



**ACME TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, 2004**

Meeting called to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

Members present: R. Agruda, D. Amon, D. Hoxsie, N. Knopf, C. Walter
Members excused: None

INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None noted

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Hoxsie, support by Agruda to approve the Consent Calendar as amended to remove item 7 for further discussion, including:

RECEIVE AND FILE:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Clerk's Report
3. Draft unapproved minutes of the June 28, 2004, Planning Commission meeting
4. Letter from State of Michigan about 2004 METRO Act Distribution of \$9,048.69.

ACTION:

5. Approval of Minutes from the June 1, 2004, meeting
6. Approval of Accounts Payable in the amount of \$86,529.19 through June 28, 2004, including \$37,930.20 for township share of DPW expense (recommend approval: Knopf)
7. ~~Approval of 3-year contracts with Waste Management for trash pickup in Bayside and Saylor Parks.~~
8. Approval of reimbursement to Sweetwater Evening Garden Club for \$377.28 for parks beautification project.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: Amon stated that he is aware that a number of individuals related to agriculture are in the audience this evening relative to item P4, and offered them the opportunity to speak at this time. The Board felt it more appropriate to entertain their comment during discussion about that agenda item.

C. Presentation by Joe Lowe, GT County Commission on Aging re: millage election: The Commission on Aging is asking for renewal of 3/10 of a mill. If the renewal fails, the agency will shut down. They are also asking for an additional 2/10 of a mill to enable provision of respite care. He stated that caring for an extremely ill individual is draining, and providing support for those caregivers is critical. Otherwise, those they care for become institutionalized, which is also a financial burden on the community. Current services the Commission provides include yard care, housekeeping, foot care and transportation assistance for seniors. Their objective is to help seniors live at home for as long as possible, both for their happiness and again to reduce the costs of institutionalization. The Commission seeks to monitor their clients' health and has a lifeline program so that seniors who fall can call for help. From 2000-2010 the local population will move from 17% to 23% seniors; the need is expanding. People are living longer than they used to, and so need more care. Caregivers are susceptible to burnout. The millage proposals will appear on the ballots on August 3, 2004. Handouts are available for anyone who is interested.

D. CORRESPONDENCE: None

- E. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – David Amon:** Amon attended a Road Commission meeting this afternoon regarding proposed improvements and extension to the TART on Bunker Hill Road and out to Lautner/Bates Roads. The bids that came in for the projects were significantly higher than the funds budgeted, so the Road Commission is going to approach MDOT to see if the bidding process can be reopened. Removal of some silver maple trees along Bunker Hill Road has been likewise deferred. When the project can proceed, a joint township/commission press release will be made to inform the public about the project and the need for some tree removal.
- F. COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Larry Inman:** The County Commission passed the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance, which was modeled on and is compatible with an ordinance adopted by Antrim County. Inman expressed appreciation for input from the Board supporting the concept. The County is now standing by to be of assistance as the process continues. Turning to jail overcrowding, a blue ribbon committee has been formed and informed about the history of the jail and the alternative programs available today. They are now considering what alternatives should be presented to the general public for consideration. When they are ready, a series of public forums will be held. He encourages everyone to come to the forums to learn and give input. They have begun the 2004-05 budget process. Last year they cut about \$3 million from the County budget, particularly from health insurance benefits. Revenue sharing was \$1.3 million of the current year's budget; next year the amount the County will receive from the state will be \$0. The state may allow some taxes that would normally be charged in the winter tax bill cycle during the summer tax bill cycle to provide some needed cashflow. Entire non-mandated departments or programs may have to be eliminated due to the revenue sharing cuts. The general public may feel a pinch from paying property taxes earlier in the annual cycle than usual – a big chunk will come due all at once.
- G. TOWNSHIP COUNSEL'S REPORT – Jim Christopherson:** Christopherson provided a proposed resolution regarding the May 1999 sewer benefit allocation plan. About a year and a half ago, 150 benefits were released into the general purchase pool; they have not been entirely bought out yet. Given the recent project to increase current sewer line capacity and the availability of benefits at the regional plant at this time there does not appear to be a reason to continue the benefit allocation plan, which the proposed resolution would end.

