

Holly Township
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Minutes of April 21, 2009

Call to Order: Supervisor Jesse Lambert called the April 21, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Holly Township Board of Trustees to order at or about 6:00 p.m. at the Holly Township Hall, 102 Civic Drive, Holly, Michigan, 48442.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

Jesse Lambert, Supervisor
Karin Winchester, Clerk
Mark Freeman, Treasurer
Janet Leslie, Trustee
Steve Ruth, Trustee

Others Present:

Jackie Campbell
Pastor Jim Disbrow
Kathy Disbrow
Joe Guinn

Others Present:

Bryn Heinberger
Lindy Helm
Marsha Powers, Holly Village Manager
William Kuyk, Holly Village Council
Chief Gackstetter, Holly Village Police Department
Peter Clemens, Holly Village President
Lloyd Kernen
Larry Lilly
Mark McHalpine
Judith Robinson, Lighthouse
Carrie Smith

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – March 09, 2009
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2009
3. Acceptance of Financial Statements – March 2009
4. Approval of Bills for Payment – March 2009
5. Routine Reports:
 - A. N.O.C.F.A. Draft Minutes – March 16, 2009
 - B. Planning Commission Draft Minutes – March 9, 2009
 - C. Building Permits – March 2009
 - D. Treasurers Report – Quarter Ending 03-31-09
6. Communications: None
7. Set Public Hearing at 6:15 P.M. or as soon as possible thereafter: Budget Hearing on 2009-2010 Holly Township Proposed Budget and for the Annual Redetermination Confirming Special Assessment District for the purpose of fire and emergency service and supporting milages.

Trustee Janet Leslie recommended moving Public Comment to just after Consent Agenda and before Reports.

Supervisor Jesse Lambert stated he would like to move items 3 and 10 to the top of New Business. One is the Planning Commission appointment, the other is the NSP bid process.

Trustee Steve Ruth indicated he had a question regarding the meeting minutes of March 31, 2009.

Trustee Leslie stated she would like to add an item under New Business, number 13, the creation of a committee of board members to write a police services survey.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. Trustee Janet Leslie supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

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Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – March 31, 2009

Trustee Ruth stated on Page 6 of 6 of the March 31, 2009 meeting minutes the Board moved to deny the mailing of any kind of survey with the July tax bills. He believes the meeting minutes were taken correctly but wanted the Board's consensus that the Board specifically voted on not mailing a survey with the July tax bills.

Supervisor Lambert noted that is what is in the minutes and that is what he recalls happened at the meeting.

Clerk Winchester stated that is what the Board was voting on.

Treasurer Mark Freeman stated, as Trustee Ruth said, the Board voted against the mailing of any kind of a survey with the July tax bills and took no action on any other issues that are related to the overall issue of police services.

Trustee Ruth indicated he wanted verification because a few days later Holly Village President Peter Clemens commented in Trustee Leslie's Post that the Board "voted to end any further discussion or fact-finding concerning the much wanted police protection issue", which is not even close to voting on not having a mailing. He wanted to make sure the minutes were correct and whether Mr. Clemens was misinformed.

Trustee Leslie stated Peter Clemens was at the meeting. He wasn't misinformed; it's just a matter of perspective.

Trustee Ruth noted for the Village President to say something totally misleading and absolutely wrong is another way to set up a wall between the Township and the Village. He indicated it was inappropriate.

Supervisor Lambert indicated he agreed with Trustee Ruth. Sometimes we get angry, write something, and then wish we didn't. An item on tonight's agenda will take steps towards making sure issues like this don't continue to build a wall on Civic Drive that we'll be firing artillery over. He would like to see the Village and the Township both cooperate. What happens to one affects the other.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2009. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

New Business:

1. Planning Commissioner Appointment

Supervisor Lambert indicated he went through the procedure to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of longstanding Planning Commission member, Mr. William Angus. Ten resumes were reviewed. He chose three of them and conducted interviews. He would highly recommend Mr. Lloyd Kernen for appointment to the Planning Commission. Mr. Kernen is very professional, down to earth and very objective. Supervisor Lambert introduced Mr. Kernen and invited questions.

Trustee Leslie asked Mr. Kernen about his professional background.

Mr. Lloyd Kernen, 5286 East Holly Road, stated his education was basically in economics. He has been involved in the field of economics, as well as finance and owned two businesses. He owned a furniture store for 15 years and is involved in building homes. He's lived in the township most of his adult life, for 24 years, graduating from Holly High School. He's been before the Planning Commission in the past, saw there was a vacancy and wanted to see what he could do to help out.

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- **Trustee Steve Ruth moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Lloyd Kernan to the Holly Township Planning Commission. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ruth: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Lambert: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Winchester: Yes. The motion carried with a 5/0 vote.**

2. NSP Administrative Bids

Supervisor Lambert indicated the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) involves federal monies being passed down for very specific uses. Holly Township received about \$427,000.00. A decision was made to hire an administrator for the program. After a very extensive bid and evaluation process, the Township chose the firm of Lighthouse. He invited Ms. Judith Robinson from Lighthouse to comment.

Ms. Judith Robinson, Executive Director of Lighthouse Community Development, stated they are a nonprofit community housing development corporation located in the City of Pontiac. They have constructed and sold 70 single family units in a neighborhood in Pontiac called Community Park. In addition, they have facilitated another 25 units of owner occupied rehab and facilitated another 125 units of owner occupied rehab dollars to revitalize an entire neighborhood. They have an extensive counseling staff and provide counseling that ranges from home buyer training, financial fitness and, in these times, an extensive amount of foreclosure mitigation services. They are partnering with Caldwell Banker Schweitzer and with Peterson Company to provide a full scope of services to address Holly Township's NSP strategy.

They would start with a full review and property analysis and provide the best strategy to use NSP dollars for the maximum impact. They are designated as a community housing development organization through Oakland County and also the State of Michigan. They also have access to additional funds they could bring to bear to leverage those NSP dollars.

Trustee Leslie indicated she wanted to clarify that the Township would not be contracting for the consumer housing counseling, and that the Township was only contracting to administer the NSP funds.

Supervisor Lambert stated the Township was contracting to administer NSP funds. He noted the item on the agenda was to negotiate a contract with Lighthouse.

