

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**May 11, 2006**  
**SYNOPSIS**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Walls

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approved Minutes: April 13, 2006, Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$520,776.74
- b) Approved Minutes: March 13, 2006 Special Joint Meeting
- c) Accepted April 2006 Treasurer's Report
- d) Received April 2006 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical; Litigation; & Fire
- e) Received Ordinance Report
- f) Authorized payment of bills as presented, total \$46,514.31
- g) Phase II, Upper Clinton Subwatershed Group: Authorized retainer with Carlisle/Wortman Associates, per Clerk's May 8, 2006 memo
- h) Approved Refund of \$2,230.00 in Site Plan Review Fees to Holly Greens Storage LLC
- i) Received H.R. Services Report from Supervisor
- j) Received communications and placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. August Ballot Millage Proposals: Approved ballot language for Fire and Police Millage renewals
2. Wireless Oakland: Authorized entering into agreement with Oakland County
3. Civic Center Landscaping: Authorized Supervisor to negotiate agreement with Design by Nature for installation & maintenance of wildflower landscape; deferred installation of prairie landscape to Parks Commission at location of its choice.
4. Civic Center Parking Lot:
  - a) Approved Change Order & Budget Revision
  - b) Appointed Supervisor Walls and Trustee Hopper as Project Administrators
5. Adopted Ordinance #26 Amendment, Section 17.09 & Section 2.00
6. Adopted Ordinance #26 Amendments, Sections 6.01 & 6.02

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tabled Westwood Hills Subdivision Street Lighting Request
2. Approved Huron River Watershed Council Membership
3. First Readings – Authorized Second Readings:
  - a) Ordinance # 62 Amendments: Dangerous Buildings
  - b) Ordinance # 67: Municipal Civil Infractions
4. Adopted General Fund Budget Amendments
5. Discussed Assessing Services
6. Employee Benefits: Reduced employer contribution to 401(k) plan, effective January 1, 2007; deferred consideration of changes to Medical benefits to June 8, 2006 meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNED: 10:05 p.m.

NANCY STROLE, Clerk

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Collin Walls called the May 11, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350.

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Nancy Strole	Township Clerk
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee

**Board Members Not Present**

Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee
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**Others Present**

Greg Need	Township Attorney
Charlie Oaks	Township Fire Chief

**Agenda Additions & Changes:            NONE**

**Public Comment:                            NONE**

**Consent Agenda:**

**\* Trustee Hopper moved to approve the Consent Agenda as published. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- a) Approved Minutes: April 13, 2006 with bills and additional disbursements of \$520,776.74.
- b) Approved Minutes: March 13, 2006 Special Joint Meeting
- c) Accepted April Treasurer's report.
- d) Receipt of April 2006 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Litigation, and Fire.
- e) Receipt of Ordinance Report.
- f) Authorized payment of bills as presented totaling \$46,514.31.
- g) Phase II, Upper Clinton Subwatershed Group: Authorized retainer with Carlisle/Wortman Associates per Clerk's May 8, 2006 memo.
- h) Refund \$2,230.00 in Site Plan Review Fees to Holly Greens Storage LLC.
- i) Receipt of H.R. Services Report from Supervisor.

### **Receipt of Communications:**

- Letter from HAYA regarding proposed Board members and acceptance thereof.
- Rose Township Resolution re: Cable Franchising.
- Letter from Oakland County Parks Executive Officer Dan Stencil.
- Independence Twp. Senior Transportation Report.

### **Old Business:**

1. August Ballot Millage Proposals/Renewals: Fire & Police

Greg Need noted corrections needed. In both proposals where the reference is to “SEV,” it should be “TV” meaning Taxable Value. In the third line of each proposition the reference to 2006 should be 2005.

- ★ **Clerk Strole moved to place on the August 2006 primary ballot a proposal for Fire Millage Renewal and a separate proposal for Police Millage Renewal with the language presented to the Board by the Township attorney with the corrections noted specifically to taxable value and the levies for 2005. Treasurer Dubre supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

2. Wireless Oakland

Mr. Bertolini and Ms. Tammi Shepherd of Oakland County were present. Mr. Bertolini made a presentation on the Wireless Oakland proposal as requested by the Board at the last meeting.

Mr. Bertolini explained that there are two pieces to this network, one located about 250 feet in the air using large radio towers already existing as well as large buildings. The other is the real network which will be street level, about 15 to 20 feet off the ground. They will use Edison poles, light poles, or whatever they can find to place the access points. Mr. Bertolini explained that there will be no construction with this project, everything will already be existing and it would be WiMax coverage versus WiFi.

