

Holly Township
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Minutes of June 16, 2009

Call to Order: Supervisor Jesse Lambert called the June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Holly Township Board of Trustees to order at or about 6:30 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:

Jack Armstrong
Mary Blanchard, Headwaters Trails
Dave Curtis
Sean Galloway
Sue Julian, Headwaters Trails
Larry Lilly
Anna Troppens, Tri-County Times
Joe Hutchins

Consent Agenda:

1. Agenda Approval
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2009
3. Approval of Public Hearing Minutes – May 19, 2009
4. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2009
5. Acceptance of Financial Statements – May 2009
6. Approval of Bills for Payment – June 2009
7. Routine Reports
 - A. N.O.C.F.A. Draft Minutes – May 18, 2009
 - B. Planning Commission Draft Minutes – May 11, 2009
 - C. Building Permits

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. Trustee Janet Leslie 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.**

Reports:

Supervisor Jesse Lambert reported renovations have been done to the Township Hall, which includes painting, window refinishing and other aesthetic improvements.

Treasurer Mark Freeman reported as soon as Oakland County certifies the millage rates, tax bills will be sent out.

Clerk Karin Winchester reported the carpet in the Township Hall will be cleaned.

Trustee Janet Leslie reported the Board has copies of a Holly Post comment reflecting resident frustration. An item mentioned was a recreation center. She can find no community of a similar tax base with similar size that has successfully built one. Stipulations of how to become a community that sponsors a YMCA seem to be aligned with what our ability would be to support one. She provided Board members with YMCA material.

Trustee Steve Ruth noted the Planning Commission will not have a regular meeting until September 2009. They did not approve the mining permit application for Middleton Sand & Gravel. Middleton has not properly updated their reclamation plan with the area maps.

Clerk Winchester indicated when the Planning Commission postponed the Middleton permit, it didn't deny or approve it; it extended the period of time Middleton can submit materials.

Public Comment:

Mr. Larry Lilly, 110 Clarence Street, stated the Board set a precedent giving the public the first and last word. That's fantastic and it's appreciated. The joint meeting held with the Township and Village was well worth the money. Many positive comments were made. Cityhood was mentioned, which is a divider and shouldn't be discussed. There are three new Board members. It's been nine months, there's no more saying we're going to do this and this; it's got to be done right away. Having Board meetings on TV has been discussed so residents can stay home and watch them. The Township has the money to do it, let's do it. We've got to work together. Petty things come up that aren't true. The Township's minutes have the true facts in them. There was full cooperation at the joint meeting and we should continue to think positive and utilize the resources of 10,000 residents.

Supervisor Lambert stated he's been speaking to Comcast to find a way to utilize money earmarked for the cable access for township meetings that Mr. Lilly spoke of. Public Act 480 states Comcast isn't allowed to open up anymore government public access channels, which means if we didn't have one prior to the inception of the act, we wouldn't get one. He's continuing to work on this, as it would be a good asset for the community.

Mr. Lilly noted effective June 12, 2009 when the TV stations all went digital, all kinds of channels were made available. He would get a hold of Attorney Greg Need and have him work on it.

Mr. Joe Hutchins indicated he is here tonight as a resident of the township and the village. He is very much for cooperation between the two municipalities. He noted that Parks & Rec was an agenda item for the joint meeting. He questioned what discussion was held in that regard.

Supervisor Lambert noted Parks & Rec was removed from the agenda because that's the business of the Parks and Rec Board. It was put back on the Agenda by the Village, possibly due to a miscommunication.

Mr. Hutchins stated as a resident of both the village and the township, he looks for guidance and cooperation from both municipalities' leaders. In a joint meeting, all parties should respect the wants and desires of the other participant. The facilitator discussed cityhood versus a charter township. The facilitator knows nothing about our community. As a facilitator, he should have stated he was only there to facilitate; he wasn't there to discuss any direction the community should go. Someone from Iceland would know as much as the facilitator about what's better for the community. Go back and read what the Boundary Commission stated the last time cityhood was discussed. The Boundary Commission is the deciding factor. The two municipalities are like Siamese twins. We will be Siamese twins until they can figure out if one will die if we separate. If the Village of Holly becomes a city, there will be nothing left of the Township. One of the municipalities would have to supply all the services to the whole area, which neither can do right now. He's still neutral on the issue because he hasn't seen any facts where it will better for both the Village and Township. This is a community. We have to come together. As these things are being discussed, the meter is running on a lot of other issues. There are many communities who have joint meetings without a facilitator. We don't need a facilitator; everyone should be able to sit down and work together.

