

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Special Board Meeting- Trustee Interviews #4-6</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Tuesday, December 5, 2017</u></b> 7:00 p.m. Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b></p>	<p><b>MINUTES</b> Page 1 of 4 YST Bd Trustees 12.5.17 Approved Jan. 11, 2018</p>
<p><u>Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</u></p> <p><b><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Roll Call:</u></b> All Present: Jansma, J. Lippert, Englerth, VandenBerg.</p> <p><b><u>Staff Present:</u></b> None.</p> <p><b><u>Visitors:</u></b> 2 (not including staff present or those being interviewed).</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p><b>PLEDGE</b></p> <p><b>ROLL CALL</b></p>
<p><b><u>PURPOSE OF MEETING:</u></b></p> <p>To conduct interviews of the following Candidates for the Vacancy of Trustee appointment.</p>	<p><b><u>Purpose of Meeting</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>THOSE TO BE INTERVIEWED THIS EVENING (the 2<sup>nd</sup> evening of Interviews):</u></b></p> <p>Robert Genther (7:00 p.m.)</p> <p>Donald H. Berry (7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Clifford G. Bush (8:00 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>List of those to be interviewed this evening.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Interviews Questions: (the same for every interviewee)</u></b></p> <p>(#1): "Share the reasons that you are willing to serve in township government."</p> <p>(#2): "What do you feel you can contribute to the township board?"</p> <p>(#3): "Do you have any relatives that serve on current township boards or committees?" If yes, "Do you perceive any conflicts of interest if chosen for the position?"</p> <p>(#4): "Are you willing to commit your time to other committees?" (i.e. special committees, ZBA, Planning Commission).</p> <p>(#5): "What is your position on Planning and Zoning?"</p> <p><b><u>After the last question (#5), the applicant may offer any final comments or ask questions of the Board.</u></b></p>	<p><b>Interview Questions</b></p>

**First Interviewee of evening: Robert Genter- (#4) Question responses:**

#1/2) Mr. Genter has been a resident of Yankee Springs for 20 plus years. He was involved with the Wayland Fire Department and Wayland City Council as one of its youngest members.

After moving to Yankee Springs, he left his positions in Wayland and concentrated on the business he owns in Wayland. Genter has rented cottages on Gun Lake in his youth. When he and his wife, Marge, were married they decided to make Gun Lake their home. They've had no regrets regarding living in the Yankee Springs/Gun Lake area.

Genter has come to several meetings and zoning/planning commission meetings because he has an interest of what is going on. He feels that it is fundamental that residents know what is going on in the community. He has talked to Shane and is glad Shane VandenBerg is on the board.

Genter commented that he has no agenda or axe to grind or personal feelings one way or another toward any of the Board members. He has a history of budgeting (being on the budgeting committee of Wayland) and understands taxation, zoning, planning and the principles of local government. He doesn't think he has any negatives. He doesn't have any problems with what the township has done. He is looking forward to moving forward commenting that the Veteran's Memorial will be a nice added feature. He feels that it was wise to split from Thornapple Township. Genter commented that outside of that particular service (Fire), our township doesn't offer any other type of service, such as police service.

He's watched Caledonia and Middleville and how they are growing and this township is growing too, according to Genter. Genter feels it is important that the township stays in front of it. He thinks it is good to be progressive and planning for the future. "The Planning Commission has a very big role with what happens in a township," commented Genter. "I look forward from a township trustee position to work with those people."

#3) Regarding having relatives on twp. committees or boards: Genter commented that there is only one other Genter in the township, and he doesn't serve on any other boards.

#4) Genter commented that he would absolutely be willing to serve. "If you're elected to a position, you should represent it and attend the meetings and if you know that you can't, then you should resign and move on," commented Genter. Genter noted that he owns a home in Florida and will commute back and forth as needed. He would attend the meetings.

#5) Regarding Planning & Zoning: Genter commented that both functions are very important. Genter noted, "The word variance always comes up and its always struck me as odd. What is a variance in the fact that you are altering your zoning to accommodate somebody. I don't think variances should be given out lightly. You have a zoning map, a future plan and you should stick to it."

**First Interviewee:  
(of the evening)  
Robert Genter**

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**Closing comments:** R. Genter didn't have any comments as he knew the board had other interviews to conduct this evening.

