

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Special Meeting  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2012**  
**Yankee Springs Township Hall**  
**284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333**

Circulated  
**FINAL MINUTES**  
 Approved Dec. 13, 2012  
 As Presented

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Roll Call: Board of Trustees:** Jerkatis, J. Lippert, Englerth, M. Cook, Campbell.  
(All Present).

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PLEDGE**

**Staff Present:** S. Marcukaitis, F. Fiala, R. Lippert- Zoning Administrator, J. Orr – Constable.

**Visitors:** (8) (Not including staff present).

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

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M. Englerth, New Supervisor, thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting and getting involved in the township. Englerth remarked that this meeting was to set a strategy for the coming year. This meeting was an opportunity for board members to speak of what they'd like to get done. Englerth felt that it may look like a work session, but it is important for the board to work towards a common vision.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Sandy Marcukaitis** wished the new board luck and hoped that they would go forth with a positive attitude.

**Shane VandenBerg** commented that he was pleased to see the new board members in office and has the utmost confidence in the new supervisor.

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Bruce Campbell**, newly elected board member, owns Sand Bar Pub & Grill. He worked as an engineer at Herman Miller for 20 years. B. Campbell didn't want to go back to the corporate world, so he opened a business. His motto is: "There is always room for continuous improvement." One of his goals is not to talk about something month after month. He will approach his work on the board with a business-like attitude.

**Bruce Campbell, Trustee**

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (Cont'd)**

**Mary Cook** has been a Yankee Springs Township trustee for the last 20 years. M. Cook has held various positions of employment. She currently works for the Commission on Aging in Hastings. M. Cook would like to see unity happen within the township, in a supportive manner.

**Mary Cook, Trustee**

**John Jerkatis, Treasurer**, has lived in the area from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade on up. His family retreated to Yankee Springs from Chicago. This gave him an appreciation of the beauty and wealth of recreation in the area. J. Jerkatis has been at Barlow Lake since 1977. He strives to equally represent all residents and business owners within the township. He feels diversity is good because it relieves the township opinion that this board is just a “rubber stamp”. J. Jerkatis began his involvement with township government in 1979. He was on the ZBA for 21 years, and has been the Treasurer since 2000.

**John Jerkatis, Treasurer**

**Jan Lippert, Clerk**, has served as clerk for 14 years. J. Lippert moved to the township 21 years ago. She took care of her father during his illness, and worked part-time at the Henika Library. J. Lippert feels that she is here to serve the people of the township. Yankee Springs is very unique with its lakes and state land. Her goal is to improve the township. She also commented that she sees the Planning Commission in a screening function for the township board.

**Jan Lippert, Clerk**

**Mark Englerth, Supervisor** is 57 years old and lives on Edwin Drive. He has been married 18 years to his wife, Janet and has three daughters. Reflecting back, he would recommend going door to door and communicating with the residents of the township. It has been a valuable experience for him. Englerth also mentioned his father who was a survivor of polio. Even though he was severely crippled by the disease, he went to work every day. M. Englerth feels that commitment in government is not a spectator sport. He would like to encourage others to get others, such as neighbors, involved as well. M. Englerth commented that we all have the ability to make a difference in our community. He remarked that this level (township government) has more importance in getting things done than higher levels (of government).

**Mark Englerth,  
Supervisor**

**STRATEGY DISCUSSION:**

Unity, Diversity, and Commitment, were written on the whiteboard to begin the discussion.

**Facilities:**

Jerkatis commented that he would like to see work done on the east wall of the township hall. Jerkatis feels that it needs re-enforcement structurally on the outside. Also, air conditioning is another concern.

**STRATEGY DISCUSSION (Cont'd)**

**Recycling:**

Jerkatis mentioned that he gets the most amounts of compliments on the township's recycling service. However, the cost is very out of whack. The cost last year for this service was \$27,000.

J. Lippert commented that the recycling contract was renewed on a yearly basis. J. Lippert added that she is for home-recycling and asked Frank Fiala the status of county wide recycling.

Frank Fiala commented that there are seven or eight recycling facilities in the county right now. He thinks that the county will be coming out with recommendations in about four to five months on recycling. Fiala commented that everyone wants to recycle, but "Who's going to pay for it?"- is the big question.

M. Cook added that YS probably puts out more funds than anyone in the county on recycling. M. Cook feels that we are taking the weight off of other municipalities in Barry County on recycling, and bearing the weight on us (YS Twp.).

**Policy & Procedures:**

Jerkatis mentioned that there are lots of boards and committees, as well as deputy positions in the township, but the township doesn't have an operations policy manual. The first item to be undertaken is how to get something into the policy manual, suggested Jerkatis.

J. Lippert commented that a template for this manual is available through the MTA.

M. Cook added that in former years, if an issue hadn't reached the clerk one week before the scheduled board meeting, it wasn't on the agenda. Otherwise, a board member doesn't get enough time to be on top of it.

J. Lippert commented that when the board passes a resolution, it is setting a policy.

M. Englerth added that if a board member hears something, it should be shared with other boards and board members so that they are aware of the issue as well.

J. Lippert commented that there was a suggestion box at the township office.

Englerth added that maybe the website could be used for suggestions as well.

In regards to the YS Twp. website, Englerth said that community comments the website is not user-friendly. He added that continuous improvement is when you review all these things. Englerth thinks the board should review it every six months or so.

Campbell added that he has used the website recently and felt that it worked rather well.

**STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

**Unity, Diversity, and Commitment**

**Facilities**

**Recycling**

**Policy & Procedures**

**Agenda items 7 days Before Meeting**

**Resolutions / are Policies**

Website not user-friendly

Review goals every six months

**STRATEGY DISCUSSION continued:**

**Environmental:**

Englerth mentioned that the township has discussed fracking. Other environmental concerns is the contamination at the State Park, a contaminated aquifer in #19, swans (mute), fertilizer, and testing of abandoned wells by the DEQ. He mentioned that these items would be within the scope of an ad hoc group.

**Collaboration:**

Englerth spoke of working more with the Health Department. The township has a good relationship with the Road Commission. Other entities to work with are: Sheriff’s Department, County Planning and Zoning and the Commission On Aging. Englerth gave an example of collaboration with the Sewer Authority and the cost savings that has occurred.

**Review:**

Bruce Campbell said that he has reviewed most of last year’s minutes and noticed that buoys were mentioned but wasn’t sure of the action taken. J. Lippert commented that the buoys are being stored at the fire station. The buoys were (and are) considered a matter of public safety and they were purchased with the funds received from the Casino. Bob Lippert added, applications for the permits is in process.

Campbell also mentioned the **intent to purchase additional land for the park.** S. Marcukaitis commented that she had requested a letter of intent to the owner of the land adjacent to the park, but action hadn’t been taken. R. Lippert mentioned that he (R. Lippert) and Al McCrumb had been in contact with the owner (property owner of “Harrison’s Marine”, is Tim Mervau.)

Campbell mentioned weed control. It was confirmed that Gun Lake weed control is assessed through the Drain Commission. YS Township acts as a funding mechanism for the weed control of Barlow, Cobb, and Payne Lakes. The residents of these lakes are assessed for weed control through special assessments that the township handles administratively. The weed control applications company is paid by the township. J. Lippert commented that the Engineering Company overseeing the applications is paid through the assessments also.

At this point in the meeting, Englerth requested to take a little break and go back to the audience for their comments. *(No break took place)*

**STRATEGY DISCUSSION continued**

**Environmental**

**Fracking  
State Park contamination**

**Collaboration**

**Review**

**Buoys**

**Goals 2013**

- **YANKEE SRINGS TWP. Park Additional land purchase**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Cathy Strickland**, of the Planning Commission, would like to find a way to make the township hall available for rental. C. Strickland also mentioned that she would like to see community events in Yankee Springs Township such as concerts in the park and parades. She mentioned the community events of Orangeville. In the area of improving health and welfare, Strickland mentioned making the township more walk-able and jog-able. She mentioned that there is no shoulder on Briggs. Possibly a grant could be obtained for this.

**Paul Heystek**, has been obtaining information on the M-179 Corridor- Heritage Trail Recreational Route project. The project manager is Tom Doyle. The proposed route is from 131 on M-179 all the way into Hastings. T. Doyle has stated that a committee needs to be formed for this project. If a committee isn't formed, the township would lose the project grant possibility. There are only five recreational trails in the state and we (YS) are one of them.

Englerth spoke of a small group working on the sign for the community gateway, and possibly collaborating with MDOT and the Trail Grant. Englerth thinks a presentation will be made on the gateway sign project within a short period of time.

**Vivian Conner, Orangeville Resident** mentioned that it is the half-way time period between the opening of the state park again and the state park is contaminated. Englerth mentioned that he feels this situation is important to be using gentle, but firm pressure without being adversarial. It was confirmed that the restrooms at the park are closed.

B. Campbell asked if there was a time frame for re-opening the park. No re-opening time has been given.

**Greg Purcell**, of the Planning Commission commented that he applauds Englerth on holding this meeting to have a good foundation. G. Purcell mentioned that it was going to take time to put into a framework (or categories) the items mentioned this evening and in future meetings. Purcell suggested a format highlighting Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT Analysis). **Bob Lippert** entered this onto the "hand written board information". Purcell emphasized the importance of getting to the E-coli problem. Purcell also mentioned that the township had not been selected for an image building grant.

**Frank Fiala**, Chair of the Planning Commission remarked that he found tonight's strategy planning encouraging. He also mentioned that a meeting will be held for the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees on December 20, 2012. He mentioned moving in the direction of economic involvement and being user friendly.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Cathy Strickland**

- Township Hall Rental
- Community events in YS.
- More Walkable/Joggable along roadways.

**Paul Heystek**

- Heritage Recreational Trail Route Project

**Vivian Conner**

- St. Park/Contamination

**Greg Purcell**

- SWOT format

**Frank Fiala**

- Meeting of Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

Another item mentioned for a project is a Veteran's Memorial. J. Lippert mentioned that the GL Women's Club is willing to help with this project with the possibility of an area at the Township Park could be considered.

**MTA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE – JAN. 21-25<sup>TH</sup>-**

The following people plan on attending: Alice Jansma, Mark Englerth, Bob & Jan Lippert. Early bird registration deadline is Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by J. Lippert with support from M. Cook to allow up to a \$1000 per person to attend the MTA Educational Conference in January 2013. This amount includes lodging, registration, mileage, etc. ROLL CALL: Jerkatis: yes, J. Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, M. Cook: yes, Campbell: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by M. Cook with support from Jerkatis to allow \$229 per person to attend the New Officer's Meeting/seminar in Kalamazoo on December 19, 2012. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jerkatis with support from J. Lippert to adjourn meeting at 8:42 p.m. Approved by all. MOTION CARRIED.

Final Approval of Minutes: Dec. 13, 2012

12-6-12

**Veteran's Memorial**

**MTA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE – JAN. 21-25<sup>TH</sup>-**

Motion to allow up to \$1000 per person to attend the Jan. 2013 MTA Educ. Conference. Motion Carried.

Motion to allow \$229 per person to attend New Officer's Meeting in K-zoo on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Page 6 of 6  
YST Spec. Mtg.  
12-6-12