Clerk Winchester noted the counseling is free for Oakland County. Lighthouse can provide consumer housing counseling if the Township chooses to do that. She doesn't believe the Township would want to do that because it is free and would be using up money that would otherwise go to the NSP program.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to begin contract negotiations with Lighthouse regarding the Township's NSP program. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Winchester: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Lambert: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

Public Comment:

Mr. Mark McHalpine, 537 Riviera Shores, stated though he is on the North Oakland County Fire Authority (N.O.C.F.A.), he is not making his comments as a member of N.O.C.F.A. However, as a member of N.O.C.F.A., he bumps into a lot of people in the jurisdictions N.O.C.F.A. deals with. Most people he speaks to who live out in the township moved to the township to escape traffic, high taxes, crime, congestion, et cetera. That's why he moved out here. We have a lot of sniping in the paper and negative comments towards our Township. That's why he came to the meeting tonight.

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Supervisor Lambert is working towards cooperation and Mr. McHalpine commends him for it; he's trying. It seems like any time we take a step forward, we get smacked in the butt for it. There are comments in the paper by Village officials that are absolutely asinine and ridiculous. He hates for the Township to be apologetic for statements made by Village officials. We shouldn't be apologizing for what Pete Clemens says in the paper; it's up to Mr. Clemens to do that.

We are supposed to be one community but it seems one wants to always take over the other. Why does the Township always seem to be bowing over to the Village? His concern is he doesn't want his taxes going up needlessly. In the past there were 425s for the school, the water tower and for a water plant where the Township gave up property to the Village. It seems the Township is always making concessions for the better of the community but the Village doesn't reciprocate in any way. The Township asked for a 425 to get the Township Park back into Township property. That was wholeheartedly rejected by the Village. They have no reason to keep the park except they don't want to give it back to the Township. Those are just a couple of examples of things that have happened in the past.

Fire protection: The Village didn't have full control of the N.O.C.F.A. Board when they were on it so they got out of it. The excuse was cost. They are now paying more than ever for fire protection. When they backed out, Township costs went up. Did we complain like Village politicians do? No. We paid more money. It put more burdens on Holly and Rose Townships and their residents so we pay it. We pay it out of our taxes.

When the Village realized they couldn't do it cheaper, instead of approaching N.O.C.F.A. and making everyone else's costs go down, they went to Groveland Township and had Groveland Township's fire department basically run the Village fire department. They could have easily come back to N.O.C.F.A. and made everybody's costs go down; everybody could have had better service and their Advanced Life Support (ALS) would have been closer to the Village. There are always ambulances coming from Groveland Township to cover Holly Village. In a heart attack situation time is of the essence to get drugs in that person. But the Village decided to go with Groveland Township. He's not here to fight for fire protection; he's just saying the politics of this area is crazy. On one hand they say police protection, police protection, but on the other hand they'd rather put their residents' lives in jeopardy if they have a heart attack, stroke, car crash or an accident.

Since new people are on the Board, it seems police service is the main issue. Someone on the Board seems to be spearheading this effort for the Holly Police Department (HPD) to cover Holly Township, or parts of it. This is ridiculous. By far, there are more life and death situations with fire and rescue service than there is with police service; heart attacks, strokes, crashes, slip and falls, sudden illness, et cetera. When was the last time a person was shot and killed or any other life-threatening action where you need the police? It's rare. It's a lot less because it's daily with the fire department; you hear the sirens every day. People's lives are in danger. Yet someone on the Board seems to be using scare tactics to drive their position.

Police protection: Holly Village Police Department's budget for 2008 was \$1,785,184.00. This equals \$714,000.00 per square mile. It is, by far, the most expensive police department in Oakland County, the surrounding villages and cities per capita. If residents in the Village want this and are willing to pay for it, then that is a good thing. There are 2,209 parcels in the village. This equals \$808.00 per building per year for police protection. The police department costs people about 10 mills of the total Village budget.

The Village has basically the same population and building count as the Township and, by far, has a higher crime rate. We pay nothing for police protection and the Village pays a lot. Nothing against the police department, they are good people. You can tell this is all politics as usual, because if the Village is crying about money, then why aren't they

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looking at Oakland County Sheriff's office to cover the Village and cut the cost a third of what it is right now? It's called politics.

Michigan State Police (MSP), which covers Rose and Holly Townships, are called to assist HPD just as many times as HPD goes to the township. MSP may call Holly Police Department for assistance, as does Holly PD calls MSP. Holly Township doesn't call Holly Police Department for calls, the state police do. The griping about police costs to the Township should be directed at the State of Michigan if they want the money. In other words, the State of Michigan is asking for help, not Holly Township.

Further, the Village gets state money to help run the Village. Every resident in the township and the state pays money to the Village, if you look at it that way. So to say the Township doesn't contribute to the Village is ridiculous. Why aren't the Village officials striking out at Rose Township like they do against Holly Township regarding police services? Politics.

A minority of the Riverside Community residents are asking for increased police service at a cost. This seems to be driven by certain people, including a Township official. If the township is so bad and full of crime, why doesn't the person just move to the village; meaning, the Township official? The blog this person runs seems to be full of anti-Township agendas and yet they are a Township official. This doesn't make sense.

There is an issue that will really get the village residents upset. There is a memo from the Village police department that says they can cover the Riverside Community around the Academy Road area for \$75,000.00 per year. There are 714 parcels in Riverside. This equals only \$105.77 per year for every resident in Riverside, while village residents pay \$808.00 per year. Hasn't this issue always been about the Village complaining about cost? Again, this is a political move. It's not a cost-savings or a safety issue. Village officials are at it again.

There are 2,209 parcels in the village and each parcel, on average, pays \$808.00 a year for police service. Why doesn't Riverside pay the same or help lower the cost to the village residents? The true cost, to be fair, should be determined by taking the 2,209 parcels in the village, add the 714 parcels at Riverside, divide the total cost of the police service by this new number, you get \$610.00 per parcel, for a savings to the village residents of almost \$200.00 a year. Why is the village willing to give the cost of police services cheaper to township residents than to its own residents? It makes no sense. It's a land grab at the cost of the village residents.

Mr. William Kuyk stated he is a resident of the township, though he happens to live in a corridor of the village. He is speaking as a private citizen, though he is an elected official for the Village of Holly and chairman of the Public Works Committee. He is a former member of the N.O.C.F.A. Board.

We now have a top-notch fire department, ambulance service and very good training. We're happy for the help, support and cooperation of the Township of Groveland. That kind of support could be and should be the same relationship between the Village and Township of Holly.

The county always puts in a low bid to get people to bite on their services. Usually in the second year the ante goes up and then goes up more the third year and thereafter. Once they have you hooked on their line, they reel you in and you wind up paying more. We have a very good police department. We know our neighborhoods, we know what we're doing, and we take care of our people. There is no animosity here between the Township and the Village.

