January 28th 2003
Rockford Township
Regular Meeting

The January 28th 2003 regular Town meeting took place at the Rockford Town Hall. Members present were Beise, McDougall, Wetter, Kelley and Walker. The Pledge to the Flag was recited and the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The Chair asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The Clerk added Highway 55 Coalition dues, and a Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission request notice for an item 500 ft from Township property. The Chair made those items number 8 and 9 on the agenda. With those changes the agenda was adopted. The minutes from the January 14th 2003 meeting were distributed to all Board members prior to the meeting for review. Supervisor Kelley had some changes to the minutes they were as follows: page 1 – Mr. Young informed the Board that is a 429 cannot be met, ~~bonding~~ borrowing was another choice of funding for the project. Page 2 – Under continued items: Supervisor Kelley suggested having a meeting with a John Deere representative. Page 2 – Under Supervisors, Pam: Thought ~~the man~~ that Ewald Petersen from Big Lake Township could speak to the Board some time. Page 2 – Under Supervisors, Matt: Matt added to the Hanover conversation that ~~they~~ Hanover seemed confused about the Policy and that the letter is a good idea. Motion by Wetter second Kelley to accept the January 14th 2003 minutes with the corrections. All voting in favor, opposed none, motion carried.

Continued Items: Grader replacement decision: The Board discussed the differences between John Deere and CAT Graders. Some of the Supervisors had called or visited other Government entities regarding the use of their Graders, which were either John Deere or CAT. The responses received from the other entities ranged from not ever going back to John Deere, only using CAT Graders, to John Deere does the job. Some entities had John Deere Graders because that government body always goes with the "low bid", but the equipment was running good. Other government bodies had CAT Graders because they never had a problem with the warranty; they hold their value for resale/trade in, difference in the cab and visibility. Supervisor Walker wanted to know if the Township was going to keep the new Grader, or go to the 5-year buy back plan. He felt if the Township was going to keep the Grader for 20+ years, the CAT would be better, but if the Township was going to enter into a 5+ year buy back John Deere would be the better choice, for the difference of $30,000. Supervisor Beise felt the Township would keep the equipment for 20+ years due to the fact the 1979 Grader had no major problems. Beise felt the 5-year buy back was not the best program in that the savings was not really there. The new CAT Grader has a new engine and was more fuel-efficient. Supervisor Wetter felt the trade-in value was a wash between the two Graders. Supervisor Wetter also said he talked with Wright County which has John Deere Graders, and they have not had a lot of problems, they do go with the "low bid". Supervisor McDougall felt a CAT Grader would be best because the Township has a Crew that takes good care of the Township's equipment, and also after discussing Graders with other entities, quality, value and longevity was always mentioned. The Crew felt with the John Deere and CAT Graders both side by side in the parking lot, the visibility in the cab was better in the CAT Grader, and that he was used to operating a CAT. Motion by

McDougall second Kelley to accept the state bid for a CAT Motor Grader (rental return) for $150,300 along with these reasons: CAT has proven performance history, heavier construction, parts availability and service, safety reasons visibility, operator controls, power, and more reasons on a list in which Supervisor McDougall will give to the Clerk. Voting in favor Beise, McDougall, Walker and Kelley, opposed Wetter, motion carried. Supervisor Wetter's reason for voting against the motion was he felt the Township was moving forward with tarring roads this year which is very costly.

New Agenda Items: Dale Johnson and Dave Perry were present to request from the Board rezoning of Mr. Johnson's property from Ag to Residential Large Lot. The Board informed Mr. Johnson and Mr. Perry that it was not in the Land Use Plan, and that the County would probably not approve without the Township's okay. The Board did let Mr. Johnson and Mr. Perry know that the Land Use Plan was being looked at by a committee of residents, and that maybe at the Annual Meeting the residents will vote to re-open the Land Plan, and the County will let the Township open it back up for changes.

Thomas Balanger was present to show plans for a PUD called Trumpeters Pass. The Plan shows 6-lots with open land for a park. The Township gave Mr. Balanger preliminary approval back in May 2002. Motion by Wetter second McDougall to approve and allow Mr. Balanger to move forward with the plans for the PUD due to the fact he has full filled the requirements on the road in the PUD to follow through to the next property, and has followed all County requirements. All voting in favor, opposed none motion carried. The Board reminded Mr. Balanger about the 9-ton blacktopping standards the Township has, and that Mr. Balanger will use the Township's engineer for the road, at his cost.

The Clerk informed the Board that the 2003 membership dues of $500 for the highway 55 Corridor Coalition were due, and did the Board still want to participate. Motion by Kelley second Walker to pay the $500 dues to support the Coalition. All voting in favor, opposed none, motion carried. Supervisor Wetter commented that he voted for it out of obligation, and felt the Township got "sucked" into something in which the cause of the increased traffic is from the City, and that the project has tied up property owners along Highway 55.

No action taken on the Planning & Zoning notice about item 500 ft from Township property. Supervisor Wetter informed the Board that it fits Franklin Township's Land Plan.

No Public Comments.

<u>Supervisors</u>

Karen: Informed the Board that there may be a speaker for the Land Plan Committee. Supervisor McDougall had to confirm with the date with the speaker and would let the Clerk know for posting purposes. May attend a hearing for the MPCA 2/10/03.

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Supervisors

Leander: Nothing to report at this time.

Matt: Inquired about the Gabler project, and if the Board was still going to make it a project for this year. Beise and Wetter would try to get some kind of quotes.

Pam: Talked about the mailbox vandalizing case that was solved within the Township. Shared with the Board information about the Legal Seminar she attended. Supervisor Kelley felt that this seminar was the best one she has attended.

Dennis: Nothing to report.

Clerk: Nothing to report at this time.

Motion by Wetter second McDougall to approve payments from 1/15/03 through 1/31/03 totaling $11,764.92 paid by checks #10982 through #11005. All voting in favor, opposed none, motion carried.

All agenda items being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Dennis Beise
Chair

Lori Bohall
Clerk