New Business:

1. Approval of Project Proposal and Grant Application by Headwaters Trails for Holly Township Property on Shiawassee River

Ms. Sue Julian indicated Headwaters Trails is a 501(c)(3) organization, which allows them to apply for certain grants and other funding not available to the Township. They are working on the Shiawassee River water trail. In creating a water trail, you have to consider safety. She has provided the Board pictures showing some problems that exist at what has been called the Academy bridge because it's behind Holly Academy. During different times of the year there are issues for people coming down the river. If you find a log in front of the bridge, it is hard to paddle backwards to get out of there to get help and the banks are steep. There is a portage that people have created there. Headwaters Trails would like to make it a safe and acceptable permanent portage area. They have volunteer cooperation both locally and from local stores to nominate the program.

She is asking the Township for permission to create the portage on land that is now in the Township's possession. The cost will be \$1,500.00. They will improve the two ends and leave the path as dirt so there will be no future maintenance. At the last race and fun paddle there were probably over 100 people on the river. The portage area being planned is within the realm of the public health, safety and welfare. The Township can assist Headwaters Trails in two ways. One, Headwaters Trails, by receiving the funding, needs to prove accountability. The Township could verify expenses for them. They are also seeking an in-kind contribution equal to the cost of insurance for insuring the volunteers working on the project which should take three days.

Trustee Steve Ruth noted the contribution requested is \$100.00. He stated the proposal was very well done.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve to the Project Proposal for the Shiawassee River recreational passage portage at the Shiawassee River bridge for Township parcel #01-33-125-003, that the Township provides a letter of support for the Grant Application by Headwaters Trails, as well as oversight of the expenses and providing a contribution equal to the cost of insurance for volunteers on the project. Supervisor Jesse Lambert supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Freeman: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Winchester: Yes; Lambert: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

2. 2009-2010 Holly Township Park Budget – Proposed Resolution 2009-15

Trustee Ruth questioned how many people were included in the salary budget.

Clerk Karin Winchester stated there were two people employed in the office and many people who are part time.

Treasurer Mark Freeman commented that the Township froze wages and he would have liked to have seen the Park freeze wages also.

- **Clerk Janet Leslie moved to approve Resolution 2009-15, 2009-2010 Park Budget. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Freeman: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Winchester; Lambert: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

3. Noxious Weed Mowing Proposals

Supervisor Lambert indicated the Township is going to contract with a company who can carry out the enforcement of the Township's noxious weed ordinance. Two proposals have been received. He noted that someone from Nash Landscaping is present and it doesn't appear anyone from NJW is.

Trustee Ruth noted there will be a \$150.00 fine for a resident if enforcement is required.

Trustee Janet Leslie stated Nash Landscaping has an hourly rate for brush hogging and the other proposal does not include a rate for brush hogging.

Clerk Winchester noted four companies were contacted and two submitted proposals. She questioned whether the Board would want to wait until both companies could be present to answer questions from the Board.

Supervisor Lambert questioned how quick Nash Landscaping could respond following a request from the Township.

Nash Landscaping indicated they could respond within 48 to 72 hours. If the Township has a big list of properties that need to be taken care of, they would take care of it sooner.

Supervisor Lambert stated he is hesitant to postpone the matter. The next Board meeting would be further into the summer season. There have already been complaints regarding noxious weeds which need to be enforced.

Clerk Winchester indicated she is comfortable both companies can do what the Township needs.

The Board reached a consensus that action should be taken now.

- **Supervisor Lambert moved to approve Nash Landscaping, per the estimate for noxious weed abatement for Holly Township for 2009. Treasurer Mark Freeman supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Leslie: Yes; Lambert: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Winchester: No. The motion carried with a 4/1 vote.**

4. 2009-2010 North Oakland County Fire Authority Budget – Proposed Resolution 2009-13

Supervisor Lambert noted Chief Lintz was able to trim the budget by approximately \$50,000.00.

Trustee Ruth stated there appears to be a significant drop in total hourly pay. He questioned how that was possible.

Supervisor Lambert indicated Chief Lintz asked his staff if they would be willing to take an hourly pay cut in order to create the drop in cost.

Trustee Ruth questioned whether Chief Lintz's wages went up.

Supervisor Lambert indicated Chief Lintz's wages are going up because contractually he was obligated to a raise. The N.O.C.F.A. Board has an item tabled to restructure how the chief gets merit raises in the future. Three of the five board members wanted some sort of economic hardship written into the contract.

Trustee Ruth questioned how the utilities were reduced by 25%.

Supervisor Lambert stated utilities went down because N.O.C.F.A. will be vacating both stations within the Village limits and moving to the new Township station which is more energy efficient. They are also doing small renovations at the Rose Township station which will help with utility costs. Neither station will have a water bill.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve Resolution 2009-13, N.O.C.F.A. Budget. Trustee Janet Leslie supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Lambert: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Winchester: Yes; Ruth: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

5. 2009-2010 Holly Township Budget – Proposed Resolution 2009-14

Trustee Leslie stated in Section 8, Specific Appropriations, it says reserve \$100,000.00 of fund balance for transfer to retirement health care benefits trust fund. She understands that has to be held in escrow.

