

**DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MINUTES: January 21st, 2008**

The Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeffrey R. Dexter, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Roll Call: Jeffrey R. Dexter, Charles Grady, Arthur Freiermuth, Ed Lagarenne, Jeffrey M. Finlay, Ernest C. Matern, Martin Kunstman, and Howard Schuchman.

Open Floor: Bob Gross asked about dues for the Council Of Governments. Jeff Dexter answered that the dues are collected as part of the UCC Building Permit fees, and are set aside. The Dues for this year are collected at 10%; however, the fee had been waived for this year. [the figure had been 15% ,in previous years] the COG will be correcting the error on the billing rate - by the company, and the line item will be dropped from the bills, by the C.O.G. Mr. Beck asked what the payment to the C.O.G. would be. Chairman Dexter said \$4,000.00, but that he did not believe that the payment had been made yet. When further quires were made by Mr. Beck, Chairman Dexter said that he would inquire about the amount of money paid to the C.O.G. in the past. Mr. Beck had several questions about whether or not the C.O.G. had authority to “impose a fee (via the building permits), when other avenues, including Grants were also mentioned as ways to “fund” the C.O.G. Mr. Beck had further discussion with Chairman Dexter, about the Chairman’s recollections of a meeting with PENDoT officials on September 18th, 2007. Chairman Dexter recalled that the meeting was an administrative one, and that the notes taken by the Secretary, ere not Minutes, but notes for him- since he was unable to attend the meeting. After further discussion with Mr. Beck, Chairman Dexter, once again said that he did not call Mr. Kimble, and that he had read the Secretary’s notes for him, and then threw them away. Chairman Dexter said that he had no recollection of ever meeting Mr. Kimble, or making any call to him.

There was a question about the Employees Manual, raised by Bill Gager- as to when the Manual was written. Chairman Dexter replied that the Manual had been re-written over the summer, and that the “whole Manual” was therefore available for approval.

Action Items: [1.] To review and taken action on the Minutes of December 17th, 2007; Art Freiermuth made the motion to approve the Minutes of December 17th, 2007, which was seconded by Charles Grady. Chairman Dexter called for a vote, and the vote was unanimous to approve the December 17th, 2007 Minutes. [2.] Chairman Dexter asked for a motion to review and accept on the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting on January 7th, 2008. Art Freiermuth made the motion to accept the Minutes of the Organization Meeting Minutes of January 7th, 2008; and Charles Grady seconded the motion. Chairman Dexter called for a vote. The vote was unanimous to accept the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of January 7th, 2008. [3.] Art Freiermuth made a motion to pay the expenses incurred during the previous moth. The motion was seconded by Charles Grady. Chairman Dexter called for a vote, and the motion was passed unanimously. [4.] Art Freiermuth made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Charles Grady. Chairman Dexter called for a vote; and the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report passed unanimously.

Under Unfinished Business, Chairman Dexter spoke about a letter, dated December 12th, 2007, written to the Damascus Township Planning Commission, from Bob Dexter. Chairman Dexter read the letter of resignation, stating that there was no way to pay for the 20 years of Mr. Bob Dexter’s commitment and level of expertise on the Planning Commission. There was spontaneous applause- honoring Mr. Bob Dexter. Chairman Dexter discussed supervision of the Roads Department, stating the Art Freiermuth would continue to volunteer and supervise the south side of the Township, and the Chuck Grady would be employed as a Foreman, by the Township, and supervises the north side of the Township. Mr. Gager, referring to comments by Mr. Gross, stated that while he was Road Master – Mr. Gross said that Road Masters/Supervisors should not be reporting to themselves. Chairman Dexter clarified that the Foreman would report to the Supervisors; Mr. Gross reiterated his position....that no matter what title is used, the

Unfinished Business, continued.