**Break at 7:11 p.m.**

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**Second Interviewee this evening: Donald H. Berry's responses to questions:**

#1/2) D. Berry desires to give back to the community through his past volunteer work in Red Cross and now through Hope Network. He would like to give back to the community that he has lived in for 40 plus years. Berry feels it is important to maintain a safe environment for all of the YS residents including police, fire, water, sewer, and roads. Berry referred to the wish list on the board and would like to prioritize it and make sure critical things are done. Berry feels some of the responsibilities of a Trustee are to attend the meetings, be present, be active, and pro-active, vote on the issues, not on personal ideas. Also Berry feels a Trustee should be informed of current issues, local, state, federal that affect our community and keep the community informed of these issues that come up. He has many years in business and accounting experience and supervision. He's worked in retail, was the Treasurer of Middleville for several years, and worked for the fire department in Middleville. He considers himself very well-organized.

#3) No. (Regarding having relatives on any twp. boards or committees).

#4) He has no problem with time commitment. He is retired and has one day a week that he works part time.

#5) Regarding Local Planning and Zoning: Berry admitted that he has not been involved that much in it. He feels the township needs to keep an eye on 179 corridor so it doesn't get out of hand and there is also a need to attract some business. Overall planning and zoning has been going quite well, according to Berry. Berry feels it's a good mix. Housing seems to be an upshoot right now. Berry wants to be careful with 179 as not to get a 28<sup>th</sup> street atmosphere there.

**Comments by D. Berry:** Berry commented that he hasn't been to a lot of board meetings. His kids have grown and now he has some grandkids. In observing, Berry felt the meetings need a little tightening up, because "they seem to get a little led astray". "Not saying that you're not doing a good job, they just seem to get off to other issues," commented Berry. Berry noted that they set time limits on a board that he was on a while ago, and that seemed to work well. Berry commented that he would appreciate the opportunity to serve. Mr. Berry commented that the township could keep his application on record.

**Recess at 7:30 p.m.**

**Second Interviewee:  
(of the evening – Don  
Berry) 7:30 p.m.**

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**Clifford G. Bush, third and final interviewee of the evening:**

#1/#2) –C. Bush felt he could just be a fresh set of eyes on things that the Board deals with. Bush feels the township is going in the right direction with a lot of things they are doing. Bush commented that he has experience in problem solving and can bring another approach with conflict resolution.

#3) – (Regarding having relatives involved with boards or committees, etc., of the Township), Bush commented that his wife is involved with Barry County Community Foundation and another foundation, but sees no conflict.

#4) – Regarding time commitment, Mr. Bush commented that he was retired. He is open to the time commitment of being a Trustee. He has the time and the willingness to do it, according to C. Bush. Bush referred back to going back to school after 30 some years as being very intimidating, but he learned time management and using his resources from 18 to 22 year olds – more so than from the professors that were his age.

#5) –Regarding Planning & Zoning, Bush commented, “As long as it is all done with the respect to the fact that all the residents in the township are represented in the correct way, it is good. As far as do I know what we have set up for planning or anything, I’m not on board with that. Zoning things, I know that there is a little problem with that according to the paper. Again, I’m not very knowledgeable on that at the moment...I think what’s in the best interest of both the township and its residents is what is required in all of it. It’s a slippery slope and a fine line on it and as you guys realize with almost every decision you make, probably somebody is not going to be happy with it and others will be more happy... So you keep looking for the best interest of everybody involved.”

**Final Comments by Cliff Bush:** “I like what has been happening with the Veteran’s Memorial and the Fire Department being good for the area. I just would like an opportunity to contribute. I know the township has had some rough patches. I’m not here to say I’m here to correct it or I want to be a part of, or I’m here to clean it up. I am just here to say I want to contribute. This is a good board. That is why things have changed to bring things of change. And hopefully I can bring one of the things of change.”

This Interview ended at 8:00 p.m. (third and final interview).

**\*M. Englerth commented that a notification would be given to candidates on Thursday, after the 7 p.m. meeting.**

**Clifford G. Bush,**  
Third and final  
interviewee of the  
evening

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Lippert with support from VandenBerg to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Approved by all.  
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:  
Deb Mousseau  
Recording Secretary 12.5.17

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved :January 11, 2018

Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

**ADJOURNMENT**

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