The Township had a contract with Holly to provide police services for them quite a while back and they failed to pay. They owed like \$59,000.00. There is a problem on the Township side of the fence, not on the Village's side. We have

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offered to try to talk to you folks about what is available to you and what you want and we're still open to do that. However, we don't come out here with our police department because we're trying to raise revenue; we come out because the state police request our presence. There is a state law that makes it mandatory for us to show up.

The Village has asked to be reimbursed for services they provide which they have no control over, and the Township has refused. That doesn't indicate a good neighborly view. As a resident here, and a township person as well, the Village of Holly has the majority population. They cannot keep the township from having the park taken away because the park is part of the township; also, the village is part of the township and represents the majority of the people in the township. The park being where it is is just fine.

Supervisor Lambert noted those are Mr. McHalpine's and Mr. Kuyk's opinions. If you're going to combat each other in a public forum, please do it afterwards and have a little respect for the business procedure here. He respects Mr. McHalpine's opinion, as well as Mr. Kuyk's; he's displeased with the amount of fireworks that are getting shot back and forth, it will just make the situation worse. There are problems and issues on both sides, and pointing the finger back and forth across the street is not going to fix it. There is an item number 12, requesting a joint meeting with the Village, which will put us on our way to fixing that.

Mr. Lilly indicated he's been hearing this for ten years. He goes to Holly Township, Holly Village, Rose Township and N.O.C.F.A. meetings. That's not the way the story went. He was involved with all of that. He's not pointing fingers. The bottom line is we have to utilize our resources here in the Holly community and work for the services of 10,000 residents. We have very knowledgeable, talented, experienced people within the Holly community. He believes in hiring within those 10,000 residents. Everybody is in the Holly community.

What we're doing here now is good. He sees people here from Village Council, that's great. Regardless of what happens, the bottom line is we have to work together. We're not working together. He's heard this time and time again. We have new people on the Holly Township Board of Trustees and we're going in the right direction. He's 100 percent for the police service and for the Village police department to serve the 36 square miles in the township. We have to work with one another and stop this bickering back and forth or it's not going to work. Cityhood will not work, annexation will not work; he's been through it all. So let's stop and work together as one unit, the Holly community.

Ms. Jackie Campbell, 807 Marianne, Village of Holly resident and Township, stated when she hears that everybody is pointing fingers, she's getting a little bit sick and tired of it. Holly was originally called Algerville. Mr. and Mrs. Alger, who created Holly, changed the name because they loved the Holly bush. We were all Township, one government. We had to have a Village to have a school system. The Township graciously at that time gave about 1 mill so we could have a school system. Before we can move forward, we have to go back in the past, find out what failed and bring it to the present to correct the mistakes on both sides.

Bryn Heinberger, 882 Cannon Creek, indicated he has lived in the township about five years. There are different areas in the Township that might have different needs. He lives in a fairly dense area, one of the new subdivisions. Those needs might be a little different than areas with less people. He can only speak for himself. He thinks we do have an issue with police protection. He would like to see increased police protection.

In the past couple summers, almost every other week a house was broke into. Last summer his daughter watched people trying to get into a neighbor's house. They took off running once they noticed they were being watched. He knows his wife doesn't feel that safe when he's gone on a business trip and doesn't sleep very well. He would like to see the police protection issue explored further.

Nobody wants to pay more taxes but he would be willing to pay more for increased police protection. He would like to know there's going to be somebody there within a few minutes. Unfortunately, the Michigan State Police may be a little

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short in help and they might be stretched thin. He doesn't believe he has ever seen a patrol in their neighborhood. He would like the Township and Village to keep talking.

Ms. Carrie Smith, 7019 East Holly Road, stated she attended last month's meeting, as well as the Planning Commission meeting a week ago yesterday. At that time she made a public comment recommending Christian Day Montessori. Her daughter has attended there for the past year. Christian Day Montessori is not necessarily a commercial business. She wonders what the difference is between a day care and a church when they're both not commercial businesses.

Supervisor Lambert noted there are zoning districts in Holly Township; C-1, C-2, light industrial, residential, agricultural, what have you. When you classify a certain area under a certain zoning, you're allowing certain uses.

Clerk Winchester indicated the day care is a permitted special use in the C-2 district and goes to the Planning Commission for approval. She can collect information and send it to Ms. Smith.

Reports:

Supervisor Lambert noted the Township is undergoing renovations. They will continue for another two weeks, possibly longer, to get some of the little odds and ends done.

Treasurer Freeman indicated the Treasurer's Quarterly Report is included in the Board packet. He will save further comments for number 6 under New Business.

Clerk Winchester: No report.

Trustee Ruth: No report.

Trustee Leslie reported she attended the April 4th meeting of the local chapter of the Michigan Township Association. A lobbyist for the National Township Association (NTA) addressed the meeting and indicated they are working on redefining what is meant by "newspaper". We have to post our public notices in a newspaper and there is certain wording involved in that. Many townships across the state are losing their local newspapers and they have no newspaper to post notices in. She doesn't know what the new definition will be or whether it will be sufficient to post on our website. It's not something she's in favor of because it won't be helpful to newspapers that are struggling.

Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson also addressed the meeting. She gave a warning to the townships that a local mortgage company did some heavy promoting a few years back about interest only mortgages, and the first of those mortgages, the period of time where it was interest only, is coming due this July so she's anticipating another rise in foreclosure numbers.

Old Business:

1. Request for Zoning Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance - Disbrow.

Supervisor Lambert noted Carpenter's House Church is renting a suite from a landlord in a building zoned C-2, which is not a permitted use in a C-2 zoned district. The building owner is in violation of that approved site plan. Pastor Disbrow gave a presentation last month requesting we amend our zoning ordinance to allow Carpenter's House Church to continue operating at its present location.

Trustee Leslie questioned when the Carpenter's House Church first occupied the space.

The 1st of November, 2006 was indicated by an unidentified speaker.

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Trustee Leslie stated the amendment to the zoning ordinance occurred a year after the church occupied the space.

Clerk Winchester noted the amendment was due to the new RLUIPA law, to clarify the difference between assemblies and churches. It did not change anything; it still existed with those rules.

Pastor Jim Disbrow, 209 First Street, stated he has been really blessed. He's done things most people never dream of doing; sailed on the Sea of Galilee, walked across the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, he's been in the King's Chamber and the Great Pyramid, snorkeled off Hawaii. The greatest thing he's done in his life is show someone the way to Jesus Christ, to teach goodness, righteousness and truth.

It seems like our country is going to the dogs. The Constitution says we have freedom but the freedoms are being torn down every day. He'd like to show the Board something. It probably won't mean too much; he assumes the Board has already made a decision in a closed door session. The U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, has a guide to the Federal religious land use protections. He hopes what he's saying here today as a lifetime resident of Holly and someone who has tried to improve the community and not tear it down would mean more than the Township attorney, who doesn't even live around here.