Clerk Strole asked what kind of distance would each access point need? Mr. Bertolini said higher bandwidth will go farther than the bandwidth on the ground but they would not need many access points. He explained that there would be no fees to the residents up to 128 kilobytes and everything is wireless as asked by Supervisor Walls.

Trustee Hopper asked how much time before this system would be active? Mr. Bertolini said they had 30 municipalities that requested to go first and Springfield Township was not one of them. The timing would be as soon as possible once it was determined what access points were available.

Supervisor Walls asked Mr. Bertolini if there is a map available of county facilities in the Township capable of housing the network? Mr. Bertolini said he would provide that.

Supervisor Walls said the agreement between the county and the municipalities indicates that the municipalities will waive any and all fees yet the agreement between the county and Michtel says Michtel will be responsible for permits and fees. Supervisor Walls said in our case the only inspector that would apply would be electrical and he is a contracted employee paid per inspection. He asked if there is a way to modify the agreement so that the electrical contractor gets paid when he inspects? Mr. Bertolini said right now that is part of the negotiation of providing free internet but that would have to be discussed as that issue has not come up with the county before.

Mr. Bertolini explained that the Township would have an agreement with the County and the County has an agreement with Michtel and in regard to damage, the County would handle it acting as the agent of the municipality. He advised that any further conversation regarding the lease would have to be deferred to the attorney.

Supervisor Walls commented that he would like to compliment the County for providing the complete information asked for by the Board and the agreements are very clear cut.

- \* Clerk Strole moved to authorize the Township Supervisor to enter into the agreement with Oakland County as presented to us for the Wireless Oakland project. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

### 3. Civic Center Landscaping

Supervisor Walls noted that Rich Parke, the Parks Commission Chairperson, submitted a letter to the Board at 5:30 this evening indicating that they are supportive of the project but recommended it be moved away from the Township offices and that the Park Director has clear direction if we move forward.

Supervisor Walls said in his opinion, we have an obligation to attempt to do something in a manner that might be successful rather than a larger scale because that's the way it was planned and we are encouraging residents and developers to do this landscaping, so we need to try. He does not see a problem with the habitat development being closer to Davisburg Road but if the Park Commission is concerned and wants to do it somewhere else, he doesn't have a problem. The Board members all concurred.

- \* Clerk Strole moved to authorize the Supervisor to negotiate an agreement with Designs By Nature including the elements outlined in the project description of their May 4, 2006 letter to Jennifer Tucker. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

The Board unanimously concurred to notifying the Park Director that the Board will administer the agreement.

Regarding Fish and Wildlife Service, Supervisor Walls said this is a habitat development with a formal agreement for a period of ten years.

- \* Supervisor Walls moved that we indicate to the Park Commission and the Park Director that we whole-heartedly support this Fish and Wildlife Habitat project at any location they choose but would encourage them to consider at least part of the 12 acres to be the area between the building and Davisburg Rd. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Supervisor noted that that means the Township cost share for this project would be born by the Park Commission.

- \* Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Dubre, Strole, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

4. Civic Center Parking Lot
  - a) Plan Revision
  - b) Contract & Budget Revision
  - c) Project Administration

Supervisor Walls explained that there was changes in the project after an agreement had been entered into. HRC felt that we should not do the work proposed in the upper lot but instead fill the cracks, seal and stripe. Randy Ford asked for a change in price from the contractor, but unfortunately it is all included in other items we requested. Repeated efforts by the Township to get HRC to address the cracking and the obvious water under the sidewalk below the porch on the lower level had not been included in the plans and specs, but now have been. That is a major portion of the cost increase.

Trustee Hopper suggested that the upper lot has held up quite well, even though there is some sign of moisture. There is a sand cushion underneath it so the water is probably perching below frost. He suggested it could be filled and sealed because replacing asphalt could bring new problems.

- \* Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Township Supervisor to accept the change order with the increase of \$29,000 to \$150,000 and also revise our combined budget which includes the contingencies and the inspection fees from \$184,594.00 to \$212,600.00. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

Project Administration

- \* Trustee Lamont moved to approve the Township Supervisor in conjunction with Dave Hopper to handle the contract administration for the Civic Center parking lot to stay within the budget for the project as well as in the budget amendment of the total budget within the Township and also to authorize changes up to \$10,000.00 as long as it stays within the budget of the overall contract. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

5. Second Reading: Ordinance #26 Amendment Section 17.09

- \* Trustee Hopper moved to adopt and authorize the Clerk to publish amendments to Ordinance #26, specifically Section 2, Definitions and Section 17.09 Community Sewer Systems as published, said amendments to take effect seven days after publication of Notice of Adoption. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