Motion by Walter, support by Hoxsie to adopt Resolution #R-2004-09. Motion carried unanimously.

The CCAT lawsuit is in the appeals phase. A final order was entered dismissing all outstanding issues. The Johnson case is scheduled for mediation on July 13; Amon and Knopf will attend the meeting but any potential settlement will be subject to Board approval. K-Mart filed an appeal of their property taxes for the past year, and an appeal from the Resort is expected as well. Hoxsie asked if Christopherson has been tracking the back personal property taxes to be received from K-Mart. Christopherson expects to see the funds within 30-60 days. Walter clarified that the CCAT suit was neither won nor lost by either side; but that Judge Power ruled on an issue separate from the key points brought up by either. Christopherson noted that the judge ruled in CCAT's favor nonetheless. The Open Meetings Act count was dismissed without prejudice, as was an equal protection and due process claim.

H. SHERIFF'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Deputy Matt McKinley: There were 23 car accidents, 2 OUILS, 20 criminal complaints with 7 criminal arrests, and a total of 113 calls for service this month. Deputy McKinley arrested his "drunkest drunk" ever, at a blood alcohol level of over 0.3. He has been working a prescription fraud case, arrested a woman for assault, and one individual arrested for driving without a license was deported to Mexico. The radar trailer is up near Maple Bay Farms right now and will be moved to various sites around the township. He is open to suggestions for placements.

I. **METRO FIRE REPORT – Randy Agruda:** Agruda reported that Chief Hanna had heart trouble a few weeks ago but is recovering nicely. Senate bills 905/906 regarding firefighters training are coming back to the floor. It languished in committee the last time around due to some opposition from the insurance lobby, but he believes that due to some ongoing education the outlook this time around is brighter. He encouraged the public to write to Senator Allen to express support for the bill, and Representative Walker has told Agruda that he supports the bill as well. Otherwise, things are relatively quiet.

J. **ENGINEER'S REPORT – Jim Minster, Gourdie Fraser Associates:**

1. **Approve Progress Payment #9 to Porath Contractors in the amount of \$49,155.67 for work performed on relief sewer project:** Normally this would be the final payment application. However, there are \$18,000 worth of insurance claims outstanding that were generated by the breach of the sewer main near Four Mile Road. We are withholding that \$18,000 until Porath's insurance company pays out. Overall, there was an \$82,000 decrease in actual project costs under estimates, necessitating a new change order.

Motion by Hoxsie, support by Agruda to approve Change Order #3. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Agruda, support by Walter to approve Progress Payment #9 from County DPW bond funds. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Walter asked about the fence along the TART, which he feels is so flimsy that it probably won't survive winter plowing. He also believes it was installed improperly. Hoxsie noted that Porath replaced the fence with the same type of materials that were removed. Corpe noted that there are quite a few individuals who wanted the fence removed entirely because they felt unsafe trapped between the traffic and the fence. Amon noted that MDOT would not allow the fence, which separates the trail from the railroad, to be removed although every effort was made. Amon also observed that the new force main is sized to handle buildout of the existing sewer district plus the future sewer study areas identified in the Master Plan – about 11,500 benefits in all. 9,000 benefits are available for sale, and if 1,000 are sold all of the township's sewer-related debt service could be paid in full. Walter asked if this means that there would not be increases in user fees in the foreseeable future if the 1,000 benefits can be sold; Amon agreed. Minster stated that the DPW has sold the proposed septage treatment site in Hammond Industrial Park and has purchased a site near the Road Commission near the Humane Society. The DPW will provide an area on their site where the Humane Society can perform dog training. Bids for construction are coming in under the expected \$6.4 million, and they still hope to break ground later this month, on July 19, pending a redesign for the new site and issuance of new permits. Amon applauded the community effort to provide this necessary facility for the County. Clean water is a big concerns, and the damage done by septic systems that are not maintained properly and the spreading of septic waste on local fields is significant. This is a step forward in terms of protecting groundwater, lakes and streams. Expected completion is April 29, 2005.