He read to the Board that the U. S. Department of Justice interprets this Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person's Act (RLUIPA) to protect religious institutions from unduly burdensome or discriminatory land use regulations, particularly those minority religions and start-up churches who are disproportionately affected and, in fact, are often actively discriminated against by local land use decisions, placing excessive burdens on the ability of congregations to exercise their faith. The law, RLUIPA, thus bars zoning restrictions that impose a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person or institution unless the government can show that it has a compelling interest for imposing restriction and that restriction is the least restrictive way for the government to further that interest.

They have never been told what the compelling interest is for the Township to deny a church being in the township. He doesn't understand it. You have a gentleman that owns the building and in this economy, especially, he has a need to pay his property taxes to the Township. He doesn't want to be too presumptuous but after getting an e-mail today from the Township and knowing your attorney hasn't changed her position, he understands you don't want churches to exist in C-2. But the law provides that religious assemblies and institutions must be treated at least as well as non-religious assemblies and institutions. This is known as the equal terms provision.

There is an example they give. Again, this is from the Department of Justice. A mosque leases a space in a storefront, but zoning officials deny him an occupancy permit since houses of worship are forbidden in that zone. However, fraternal organizations, meeting halls and places of assembly are all permitted as a right in the same zone. Because the statute on its face favors non-religious places of assembly over religious assemblies, the example would be in violation.

He would like to know the Township's compelling reason; what master plan of a community would leave out the ability for people to worship God, whoever their God is? We've minded our own business and we have done good things in the community. We've had backpacks for the poor kids in the community, haircuts.

He doesn't understand why this Township wants to take the opinion of an attorney over the Federal government and say to your constituents in the Township you don't want us there because we worship God, but yet you will allow a pool hall or a movie theater or any other kind of assembly that has noise, traffic and everything else, even more so than a church, you would allow them to be there and for a church or someone that worships not to be there. He doesn't understand it. He wants to know the compelling reason.

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Supervisor Lambert stated this isn't to discriminate on a religious basis. The person who owns the building Carpenter's House Church is renting from was in violation of the zoning ordinance allowing the church to open up their doors for operation. The person who owns that building was under a C-2 zoning restriction and they did not comply.

Mr. Joe Guinn, owner of the building, stated he did comply. He had a wedding chapel there that would hold more people than a church. He would like to know the difference between a wedding chapel and a church. It says in there assembly of 35 people or less at the time, so you guys got busy and redid the ordinance so he would be in violation. He would be grandfathered in if you read the clause before that.

Trustee Leslie noted when Carpenter's House began leasing, the ordinance read a special use was "halls". Then that was changed to be assembly halls, with a more specific definition. But at the time that they entered into their lease agreement, if it only said halls, how could you not consider a church a hall? She suggested the ordinance is lawsuit worthy as it is now. It seems rather complicated that we changed it after they were already leasing the space. The argument could be made that when they entered into that contract, it was a permitted use.

Treasurer Freeman indicated three board members were not board members at that time. He doesn't know the zoning ordinance was changed specifically because a lease had been entered into. The changes to the zoning may have occurred because of the change in the RLUIPA law that required changes in terminology. The actual zoning ordinance didn't change but terminology was adjusted so that it clarified and met the standards for this RLUIPA law.

Pastor Disbrow noted if you look at what the Federal government says, and then look at what you've done with your zoning, it doesn't comply with the law; it's in total opposition. There's got to be a compelling reason. Somebody didn't want a church there.

Pastor Disbrow questioned how you can have a pool hall there and not a house of worship. They're not a great big congregation, they're just a small church. You can have more people playing pool in there than worshipping on Sunday. They're not even in there during the congested times during the week where they would interfere with traffic or anything else. There are a lot of questions. He would, respectfully, like the Board to research this more before making a decision to throw them out.

Treasurer Freeman stated this is strictly a zoning issue. That would be like a commercial business wanting to operate in a residential area and we told them, no, you can't, it's zoned for residential and they say, you're discriminating against businesses.

Pastor Disbrow indicated if you read the Federal law, it says that a township, a local government, a municipality cannot treat a religious entity different than a non-religious entity. That's what you're doing. You're saying you can fix teeth or make dentures there but you can't worship there. You can have a little school there singing, bless you Jesus, praise the Lord, but you can't be a group of people doing the same thing. There is no common sense to it. He's not trying to be argumentative. He respects everyone on the Board.

Supervisor Lambert stated there is a lot of gray matter in this issue. The letters handed down by legal staff are quite lengthy. He knows a vote can be taken now, but questioned whether there were any other options.

Treasurer Freeman noted a change in zoning is not just a change for this church in particular. A change in the zoning is a change in the zoning for the community.

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Clerk Winchester suggested discussing a variance with the Township planner and attorney and with Pastor Disbrow, if necessary, and going from there. The zoning should stand as is; we just have a special circumstance because of the timing and existence of the lease prior to the amendment that should be worked on as a separate issue.

Ms. Kathy Disbrow, 209 First Street, stated when we first moved in Mr. Guinn said he already had the approval to have a wedding chapel there, which is an assembly and we're an assembly. The way the new language appears, places of worship can't even apply for special use within that zoning area. Where previously you could at least get a special use permit, now you can't; but other assemblies may apply for special use. That, in itself, is discriminatory. The language that you have adopted appears discriminatory. While she appreciates the variance and certainly they would like to not have to uproot everyone, she's not certain the Township is going to revisit that.

Trustee Leslie stated she's concerned any time an ordinance seems to dance around a Federal statute. She's certainly concerned about the Township being involved in a lawsuit. The Township pockets aren't deep enough for that. Although we do have communications from the attorney to the previous board, it didn't indicate this ordinance was ironclad against the potential of a discrimination lawsuit. She doesn't wish to see the Township vulnerable to this, nor does she wish us to give the impression of being discriminatory.

Supervisor Lambert agreed with Trustee Leslie. He indicated a potential variance should be investigated. We wouldn't be finishing the job if we didn't review our current zoning ordinances regarding places of worship and religious institutions so we do not have an issue like this again.

Mr. Guinn indicated he's trying to get a Montessori school in there. Right now he has \$10,000.00 in fees. He went through the planning board and they approved it subject to four items. He has to put a bike path in and that will be the same with the church. A bike path down both sides will cost another 200 grand to go down Fish Lake. If whatever you call them people that work downstairs go through that, he can't afford it. He can't afford the \$10,000.00 in paperwork. Across the street it's \$200.00 for the same thing.

