribal 2% grant cycle.

Kladder suggested that from a relationship standpoint it might be prudent to proceed to support the current application and work with the Tribe and the Convention Bureau on a procedure for further requests. Hardin noted that it had been mentioned that a Tribal Councilor had solicited the application from the bureau, so refusing to participate could create political problems.

Motion and support rescinded.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Hardin to support the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau June 30, 2010 Tribal 2% Grant application.

Takayama asked if the Tribe has asked the Convention Bureau to apply for advertising money through the township, essentially using 2% grant funds towards their own advertising campaign. Kladder stated that all the advertising is projected to be general to the Grand Traverse area and not any specific facility.

Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) and 1 opposed (Dunville).

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

K. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Shoreline Park [Deconstruction](#) Update: Kladder is working on the shoreline deconstruction

RFP with some volunteer assistance. One outstanding question outstanding are whether we should sell cabins individually or leave them for a general contractor to be able to sell. When the two recently acquired properties are vacated, the sewer lines will need to be cut and capped. If the township is going to consider retaining the Knollwood that sewer line will need to remain intact, so costs will be \$350 less for this purpose but sewer benefit costs will be higher than otherwise. Also, asbestos testing of the structures will require that holes be punched in every room of every structure. Asbestos testing on the Willow Beach and Knollwood properties is estimated to cost \$3,000. Asbestos testing on the former Mt. Jack's property is bid at \$700. Demolition of this structure is expected to be costly, and we need to build this cost into the Phase II fundraising campaign. A total of about \$5,000 is requested to cut and cap sewer lines and begin asbestos testing on three properties. The money would come from the Shoreline Fund.

Motion by Scott, support by Takayama to approve expenditure as projected to conduct asbestos testing at the Willow Beach, Knollwood and Mountain Jack's properties, and to cut and cap the sewer lines at the Willow Beach property. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. **Solid Waste:** Kladder, City Manager R. Ben Bifoss and Resource Recovery Manager Bob Cole have worked on a revised Solid Waste RFP that would include the City and Acme and Peninsula Townships for several different waste collection options. The results of this process will yield a cost expectation and then a decision on whether to proceed with an ordinance and centralized, government-run residential solid waste services. Originally the RFP was going to be released July 1, but the date has been delayed to include the two townships. Participating in this process does not commit the township to a particular further action or cost.

Motion by Scott, support by Dunville to adopt Resolution R-2010-26 to issue joint Solid Waste services RFQ as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Planning & Zoning Administrator position:**

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to begin the process of hiring new full-time Planning & Zoning Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Sewer System Cleaning/Inspection/Repairs:** [Packet Materials](#) and [Inspection Video](#) (loaded to YouTube, you can follow the link or go to www.youtube.com and search for acme49690): Kladder provided a picture of a portion of the sewer main along US 31 North. Highlighted areas were found to have significant damage permitting infiltration of groundwater that the township is paying for the treatment plan to treat and need to be repaired. The township does not have an Engineer of Record so we will need to identify an engineering firm to work with to review the inspection records and suggest what repairs need to be made. An RFP can then be prepared to have the required work completed. One bid has been received from Gosling Czubak. Kladder was also going to ask Gourdie Fraser for a bid, but they may be about to enter into a contract with a private development interest in Acme Township that would create a conflict of interest.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to approve expenditure of up to \$5,000 from Sewer Fund for engineering work to determine needed repairs to sewer system. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Melanie Stanton, Fifth Street in Traverse City introduced herself as a candidate for 86th District Court judgeship. She has practiced law for over 20 years and in District Court for 18 years in a variety of capacities. She characterized herself as independent and apolitical, with an interest only in fair adjudication. She distributed campaign materials to the Board members.

Gene Veliquette, Elk Lake Road in Whitewater Township, is concerned that without tax base growth in the township it will become more difficult to meet township needs. Most agenda items tonight dealt with spending money or finding money from outside sources to help meet needs. Mr. Veliquette said that it has been 17 months since the Village at Grand Traverse SUP was reinstated, approximately 15 months after the Court of Appeals ordered that this be done. He believes it is a disservice to prevent the project from moving forward when it could provide local jobs and property value. Several years ago Meijer intended to develop 6 stores and it developed 5. Mr. Veliquette challenged the township to see what the beneficial financial impact in the locations of the 5 stores that were built has been. Has the township examined the amount of money needed to redevelop the new shoreline parklands and to maintain them, and how much of a millage might be needed? On July 16th it will be 6 years since his company purchased the Morrison processing plant and turned it around. Profit margins in the fruit drying business have been narrow, and the farming operations are also struggling. Mr. Veliquette is concerned that the township board has not seen the developers' proposal yet, that is hasn't even reached the Planning Commission yet after many months. If the tax base continues to decline for 2 more years with expenses rising, what position will the township be in? Acme is a place where there was interest in investment 6 years ago, but he believes that the actions of this Board have stifled this interest. Mr. Veliquette believes that the legacy of this Board's tenure will be a negative one in terms of economic growth and property occupancy. His business in Acme has grown in 6 years, but the township has not. The township has not been harmful to agriculture, but otherwise he feels there has been a total failure of local government evidenced by the lack of progress regarding the town center.

Jay Zollinger has been approached by 3 neighbors about the statement in several places on the tax bills that their checks should be made to Linda Wikle – to an individual rather than to the township or to Linda Wikle, Acme Township Treasurer. Wikle asserted that it says “Linda Wikle, Treasurer” and that the bill was reworded this year to make room for additional information that needed to be included. Mr. Zollinger stated that it appears that many people are reading it in a way that concerns them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.