K. **ROAD COMMISSION REPORT – Chuck Walter:** The Road Commission hierarchy has been realigned. Mark Makowski is now in charge and Mike Dillenbeck will be working on special projects including the Hartman-Hammond Bridge. He feels that more efficiency will be forthcoming as a result of the changes and improved communication. The Road Commission is doing wedging and chip coating in Acme Township right now, currently working in the Bates and Saylor Road areas. He encouraged anyone in the public to let the township office know if there are unacceptable road conditions; the office staff will pass the information along to Walter and he will in turn make sure it gets addressed at bi-weekly Road Commission meetings. He feels that progress that has been made in getting our road problems addressed is due to a hard push from the Township Board. Knopf asked when Bunker Hill Road might be realigned; Walter expects it will be next year. They are currently surveying to see if the

sharp turn at the top of the hill near Wellington Farms can be removed. Amon noted that when a road project is done, the Road Commission only pays 50% of the cost. The other half comes from the township, whether from general funds or from special assessment district tax levies on directly-affected properties. Walter noted that the Commission pays for 100% of road maintenance, just not road construction. He, Amon, Joe Bartko from East Bay Township and the Commission met regarding the poor condition of Holiday Road recently. Most of the road is in Acme Township, but most of the people using the road are in East Bay Township.

- L. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT – Tom Henkel:** Henkel asked if he could move forward to order this year's portion of the cemetery fencing. The Board said that the funds are available in the budget. He also wants to purchase the information kiosks for the Yuba Creek Natural Area right away as well. Hoxsie asked if a motion is in order, as the total cost of these items will be over \$1,500. Amon noted that this year, the budget contains a detailed accounting of the capital improvements funds budgeted. He feels that if the funds are in the budget and used for the specific items planned for, it should be possible to expend them without further Board approval. If there are cost overruns or desired purchase of non-listed items, further Board approval will be required. The Board concurred. Amon also feels that bills and monthly reports should be reviewed by the people who manage each cost center to empower them to manage costs effectively.

Henkel also provided suggested rules for the proposed fire duty personnel discussed during the budget process. Amon stated that there is approximately \$184,000 in the fire fund, which the auditor says can be used for any fire-related purpose. The township is coming to the end of a 5-year 0.5 mill levy for fire protection next year. There is a general feeling that a new township-wide fire assessment will be needed. The Metro Fire contract specifies that we pay the fire department 1.4 mills based on real property SEV. However, we collect taxes based on taxable value, which is significantly lower. This creates a significant problem. The Board will be looking at ways to serve the public better, one of which is to improve emergency response time. To that end, the Board proposes to have an individual staffing the fire hall from 9-5, Monday-Friday for the balance of this summer and the beginning of next summer, during Henkel's busy outdoor maintenance months. East Bay has two such individuals. Garfield has two individuals in the fire hall at all times around the clock. Another challenge is that the number of people volunteering for the fire service has declined, and as Agruda has noted a vast amount of training is required.

Walter asked if the criteria Henkel is proposing meshes with the rules for the other Metro Fire Battalions; Henkel and Amon assured him that this is so. Agruda said that Metro Fire's strategic planning people have discussed a 3-township wide fire millage district. He doesn't think this can happen soon, but a good first step would be for each member township to have a township-wide district. Some people ask why we don't have separate fire departments; the answer is that no one township alone can afford to buy the equipment. Current staffing and response time isn't as good as it can be. He looks to the day when Acme can staff someone 24 hours a day. Amon noted that the five year millage was well-planned; we have generated about \$5,000 more than has been paid out to Metro Fire. The proposed position will not be a township employee but will be on a contract basis. Uniforms and benefits will be paid through Metro Fire. The wage will be \$10.50/hour. Walter asked when a reassessment of the quality of the work and how the program is working would be done. Amon suggested that there be a Board liaison to manage this process, and that Agruda is the logical choice. Walter would like quarterly feedback and established goals for the program based on the number of runs made.

Agruda noted that significant planning for the future of the fire service must come soon. Is a new fire station needed? Is the current location the best place in the township from which to provide service?