Trustee Ruth stated the Township needs more opinions on it. He's in favor of churches operating anywhere they can.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to postpone Request for Zoning Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance - Disbrow. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

2. Newsletter.

Supervisor Lambert stated the Board has a copy of a draft newsletter with factual data on. It's something that can be mailed out with the tax bills and residents can have Township related information.

Clerk Winchester noted where you need a burn permit, it should be "Township – Dial" and then Village.

Trustee Leslie suggested for the upcoming town meetings, after each Board or Commission, it would be helpful to state the usual day of the month their meetings are held; Board of Trustees, every Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm and then list the next meeting.

Supervisor Lambert noted there is an asterisk that says, "Please see our website." He tried not to add too much information to the point it may confuse someone or overwhelm someone and they don't even bother reading it.

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Clerk Winchester indicated many people don't have computers. If they see it listed, they can mark it.

Treasurer Freeman suggested listing the website address.

Supervisor Lambert stated the website was at the bottom and wasn't copied. It said, "Please come visit us at www.hollytownship.org." He did consult with Assistant Chief Schimmeyer from the Village, Chief Lintz, Clerk Winchester, Treasurer Freeman. He asked Trustees Leslie and Ruth, as well, if they had anything they wanted to see in there and asked random residents for pieces of information they would love to have.

Treasurer Freeman noted, under 2009 Millage Rates, Township Library had two decimal points.

Treasurer Freeman stated discussion has been given to utilizing either Holly Area Youth Assistance or possibly students at the high school as a project for their Government class to assist in the stuffing of envelopes.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the newsletter, as amended. Treasurer Mark Freeman supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

New Business:

3. Request for Zoning Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance - Helm.

Ms. Lindy Helm, North Holly Day Care, stated she is a new business owner located off North Holly Road, just past Lahring Road. Ms. Helm read the Board of Trustees her March 25, 2009 letter.

She has gathered signatures from each of her surrounding neighbors, stating they do not have a problem with her running a day care out of her home or her sign that she received a Township letter on. She has looked throughout the entire township and village and there are many signs posted in front of homes where businesses are being run out of. Her sign stands back far enough away from the road that it should not be an issue. You can hardly see her sign unless you're on top of it or you're really looking for it. She asks for consideration on this matter. She has pictures for the Board of other signs if they would like them. She also has letters from many families whose children she has cared for in the past and they have voiced their opinion also.

Supervisor Lambert indicated the current sign ordinance does not allow home occupations to have permanently affixed signs. Two signs in particular, Ferguson Printing and East Holly Day Care, are two signs grandfathered in because they were up before a sign ordinance was initiated. The new sign ordinance discourages the placement of permanent signs. The township does approve temporary signs; however, there are time restrictions on those. He's sure the code enforcer sent out a copy of the sign ordinance along with the letter. That would be the current sign ordinance.

Ms. Helm stated the pictures she provided to the Board are only a small amount of the pictures she was able to print before she left for tonight's meeting. She has over 30 pictures of signs in front of home businesses.

Supervisor Lambert noted we are a complaint-based neighborhood, which means we don't have the resources to employ a full-time code enforcer. You will see a lot of signs still up because nobody has complained.

An unidentified speaker noted people have placed signs on their garages to get around the sign ordinance.

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Ms. Helm indicated the only reason she's being picked on is because she is asking for a rezoning. Her sign has been up since November.

Supervisor Lambert noted the letter was sent because somebody called in and filed a complaint.

Ms. Helm stated she called and spoke to Ms. DeVault and asked whether someone called and complained about her sign and Ms. DeVault stated, no, we have no record.

Clerk Winchester noted the complaint may not have gone to Ms. DeVault.

Ms. Helm stated the Township has many fees that are extravagant for a small business starting out. It will take her over a year to come up with it. She was told it's \$5,000.00 in escrow fees. It's 750 for one permit and 750 for another permit. That's over \$6,000.00 she has to come up with. With the money she is taking in right now, she still has to pay taxes on it at the end of the year. There is no point in even opening up or helping the community if she can't get anywhere with it. She charges people minimum fees. These are people that necessarily wouldn't have anybody able to care for their children so they can work. They cannot afford regular day care fees.

Trustee Leslie questioned whether the fees were associated with moving from six children to twelve in her facility.

Ms. Helm noted part of the reason this all came about is because she applied for her license through the state. She's asking for some leniency here. The state is requiring her to have a zoning permit.

Trustee Ruth questioned what the difference would be whether someone wanted 20 or 50 or 100 children allowed in a day care.

Ms. Helm stated the state wouldn't allow it. That's considered a center and you can't have it in your home. She indicated she has four children of her own that count toward the six to twelve.

An unidentified speaker indicated she has one son attending kindergarten and a two-year-old who would attend there.

Trustee Leslie stated she has sympathy for this but these are the pros and cons business owners have to weigh. If you're going to increase the size of your business, there will be costs associated with that.

Ms. Helm stated she was told there would be \$5,000.00 in escrow fees and other charges.

Clerk Winchester indicated there is a mechanism to manage that administratively. The planner can give an estimate so there is less of a deposit. In a situation like this it shouldn't cost near what it usually costs for a full site plan review.

Trustee Ruth questioned whether there were any building requirements or play area requirements when going from 6 to 12.

Ms. Helm indicated the only added requirement is another adult in the home.

Clerk Winchester suggested the matter be referred to the Planning Commission.

Treasurer Freeman noted the zoning ordinance should be made consistent with state law.

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- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved that the request for text amendment for Ms. Helm be sent to the Planning Commission for review in regards to amending our own local ordinance to increase the amount of attendees allowed under an operation of day care to match the what the State allows. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

Ms. Helm stated she understands the sign ordinance, she's read it. She doesn't have a problem complying with it. If that's the case, she does want action taken on everybody else. She has the pictures on her computer. What's fair for one would be fair for all.

Trustee Leslie noted it would be helpful to have the addresses.

Ms. Helm stated the addresses and phone numbers are listed on the signs. If it takes the whole township coming in to complain about a sign ordinance for it to be changed, they should come in. In this economy it's really important to support people trying to stay in their home.

4. Amendment to Holly Township Code of Ordinances - Chapter 32 Zoning, Sections 32-33 Special Uses, 32-34 Certificates of Occupancy and 32-36 Performance Guarantees.

Supervisor Lambert indicated this will clarify the amendment to clearly state performance guarantees are posted prior to any shovel even breaking ground.