6. Second Reading: Ordinance #26 Amendment Sections 6.01 & 6.02

- \* Trustee Hopper moved to adopt amendments to Zoning Ordinance #26, specifically to amend Section 6.01, Section 6 and Section 19 as published and to authorize the Clerk to publish Notice of Adoption of said amendments to take effect seven days after publication of Notice of Adoption. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

**New Business:**

1. Westwood Hills Subdivision – Street Lighting

- \* Supervisor Walls moved to table this request until we receive the cost and other design information from Detroit Edison to review. Trustee Lamont supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

2. Huron River Watershed Council Membership

Clerk Strole explained that we should continue this membership because the Huron River Watershed is a big part of the Township, and we're subject to Phase II Water Quality mandates in the Huron. There has been a watershed plan developed and a huge portion of our Phase II education requirements for the Huron are being fulfilled by the Huron River Watershed Council.

- \* Trustee Cooper moved that we continue the Huron River Watershed Council Membership dues for another year at \$426.82. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

3. First Readings:

- a) Ordinance #62 Amendments: Dangerous Buildings

Clerk Strole said under paragraph J, it cites subsections of Michigan compiled laws, she said our current ordinance cites different sections. Attorney Greg Need said he would check into it.

- \* Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Clerk to publish for Second Reading after she gets clarification on the subsections cited. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- b) Ordinance #67 Amendments: Municipal Civil Infractions

- \* Supervisor Walls moved to authorize the Clerk to publish for Second Reading. Trustee Hopper supported the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

4. Budget Amendments

- \* Trustee Cooper moved to adopt the Budget Amendments as presented by the Supervisor. Clerk Strole supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

5. Assessing Services

Supervisor Walls said he met with the Equalization Director of Oakland County and got costs regarding the contracting of assessing through Oakland County. He believes their file maintenance may be worthwhile in the future but right now contracting assessing services does not seem to be logical.

Treasurer Dubre said she concurs with Supervisor Walls and believes we should keep things as they are now. Trustee Lamont concurred.

6. Employee Benefits

Supervisor Walls said since Trustee Vallad was not present he would present his views to the Board. Trustee Vallad felt that a reduction in the 401(k) contribution for existing employees

from the 7.5% down to 5% would be reasonable and should be considered. He was not in favor of drastic changes or reductions to the medical for existing employees. He believes we should consider employee cost share for any increase in medical insurance on an annual basis and consider that the employee cover a flat amount.

Treasurer Dubre agreed that a reduction in the 401(k) contribution down to 5% from 7.5% would be a good idea starting January 1. Trustee Cooper suggested that the reduction be for new hires only and it should be lower than 5%. Clerk Strole said the reduction in the 401(k) is the most equitable way to save money.

- \* Treasurer Dubre moved that effective January 1, 2007 we reduce the Township's contribution to the 401(k) retirement plan from 7.5% to 5% with the employees still contributing a minimum of 2.5%. Trustee Cooper supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

Fire Chief Oaks commented that he disagrees with that decision from the Board.

- \* Trustee Cooper moved that effective immediately for any new hires the 401(k) program would be 2.5% and the Township will match 2.5%. Trustee Hopper supported the motion.**

Supervisor Walls said there is nothing in our 401(k) plan or policy that deals with the Township contribution. One thing we must be careful of is that there is a proportion of the total that goes to the highest compensated employees.

Clerk Strole asked if "new hire" includes full time elected and hired employees? Treasurer Dubre said, yes.

**Trustee Cooper amended his motion to read "any new person added to the payroll." Trustee Hopper supported the amended motion.**

- \* Vote on the amended motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

The Board members concurred that they were not comfortable making changes to the employee medical benefits at this time and there was no urgency to change benefits to newly hired employees.

- \* Treasurer Dubre moved that we bring the whole issue back for new hires and existing employees back to next month's board meeting after we have had an opportunity to go through additional information on the medical benefits. Clerk Strole supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Walls, Strole, Dubre, Hopper, Lamont and Cooper; No: none; Absent: Vallad. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**



Clerk Strole noted that she had other ideas on cost-saving such as the heating and cooling bill, the life insurance, the township vehicle and charging for the coffee and eliminating bottled water service.

The Board agreed to begin requesting donations for coffee.

**Public Comment: None**

**Adjournment:**

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Walls adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

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Collin W. Walls, Township Supervisor

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Nancy Strole, Township Clerk