Motion by Knopf, support by Walter to spend \$12,000 July-October 2004 and May-June 2005 to implement on call fire duty staff to be paid from the Fire Fund. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- M. OFFICE & PLANNING COORDINATOR'S REPORT – Sharon Corpe:** Dan Kelly, owner/operator of The Williamsburg, the catering/banquet facility in the former movie theater, has requested a minor change to his special use permit received last year. At the time he applied, he anticipated that the banquet facility would be available to planned events and dinner show reservations only, with no walk-in bar or restaurant traffic. Recent newspaper articles and on-site signs indicate that walk-in traffic is being encouraged. Mr. Kelly asserts in his letter that being open to the general public is a specific requirement of the Class C liquor license he obtained, and is asking for the minor change to make the walk-in business a permitted use. Corpe does not believe there is any reason why the added use would be detrimental to the general public. Walter asked if the site is otherwise in compliance with the conditions of its permit; Corpe stated that other than a temporary sign violation being corrected by Hull, she believes that it is. Hoxsie feels the business is an asset to the township, but he is concerned that this is a “back-door” way to have a full-time bar/restaurant when one was not originally approved.

Motion by Walter, support by Knopf to approve a minor change to SUP #2003-1P for Dan Kelly/Catering by Kellys/The Williamsburg, contingent upon staff confirming that the open bar/restaurant use is a state Class C liquor license requirement.

Hoxsie encouraged the public to go to the dinner show as he found it well worthwhile.

Motion carried unanimously.

- N. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – John Hull:** Hull feels that the current zoning ordinance is not currently the easiest document to read. In particular he has spent a significant amount of time explaining the township's height requirements to the general public. He has been working on some graphic representations of how the calculations and requirements work, which he provided in the Board packets for consideration. He also noted that various people have pointed out possible zoning violations to him. He appreciates the assistance and encouraged everyone to continue to contact him with questions and concerns.

Walter asked why we define height as depicted. Hull replied that this is the current ordinance definition, and that he has found it not to be entirely unusual in terms of how other communities approach the question. A comprehensive ordinance revision is planned for the coming year, at which time the height definition/calculation will be reconsidered.

- O. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

P. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider final action regarding SUP Application #2004-1P made by Dave Fielstra/Concrete Cystems for Special Use Permit/ Site Plan Approval to allow for the development of a new warehouse facility at 6127 S. Railway Commons:** The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the application. Hoxsie reported that the proposed design of the building is similar to that of other buildings within the Railway Industrial Park. The key concern about the application has been the provision of water for fire suppression, and Mr. Fielstra spent a significant amount of his time to try to for a joint initiative for a common water storage tank to no avail. Corpe is currently working on this project. Smith noted that the Commission didn't feel it would be fair to make one business owner put in a storage tank when others did not have to. Agruda agreed, both that this has been an ongoing concern. Amon stated that the first person he met with after being appointed Supervisor was Chief Hanna, and this is the same issue he raised. The Tribe's water tower at Turtle Creek seems like a good opportunity to move this project forward. The DPW has discussed the concept and a subcommittee formed to discuss potential water and sewer issues relative to cooperation with the Tribe.

Motion by Hoxsie, support by Agruda to approve Application #2004-1P. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Consider final action regarding SUP Application #2004-9P made by Great Lakes Trim for Special Use Permit/ Site Plan Amendment to allow for an addition to an existing manufacturing business at 6183 S. Railway Commons:** Hoxsie stated that the request is for an addition to an existing manufacturing building and is designed to address some ongoing township concerns with illicit outdoor storage, and is otherwise straightforward.

Walter stated that the pictures in the packets don't contain information about who drew up the plans. Corpe reported that for the sake of efficiency only a portion of the oversized plans were copied for the packets; the original, sealed drawings are on file in the office and were prepared by Elmers. Too much lot coverage: no restrictions in B-4. Smith-fixed landscaping.