Clerk Winchester noted the Planning Commission recommended approval of these amendments.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the Amendment to Holly Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 32 Zoning, Sections 32-33 Special Uses, 32-34 Certificates of Occupancy and 32-36 Performance Guarantees. Trustee Janet Leslie supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

5. BS&A Software Upgrade Proposal.

Clerk Winchester stated three years ago fund accounting was converted to the BS&A program.. BS&A has since created an update for the software. Because we're in our third year we can get a 75 percent discount. Eventually software companies won't support their old version so it's necessary that the upgrade is done.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve BS&A Software Upgrade Proposal. Treasurer Mark Freeman supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Freeman: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Winchester: Yes; Lambert: Yes. The motion carried with a 5/0 vote.**

6. 2009-2010 Boards and Commissions Meeting Dates - Proposed Resolution 2009-10.

Supervisor Lambert questioned whether the Board of Trustee meeting should be moved to Wednesdays rather than Tuesdays and the time moved from 6:30 to 6. The Village has a lot of meetings on Tuesday, as well as the Township. We could move the Board of Trustee meetings to Wednesday so board meetings aren't on the same day since we're attending each other's meetings.

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Trustee Leslie stated 6:00 is early for those of us that have other obligations during the day. It's also a little bit early for residents to get to the meetings. The Board needs to be more accessible, not less. She suggested meetings be on Tuesday at 7:00 so it's completely consistent with the rest of the community.

Treasurer Freeman noted the Village meets every two weeks on Tuesday. There are three or four times during the year when the Township Board meeting and the Village Council meetings actually occur at the same time.

Trustee Leslie stated it happens when they change their schedule for the November and December holiday season.

Trustee Ruth indicated there has been talk regarding reducing the number of Planning Commission meetings. He questioned whether there was input from Planning Commission members.

Supervisor Lambert stated he e-mailed Planning Commission members. If a builder or applicant comes in with permit paperwork, we can offer to have a meeting for that. Like everybody else, we're facing budget cuts. Cutting down to quarterly will help decrease the amount of expenditures we're utilizing in terms of planning.

Treasurer Freeman questioned whether it was just for this fiscal year.

Supervisor Lambert stated it was.

Treasurer Freeman noted if the economy improves and development and construction increases, there would be a need for more meetings. If someone wants a special meeting, we can call it. With the economy the way it is, it's going to be very difficult to plan our budget. We all want to be cautiously optimistic; at the same time it would be reckless and irresponsible not to plan for the worst case scenario. The economy could get worse this year, it could even get worse in 2010. We may be looking at further budget cuts and cutting back on services. That's the reality we're faced with, as uncomfortable as that is. It's going to take a lot of tiny cuts to add up to what we need to do.

Trustee Ruth suggested changing the Planning Commission meeting time to 6:30 to allow the longer meetings to not go too much later in the evening.

Trustee Leslie stated by moving Board of Trustee meetings to Wednesday, the meetings would fly under the radar of the press. They have mid-week deadlines. Meeting on Tuesday allows them time to call and get your comments, get their facts assembled, write their story and get it in the Sunday paper. If meetings are on Wednesday, you won't see Holly Township in the Sunday paper much.

Supervisor Lambert stated getting information out to people is a high priority and we're obligated to do that.

Trustee Leslie stated many people don't have computers so they have to rely on the newspaper.

Trustee Ruth noted many people don't buy the newspaper.

- **Trustee Janet Leslie moved that the Holly Township Board of Trustee meetings be moved to 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month and the Holly Township Planning Commission meetings be held quarterly at 6:30 p.m. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion.**

Trustee Janet Leslie requested to clarify her motion.

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- **Trustee Janet Leslie moved that Resolution 2009-10, 2009-2010 Boards and Commissions Meeting Dates be approved, as amended. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion. A voice vote was taken. Two present voted yes; three present voted no; the motion failed by a 2/3 vote.**
- **Treasurer Mark Freeman moved to approve Resolution 2009-2010 Boards and Commission Meeting Dates, with the amendments that the Trustee meetings be held on the third Wednesday at 6:30 PM and the Township Planning Commission meet quarterly at 6:30 PM. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A voice vote was taken. Three present voted yes; two present voted no; the motion carried with a 3/2 vote.**

7. Tax Collection Services - Proposed Resolution 2009-11.

Treasurer Freeman stated he has met with The State Bank on two different occasions and discussed services they can provide which will be in the best interest of the taxpayers of the township. Taxpayers with their original tax bill will be able to pay their taxes at any branch of The State Bank, including the branch in VG's supermarket which is open on Sundays. They have to pay prior to the due date. If it's past the due date, they would have to pay at the Township Hall. This would provide additional service and convenience to the taxpayer; that's why he worked on the project and he's recommending approval.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve Proposed Resolution 2009-11. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

8. Holly Area Youth Assistance Bylaws - Proposed Resolution 2009-12.

Supervisor Lambert noted the Holly Area Youth Assistance has adopted new bylaws. They're requesting the Township to also support the bylaws that they've adopted.

Treasurer Freeman stated he serves on the Holly Area Youth Assistance Board as the liaison for the Holly Township Board. He has reviewed the bylaws and would recommend approval.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve Proposed Resolution 2009-12. Treasurer Mark Freeman supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

9. 2009 Dust Control.

Supervisor Lambert noted this is expenditure for dust control, the chloriding on our rural dirt roads in the village and township. There is a schedule of applications for chloride and cost per gallon.

Clerk Winchester stated it also lists costs for all private road residents that wish to request the service.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the 2009 Dust Control program. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Leslie: Yes; Lambert: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Winchester: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

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10. 2009 Spring Clean Up.

Clerk Winchester noted this is usually the first Saturday in May and October. In October it's usually the opening season for bow season and there's less turnout. We may want to consider doing it the second week of both months instead of the first.

Treasurer Freeman suggested moving Fall Clean Up to September. As a footnote, it's an item that will have to be considered in the budget process. It's something we may have to drop to one a year.

Clerk Winchester suggested only voting on the May clean up at this time.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve Holly Township Clean Up Day the first Saturday in May, May 2nd, 2009, 8 to 4 p.m. with Tedonio. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Winchester: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Lambert: Yes. The motion carried with a 5/0 vote.**

11. Holly Township Website.

Supervisor Lambert stated he has been trying to add more content to the website. He would like the Board's approval and support.

Treasurer Freeman noted an E-Commerce link on the website would go in through Oakland County. Our web page will also link to The State Bank's web page so that taxpayers will know where the branches are and when they're open if they choose to pay their taxes at The State Bank branch.

Supervisor Lambert stated the easier you make the web site to use, the more people are going to use it, the happier people are going to be with that product and that service.