Supervisors are responsible for the Roads, period. Chairman Dexter asked for a motion- that Art Freiermuth would supervise the South side and Charles [Chick] Grady, as Foreman would supervise the North side of the Township. Art Freiermuth made the motion and it was seconded by Charles Grady. Chairman Dexter asked for a vote, the motion passed unanimously. There was vigorous discussion by Bill Gager, Mike DeVrieze, et al. that by making Charles [Chuck] Grady a Foreman, he was an employee of the Township, he had to have a CDL License. Chairman Dexter responded; "... that Foreman did not have to hold a CDL License." The Chairman then said he would discuss the issue the Mike. Chairman Dexter then moved on to the need to have a Chairman for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Art Freiermuth nominated Charles [Chuck] Grady to the position; Jeffrey Dexter seconded the nomination. Chairman Dexter called for a vote and the nomination of Charles [Chuck] Grady passed unanimously. Next was the issue of the salary for the Zoning Officer. Art Freiermuth made the motion that the salary of the Zoning Officer should be \$16.00 per hour. Charles [Chuck] Grady seconded the motion; and Chairman Dexter called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously to adjust the salary of the Zoning Officer to \$16.00 per hour. Chairman Dexter announced that a position for an Office Cleaner would be advertised at \$10.00 per hour. The Chairman said that the position on the Planning Commission- a vacancy was pending. The Planning Commission would be taking up the matter. Chairman Dexter asked for a motion to accept the Employees Manual. Art Freiermuth made the motion and Charles [Chuck] Grady seconded the motion. Chairman Dexter called for a vote and the motion was passed unanimously. Chairman Dexter requested that Damascus Township remain with the Northern Wayne Council Of Governments. After Art Freiermuth was assured that there was no fee involved this year, he made a motion that the Township retains membership in the Northern Wayne C.O.G. for another year. This motion was seconded by Charles [Chuck] Grady; and the vote was unanimous to stay in the Northern Wayne C.O.G. for another year.

Reports:

- • Please see report- Zoning and Building Officer: appended to these Minutes.
- • Planning Commission had one map to recommend for approval; The Maguire subdivision was reworked to include a 50' right of way. Art Freiermuth made a motion to accept the Maguire subdivision, with the changes made. The motion was seconded by Charles [Chuck] Grady. A vote was called by Chairman Dexter and the motion passed unanimously.
- • Marty Kunstman reported that work on the MMCP was continuing at the Planning Commission work nights; Reviews have been completed, and comments made by Commission members. Copies will be distributed by Carson Helfrich, to the other Townships. Chairman Dexter said he would get information on the amount of money paid out to Carson from the other townships, etc.
- • There were no open matters at Zoning Hearing Board.
- • The Food Pantry is going well.
- • Recycling Center is doing well. All bins were pretty well filled.
- • Jeffrey M. Finlay reported that he'd had meeting with Wayne Delaware Manor and the Damascus School regarding emergency preparedness, operations plans, and evacuations, and his Grant request with help from Senator Lisa Baker's office.
- • Parks and Recreations- Chuck Grady reported that he will be measuring and planning for the Soccer field after the snows melt. The local Boy Scout troop will be scheduling a clean up day for the Damascus Forest, probably in May.

New Business:

- • Chairman Dexter announced that a Grant for \$25,000.00 had been prepared to help with the costs of work needed on the Township building.
- • A \$5,000.00 Grant has been awarded to Damascus Township for additional Playground Equipment.

New Business continued.

- • A motion to accept the Damascus Township Fee Schedule- Resolution #2008-1, was made by Art Freiermuth and seconded by Charles [Chuck] Grady. A vote was called by Chairman Dexter, and the motion to accept the new fee Schedule passed, Resolution # 2008-1 passed unanimously. Ed Lagarenne explained that a \$10,000.00 fee per well [on the Gas Companies] for recovery of professional fees.
- • There will be a Blood Drive on Wednesday January 23rd, 2008. Noon to 6:00 PM.
- • Chairman Dexter has announced that the Township will need a Northern Damascus Township Coordinator for the Great PA Clean Up program.

Open Floor: second segment

- Bob Gross asked if anyone has information about the Clean and Green Program; Mr. Gross found, among other things that there are some discrepancies in the taxable amounts for tax payers, from landowner to landowner. Damascus Township had 373+ Million dollars in taxable lands; however that number dropped 19 Million dollars. Mr. Gross wanted to know how would the Township make that amount up? Conversation ensued between Mr. Gross and Ernie Matern about how the statistics were created.
- There was vigorous discussion on how to set up Home Rule within the Township.
- Chairman Dexter will look into posting the Agenda on the Website.
- Bill Gager had questions about raising the pay scale for the Roads Department. Howard Schuchman has available the salary comparisons for the pay scales in the surrounding areas.
- Mr. Beck explained his thoughts on the significance of the September 18th, 2007 meeting with PENDING; John Bonham; and C.O.G. ; and his conversations with the District Attorney's office.
- Tom Kane asked how items are put on the Agenda.
- Cell Towers: Cellular One is pending a request for a Cell Tower. A meeting to determine the Cell Tower application will be had shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on a motion made by Art Freiermuth and seconded by Charles [Chuck] Grady.

These Minutes are submitted by: Karyle A. Woods and Patricia Freiermuth. _____

Signed By:

Jeffrey R. Dexter, Chairman

Charles [Chuck] Grady, Vice Chairman

Arthur Freiermuth, Supervisor