Motion by Hoxsie, support by Knopf to approve Application #2004-9P. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Consider final action regarding SUP Application #2004-10P made by Dennis Moody/Great Lakes RV and Storage for Special Use Permit/ Site Plan Approval to allow for the development of a new storage facility at 6632 E. Railway Commons:** Hoxsie stated that the facility is proposed to generate limited traffic except for certain portions of the year when boats and RVs are entering or leaving storage. A few minor changes were made to the plan, asking that some of the asphalt in the northwest corner of the parking lot be reduced and that some more creative landscaping be employed. The landscaping committee recommended that the linear nature of the landscaping be maintained due to site-specific considerations. The Commission asked that the lighting be lowered to no more than 10' high and fully shielded. Mr. Moody stated that he is working closely with Pete Bruski at the Drain Commission to present a final plan. Walter asked about the required building heights; Mr. Moody stated that the neighborhood covenants provide for a 35' building height, and that his building design has been approved.

Motion by Agruda, support by Hoxsie to approve Application #2004-10P. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Consider adoption of Resolution supporting GT County Farmland and Open Space Development Rights Ordinance:** Amon asked Corpe to read the proposed resolution into the record

Paul Hubbell, Whitewater Township Trustee strongly urged the Board to adopt the proposed resolution. His township just passed a similar resolution. It is a voluntary program. Amon asked about the potential for a millage; Hubbell stated that this is still under discussion.

Rick Sayler, lifelong resident of Acme Township and a farmer has spent the last several months working with this ordinance. He feels it's the best possible option for providing continuity in farming. It was just passed by GT and will be considered by Antrim soon, creating a unique situation in the entire country. It's a voluntary program providing a tool for farmers and he hopes the Board adopts the resolution.

Dorance Amos, Elk Rapids Township Trustee is a 4th generation farmer whose family has property in five townships. Acme is under enormous development pressure, and he feels adoption of the resolution will fit well with our Master Plan. It provides farmers an option in a poor industry, and while it may not provide an answer to the business woes, it may help serve to protect the richest farmlands that are being

fragmented at increasing rates. An area for development is needed, and this will force the township to choose where to encourage development and where to encourage farming.; With PDR will come TDR, and this will open the way to discuss a potential millage to provide matching funds for public and private sector grant opportunities. Old Mission Peninsula has a similar program, as do areas in Pennsylvania. Out east, 15 years after selling development rights the farmers who have done so are still happy with their choice to participate. Many wish they had participated sooner, and there is a waiting list to take advantage of the opportunity. This is necessary to maintain local agribusiness.

Bill White, Elk Rapids Township Supervisor will be addressing a similar resolution on Friday, after Antrim County considers their ordinance. This will benefit not only farmers but the entire community. He encouraged support of the resolution. His township will be discussing placement of a millage on the November ballot, and he hopes we will too.

Chris Hubbell has property in both Whitewater and Acme Townships, and has a processing business that sends cherries all over the world. He hopes that the resolution will be considered, and that it will encourage younger individuals to get into or stay in farming.

John Pulcifer, supported the statements made by his fellow farmers, and feels this will be a good tool to have in his arsenal.

Amon met with Scott Everett, American Farmland Trust and five area townships a week ago in Elk Rapids. Mr. Everett is available to make a presentation at the August meeting so that the entire Board can work towards a better understanding of the process and perhaps move forward in some additional aspects. Amon personally agrees that if we can consolidate growth in some areas of the township and preserve open space in others, everyone in the township will benefit.

Walter had a number of questions. He has heard and read that a millage will be necessary to fund such a program. He would be opposed to any millage right now that doesn't also address fire, police and recreational issues. He asked about deed restrictions, noting that the same end could be accomplished without costing anyone any money by restricting property to farm use only. He feels the farmers are asking the public to solve their personal problems, and at this stage he doesn't feel this is appropriate. He feels that we need to resolve the zoning issues in Acme Township as another effective tool to protect open space. How can anyone talk about protecting land when there is no way to know what will happen 25, 50 or 100 years in the future. He feels there are enough government assistance programs to assist farmers already in place.