Treasurer Freeman questioned whether Supervisor Lambert was talking about a contract

Supervisor Lambert stated eventually, yes. He asked Board members to let him know whether they're behind the idea of redoing the web site. Right now he's just looking at normal maintenance. In the future he'd like to secure a contract.

Clerk Winchester indicated the web site content can be worked on and brought to the Board for approval for things that are not standard material. At the point we have all the content up, which can be done internally for free, we can discuss adding graphics and other things. If the Board has certain things they want, they can bring them to Clerk Winchester. Most of it she would probably be able to do.

12. Request Joint Meeting with the Village

Supervisor Lambert stated with all that's happened in the last six months, the Town Hall Meeting, the three new members of the Board getting acquainted with their positions and roles within the community, their administrative duties and what have you, now would be a nice time to request a joint meeting with the Village, a date to be determined and set later. The meeting would be set to take care of any problems that affect each other strongly or any type of cooperative effort or idea that may come about. It could be anything; it could be an idea to save both governments money, it could be addressing a social issue or economic issue. He feels strongly we need to bring back joint meetings and sit down in a civilized manner and discuss problems rather than have it out using other methods.

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Treasurer Freeman indicated he believes every member of the Board would agree the majority of our time has been spent on the police issue. The Village has a grievance with the Township on the number of mutual aid calls by the HPD into the outer township and insurance liability exposure. He would be in favor of focusing strictly on that issue and getting that issue resolved, then scheduling possibly joint meetings in the future.

Because the Board has three new members, we have not been moving at a pace that maybe the Village Council would like us to. It may be another six months to a year before we can move at that pace. He's not certain about that. He knows everyone on this Board has worked very diligently to get up to speed. We understand the Village's grievance. There have been related issues we have acted on. None of those are linked to the Village's grievance. Some people misinterpreted that, that some of the actions we have taken were linked to their grievance, which they were not. Their grievance is an issue that is related to the overall issue but it is its own issue and we should act on that as quickly as possible.

- **Trustee Steve Ruth moved to approve a joint meeting between the Village and Township in the near future regarding Village police services. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

13. Police Services Survey Committee

Trustee Leslie stated it appears a good deal of the objections to the survey had to do with the questions, themselves. Clerk Winchester has stated she voted against it because it wasn't created by the Board as a whole. She proposes a committee of volunteers from the Board to write a survey.

Clerk Winchester indicated the Board should meet with the Village first because that could possibly drive some of those questions. The Board should take one step at a time instead of trying to lump all of this together. She suggested working on the Village meeting, and then work on how to go forward with police services in the Township. She doesn't agree with a committee because discussion needs to involve the full Board.

Trustee Leslie stated the full Board would be welcome to volunteer and she would hope it would be the full Board.

Trustee Ruth noted if the full Board meets together, it would be a public meeting.

Supervisor Lambert stated he would have more than two people on a committee. He would love it if anybody who had any amount of survey or marketing experience would step forward.

Treasurer Freeman indicated that was his concern with the first proposed survey is that it takes a certain expertise to create a valid survey and to decipher what those results mean. He doesn't believe anyone on the Board possesses that skill set, including him. If you're talking about spending the money to have a professional company that does surveys, now you're talking about additional expenditure. Without a professional, he's not confident in what the results would be. At best, we'd be seeing about a 20 to 25 percent response. That's a poor return on your investment.

Clerk Winchester stated she would also like to see the survey used as another tool; for example, regarding Comcast, who would want to watch Township Board meetings on TV, etc.

Trustee Leslie indicated the survey should be used to inform the Board of public opinion.

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Supervisor Lambert noted if 20 to 25 percent respond, that's 20 to 25 percent of people that all of us may not have talked to.

Treasurer Freeman questioned what the other 75 to 80 percent think, which are the vast majority. We won't know. We also know, of the 20 to 25 percent that do respond, they will be the ones that feel most passionately about the issue. The survey will be skewed in their favor. He's not saying we can't get good information back from a survey. He's voicing his concerns about how much bang for our buck we would get with a survey and can we really put together a survey that is valid and that we will understand the results of.

Clerk Winchester noted survey questions can be leading.

Supervisor Lambert agreed, stating leading questions on a survey are things you try to avoid when you're searching for good, quality data. He questioned whether the Township had any hard data on residents other than demographics provided by the Census Bureau.

Treasurer Freeman stated the census gets about a 63 percent return, which everyone is required to do.

Supervisor Lambert noted data obtained from a survey will help the Board render a decision. Worst case scenario, we'd have benchmarked data at a certain point in time that future Boards can look at and form a picture about what people in Holly thought about a specific issue or a general issue. You will get people passionate on the issue. That's going to happen, regardless. You're not going to be able to ask questions to 100 percent of the people. That's why they created the art of statistics.

Treasurer Freeman questioned what if 60 percent of the residents of the Township say we're very upset that you spent our tax dollars on a survey that we didn't want in the first place? What do we say to them?

Supervisor Lambert stated his perfectly rational opinion would be, look, we took the time to use your tax dollars to see what you thought. He doesn't believe there would be many people mad, especially if we send it out in a tax bill, which negates a lot of the costs you would normally incur.

Trustee Leslie noted the Board has seen residents come and talk to the Board and say we want the survey. We haven't seen anyone say don't ask us for our opinion, we don't want a survey.

Treasurer Freeman indicated no one has said we don't want a survey because police service is not a hot button issue to them. His concern is you get a 20 to 25 percent response from people who feel passionately about the issue. The Township gets the results back and it indicates they all are really excited about this hot button police issue so we should go ahead and try to get a tax increase or a millage and put it on a ballot, go through all the process. Then it turns out that this 20 to 25 percent are the only ones that were in favor of it.

Supervisor Lambert stated statistically speaking that would be highly improbable. And you can prove it.

Trustee Ruth noted he agreed with Supervisor Lambert as long as there was a random distribution area where responses came from.

Supervisor Lambert stated you're always assuming random distribution because you're mailing Township wide, you're not just hitting one section of town.

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Trustee Ruth indicated if we get a core from one specific area, it's no longer random. We'd have to go through the addresses to make sure.

Supervisor Lambert stated that is why you ask for addresses; you ask certain questions so you can determine the quality of that data.

Trustee Leslie stated that would be useful information, in itself. If every survey that came into the Township was from the Pulte developments, we would say, well, they're right on track with a special assessment district, they're already pursuing that, good for them and it's done. But if you start hearing from people across the township who tell you come June 30th when the Village is reevaluating their response in the Township that we have people we are leaving vulnerable who choose not to be in that situation, it would inform the Board how to move forward. The response and where it comes from is probably the most crucial part of the survey.