Herb Smith, Planning Commission Chairman first became involved in this issue a few months ago. Sherrin Hood was a driving force before she left the township to take a new position. He strongly favors the program, as it would provide a vehicle for a farmer to receive funds for the development rights he is forgoing to permit him to continue farming. He feels the initiative will help in the formation of a new future land use map. This is one of his goals and desires, to preserve farmland and help farmers keep farming. He strongly urged the Board to pass the resolution. Walter noted two concepts Smith mentioned; purchase and transfer of development rights. He stated that there is currently no provision in the zoning ordinance to use these concepts. Smith noted that work on needed ordinances is underway, and that the goal is to preserve not only farmland but waterfront and other sensitive areas as well. Walter asked if Smith had seen an article in the paper about conditions in Washington state that, in his understanding, amounts to government prevention of private land use. He is unaware of any place where purchase of development rights is currently taking place. He does not believe government should get into the development rights

purchase business with public funds. Smith stated that a deed restriction only means that a farmer must sell property to benefit from it. The chances today that someone can buy the property and keep farming it seem slim. Walter interpreted this as a statement that farmers are looking for a financial prop because they are not earning what they feel they should earn. Smith asked what a farmer is to do if he needs to feed his family and can't do so through farming? He will seek rezoning and sell to a developer. Walter stated that the Veliquettes have purchased a significant chunk of land and seem to be doing well.

Agruda stated appreciation of both sides of the debate. He recalls the early days of Hood's efforts and that he supported them even then. He would like to see cherry farming continue in our area, even as we are faced with growth pressures. The people will vote on whether or not they are willing to impose a millage for this purpose on themselves.

Mr. Pulcipher is opposed to using zoning to restrict farmers' land use choices. For years he has heard that people want to preserve farmland. People vote with their dollars, and if they really want to preserve farmland they will support a millage. If not, we won't need to worry about preserving the land from development anymore.

Knopf asked how it would be determined which properties are most valued for preservation. Mr. Amos replied that a board of individuals identified by the Ordinance will use a designated scoring system to decide. One key factor will be to what extent larger contiguous areas can be assembled. Knopf has also heard the concern that the next generation will seek to get out of the permanent conservation easements. Dave Rollert, a local attorney, sees this as a tool without any current financial backing. He would like to make sure that farmland and open space will be treated alike under the program. He disagreed with Walter, seeing no problem with adopting a well-worded ordinance. But he agrees with Knopf that we can't know what the township will be like in 50 years, and he believes that the future legal issues will keep lawyers busy for years. He believes that any farmer who sells his land under the program is a fool, but he supports the Ordinance.

Gene Veliquette said that his family has grown cherries and run a dairy operation for many years. He sees no harm in the ordinance, and believes there are a lot of details to work out. He has seen vast changes and efficiencies in the cherry industry over the past 30 years. New technology requires more capital to employ. He used to use 500 people to pick cherries and run a processing plant; now he needs perhaps 10 to run a shaker. Few farmers will survive and thrive, and he sees this as one option for the survivors to raise capital to continue to succeed. He doesn't have all the answers, but he sees no harm in this. He thinks "the jury is still out" on whether or not the Peninsula Township program has truly been a benefit to all, but he feels this is an honest attempt to address the problem at hand. He noted that 10 years ago culled cherries were thrown away; now they are used to make concentrate for medicinal purposes.

Mr. Saylor would like to speak against the misconception that the proposal is a "farmer bail-out." Because farmland is taxed at highest and best use rather than farm value, this can be a way to level the playing field and allow farmers to purchase land at farming values rather than development values.

Knopf says that she agrees with the ordinance in principal, but is having difficulty with some of the details, particularly those that mean that one farmer's land is valuable but a neighbor's is not. Mr. Hubbell stated that he finds it unlikely that any land can be restricted through zoning to only one potential use without generating a lawsuit. Amon feels that many of these questions can be answered by having Mr. Everett make a presentation at the August meeting. Amon promised to provide copies of the ordinances as adopted by both counties for the Board to review. He noted that the

Acme Preservation Fund has already been established by the Board to receive money, and it's now a matter of how those funds will be raised.