Clerk Winchester noted the survey doesn't have anything to do with the Village at this point because it would be moving forward with police services, period, whether it's with the Village or not with the Village.

Trustee Leslie stated the Township has a situation that's evolving with the Village now.

Clerk Winchester noted the Village and Township will meet and discuss that.

Trustee Leslie stated it would be useful in our decision making to know where our citizens stand. If the data doesn't merit it, we can rediscuss the issue again in a year or two years or whatever. If the data merits it, then we can begin more investigation to solidify our community's position. That's a scientific way of approaching the problem.

Trustee Ruth indicated he is still in favor of a survey, he voted no last month because the survey questions weren't practical.

Treasurer Freeman stated he voted no on a specific survey also. There's been misrepresentation that that was linked to other issues and it is not. It was strictly that particular survey. We are elected to represent all the people in Holly Township. The survey would not be for residents in the Village because the Village has their own police department and we really should not be surveying them. We would be surveying outer township residents to get their opinion on police services.

Clerk Winchester noted she would like to see the Board meet with the Village before we start creating a survey and it should be done together. She does agree that we should be working with somebody that can help us get where we want to go. In addition, we should use it as a tool, not just on police services but on other services. And we can discuss that with our budget.

Treasurer Freeman indicated taxpayers that have escrow accounts with lending institutions are coded for that lending institution. When taxes are printed, tax bills for those property owners are not printed. The report is printed for that mortgage company and is sent to the mortgage company. The mortgage company sends one big check to pay all those taxes through escrow accounts. So those property owners with escrow accounts never receive tax bills because their lending institution handles it. Starting with the new fiscal year, July 1st, when those tax bills go out, that process will remain the same except we will print a tax bill for the escrow property owners. And when the escrow company pays their tax bill, we will stamp it paid and we will mail it to that property owner so they would then receive it. The problem is that's not the first week of July, it's when their lending company pays. Some mortgage companies wait right until the due date to pay. Especially under this current banking crisis, many of them have actually been late.

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Trustee Leslie stated it doesn't make sense to put this off until winter taxes. The Village is concerned about the liability and expense of calls made in the Township. We have an obligation to address that and the fact they may change their policy of answering calls. To wait until November is not as useful. The Board has issues we need to deal with earlier than that. The tax bill may not be the best way to handle that. But if we make a commitment to meet with the Village in the month of May, that gives us the month of June to get our fact-finding mechanism together so that we can have information and a mechanism ready for the tax bill if that's the choice we make.

Treasurer Freeman indicated he has made his phone number and e-mail address available. That's all he has to go on. He has not received one phone call, not one meeting and not one e-mail pro or con about the police issue.

Supervisor Lambert stated the sooner you have data in your hand, the faster you can use it as a mechanism to help plan or measure a certain situation. Nothing is going to happen if we all can't reach some sort of agreement. He'd much rather see something happen later than nothing ever happen at all because we make each other mad or we step on each other's toes. He's happy Trustee Ruth has stepped outside of what a lot of people would consider a norm and supports the survey; he'd like to see what's in the survey before it gets mailed out, that's fine. We're going to need that third person for support. And if compromise is what we need to be able to make sure that this happens, he'd rather see it happen six months from now than not happen at all because we've stepped on toes or we've made somebody angry. Compromise isn't something he likes to do very often, but we need it.

Trustee Leslie indicated she's not as concerned about making people angry as she is about keeping people safe. Summertime is approaching, the economy is worsening and we've already seen last year, from 2006 to 2007 a jump of almost double in our crime. We don't know yet what has happened for 2008. This is an issue now. We need to take it seriously, we need to set our egos aside and remember this is a public safety issue. And the public has made it relatively clear that they would like to weigh in on it.

Treasurer Freeman stated he is not opposed to a survey; he's opposed to trying to put together a survey when we don't know what we're doing. He's opposed to spending money on a survey when he doesn't believe we will get a good return on our investment. A survey, per se, and the information it might provide, he's not opposed to.

Trustee Ruth indicated waiting until November is too long. Maybe July could happen. If we sit here and try to force it, it probably won't. We should still work on getting survey questions hammered out. It could depend on the Village meeting. If we're going to ask questions specifically relating to potential costs, we'll have some idea. We should try to move forward as diligently as possible to create the survey but not set a date right now when we have to have it written. If it costs a few thousand dollars to mail it, a good survey is worth that.

Clerk Winchester indicated you want the survey as effective as possible.

Ms. Campbell stated she appreciates what the Board is saying regarding the survey, but she believes the Board is missing the boat a little bit. The Board is talking about going to a meeting with the Village, but hasn't addressed the big issue. Do you guys want the whole outer township? You have to ask your people what they want before you meet with the Village or you won't get anywhere in the meeting. You guys have to do a survey first to find out what the people in the township want; a special assessment or the whole outer township? Then you guys can get your data pulled together, come to the Village and sit down and negotiate. You guys are doing it totally backwards. The Village can't respond to your wishes at any meeting.

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Mr. Lilly indicated he's done surveys here. He covered 36 square miles of the township and he did that in six weeks by himself. He went door to door. Volunteers can do it in half the time, three weeks. That's what you've got to do.

Supervisor Lambert noted a couple volunteers can do it, a couple Board members can volunteer, but he would like it to be an official action by the Township government.

Mr. Lilly indicated the Board could put together a survey and ask for volunteers. He got over 2,000 signatures.

Supervisor Lambert stated if he had a survey the Board would like to see passed out, he would be more than happy to walk door to door if it meant saving the Township a couple hundred dollars. That's part of his job is collecting what the residents think.

Mr. Lilly indicated you can do that at the meeting and start tomorrow.

Treasurer Freeman stated the survey would have to be constructed first and it has to be a valid survey. None of us on this Board has the skill set or the expertise to put that survey together.

Mr. Lilly stated all you need is a vote yes or no for police service for the Township.

Treasurer Freeman noted they have to be informed how much it will cost them if they say yes. There will be questions.

- **Trustee Janet Leslie moved to create a committee of two Board members to write a police survey with the idea they may solicit input from the rest of the Board or from any members of the community to present to the Board at the regular May meeting. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

- **Treasurer Mark Freeman moved to appoint Supervisor Jesse Lambert and Trustee Steve Ruth to the two-person subcommittee involved in generating a survey. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A voice vote was taken. There were four yeses, one no; the motion carried with a 4/1 vote.**

Adjournment: Supervisor Jesse Lambert, hearing no other business, adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Zo Turner, Recording Secretary
Holly Township

Karin Winchester, CMC
Holly Township Clerk.