Walter said that when he heard Mr. Everett speak at the County a few months ago, there were a number of people who spoke out in strong opposition to the proposal. Tonight he is hearing that many of our local landowners are in support of the proposal, and that this is an important factor. Amon noted that many of the people who spoke against the ordinance at the County level were from Leelanau County, where he feels the program was not well-conducted. One of the key differences in Grand Traverse County is that all that has been asked for to date is an ordinance. The County has not been asked for money; that is being left to each individual township to decide how passionate they are about the cause. He agrees with Agruda that it should be put to the voters to see if they want to preserve farmland and open space. We have heard tonight that we have farmers who would consider using the program if it is available. Walter stated that his vote will be based on the public's desires, not necessarily his own.

Motion by Hoxsie, support by Agruda to approve Resolution #R-2004-10 supporting GT County Farmland and Open Space Development Rights Ordinance. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Paul Hubbell feels that Mr. Everett's presentation next month will be very valuable.

Mr. Amos stated that Charlie Koop and Dennis LaBelle, the Prosecuting Attorneys for Antrim and G.T. Counties respectively, went over the ordinances carefully and made many changes, so he's comfortable that things are well in hand from a legal standpoint.

Mr. Saylor thanked the Board for its consideration of the Ordinance.

5. **Consider reappointment of Dennis Hoxsie and Matt Vermetten to the Planning Commission:** Amon stated that both Hoxsie and Vermetten are serving on the Commission and wish to continue to serve. Hoxsie is the Board representative, so if he is not re-elected a new individual would be assigned to his position. Amon feels that both individuals have done a good job for the township and asked the board to support his appointment.

Motion by Walter, support by Knopf to reappoint Dennis Hoxsie and Matt Vermetten to the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Discuss Acme Township Personnel Policy dated January 8, 1996:** Amon stated that he asked Corpe to provide this information, largely for informational purposes. It has been provided to Nancy Edwardson. One of his goals for this year is for this policy to be reviewed and expanded in to a more comprehensive personnel policy. He would like any detailed discussion put off until a future meeting. Knopf stated that she has a copy of Whitewater Township's Personnel Policy that can be distributed to the Board for consideration next month.
7. **Approval of 3-year contracts with Waste Management for trash pickup in Bayside and Saylor Parks:** Walter asked if this was competitively bid to American Waste, our Clean-Up Day service provided. Henkel stated that this has not been done. Walter feels that American has done a good job and he'd like them to have an opportunity to bid. Agruda clarified that Walter is seeking for Henkel to call all of the major waste removal service providers to find out what they charge. Henkel had a hard time getting the current service started and would like to at least get through the summer season before seeking new bids. The proposed services end in September.

Consensus was reached that the summer will be completed without signing a contract, and competitive bids will be researched over the fall and winter.

Q. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Re-Evaluation of Ordinance #88-5, Schedule of Review Fees:** At the final budget meeting, Corpe provided a proposed new fee schedule along with commentary on how she arrived at the proposed figures. The proposal is based partly on neighboring fee schedules and partly on an assessment recently completed regarding the actual cost to provide services. Walter asked about the possibility of adding a \$200 inspection fee to the fee schedule for Special Use Permit Applications. This would cover the cost for Hull to examine SUP projects to ensure that all requirements have been met. The applicant would have to pay a \$50.00 re-inspection charge if they fail their first inspection. Corpe suggested that monitoring costs have been contemplated as part of the Land Use Permit fee that each SUP applicant must also pay. Amon asked about the process of adopting the proposed new Ordinance. Corpe replied that a public hearing before the Board would be scheduled, with notice of the meeting published as required by law in the newspaper. The public hearing would be held, at which point the Board may move to adopt the ordinance if it so chooses.

Motion by Walter, support by Knopf to schedule a Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance #2004-1 for the August 10 Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Continued discussion regarding annual renewal premium for township liability insurance:** Knopf stated that the bill has been paid and no further discussion is needed.

R. PUBLIC COMMENT/OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

Dorance Amos stated that a Farmland Preservation fundraiser will be held on 12:00 Saturday at Amos Farms. Governor Granholm will be present. He is located on Munro Road and can provide maps. The public is welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.