Clerk Winchester noted under new governmental standards you have to be fully funded for any retirement health benefits. The money will be held in trust.

- **Treasurer Mark Freeman moved to approve Resolution 2009-14, Holly Township 2009-2010 General Appropriations Act and Budget. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Winchester: Yes; Ruth: Yes; Lambert: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Freeman: Yes. The motion carried by a 5/0 vote.**

6. 2008-2009 Park Budget Amendments – Proposed Resolution 2009-16

Supervisor Lambert noted this is a list of amendments for the 2008-2009 Park budget, not to be confused with next year's Park budget which was approved earlier in the meeting.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve the 2008-2009 Park Budget Amendments, Proposed Resolution 2009-16. Trustee Janet Leslie supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Lambert: Yes; Winchester: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Ruth: Yes. The motion carried with a 5/0 vote.**

7. Proposed Amendments to Holly Township Code of Ordinances, Article III, Section 2-83(e) Retirement Benefits

Clerk Winchester stated this ordinance has been on the books for quite some time. It allows for anyone retiring after 25 years of service the ability to receive retirement health care benefits. In this economy everyone is cutting back and this would be a huge expense for the Township to maintain. The Township would have to fully fund right now for anyone else who receives pay from the Township who may be eligible for these benefits. Due to what happened with Enron and others, the government wants to make sure retirements are funded.

Trustee Leslie indicated she has concern regarding the \$100,000.00 that the Township has to hold in trust. There is a lot the Township could do for the community as a whole with that amount of money.

Clerk Winchester stated the \$100,000.00 is just an estimate. It could be considerably different by the time the years of investment are determined.

Trustee Ruth noted the amount doesn't cover the cost of the retirement health care benefit, it covers the insurance.

Trustee Leslie noted the Township is paying annually for the premium for just one person in the community and we live in a community where people are losing benefits left and right. She's personally uncomfortable that taxpayers have to fund that. Since the ordinance was written before the requirements were made to the Township, she's curious if there is an obligation to hold the money in trust.

Treasurer Freeman stated one person retired after 35 years of service for the Township with the full intention of receiving that benefit when they retired.

Trustee Ruth questioned what the yearly cost was for the insurance.

Clerk Winchester stated it was approximately \$6,000.00. It rises anywhere from 8% to 25% a year. You have to anticipate how many premiums you're going to make and have 100% of that put in trust. The insurance would be paid out of that trust.

- **Supervisor Lambert moved to amend the Holly Township Code of Ordinances, Article III, Section 2-83(e) Retirement Benefits, by deleting Section 2-83(e) for current and future employees and officials. Clerk Karin Winchester supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

8. Proposed Amendments to Holly Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 10, Noxious Weed Ordinance

Clerk Winchester stated clarification was needed regarding improved and unimproved parcels. If there is an open, vacant lot where the land has been cleared and never built on, that is an improved parcel. There are instances of this in the Township where noxious weeds are an issue.

Treasurer Freeman noted the situation isn't fair to surrounding property owners and it does devalue property.

- **Clerk Winchester moved to approve the proposed amendment to Holly Code of Ordinances Chapter 10, Noxious Weed Ordinance. Trustee Janet Leslie supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**
- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to amend the agenda, adding Resolution 2009-17, 2008-2009 Special Assessment Budget Amendments as Item 9 under New Business. Trustee Steve Ruth supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

9. 2008-2009 Special Assessment Budget Amendments – Proposed Resolution 2009-17

Clerk Winchester indicated N.O.C.F.A. had the special assessment at \$85.00 more than the Township did so an adjustment needs to be made.

- **Clerk Karin Winchester moved to approve Resolution 2009-17, the 2008-2009 Special Assessment Budget Amendments. Supervisor Lambert supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ruth: Yes; Leslie: Yes; Freeman: Yes; Lambert: Yes; Winchester: Yes. The motion carried with a 5/0 vote.**

10. Right of Way Improvements with Metro Act Funds

Clerk Winchester indicated the Township receives funds from the State of Michigan every year for the improvement of right of ways called the Metro Act Funds. Board approval has been given for installation of pillars and fencing at Oakhill Cemetery. Currently the two entrances are in bad condition. The balance of the Metro Act funds could be used to put a main entrance in the middle, curb and asphalt, and then tie those in behind the gating into the existing entrances and deleting the two problem entrances. It would help with aesthetics, snow removal and would avoid people going onto the grass. She believes this would fall under the Metro Act fund but wanted approval to go out for RFPs to road commission standards. The Township already has the drawings through Bill Angus. There are no other current projects eligible for the fund. Hopefully the bids will come before the Board next month.

Treasurer Freeman stated if it enhances the aesthetics of the cemetery, it may lead to the sale of more plots.

Clerk Winchester noted the cemetery already looks much better and there has been much more activity. The Township is also taking an inventory, which is a difficult task. There are many maps. Records weren't kept since probably the mid 1980s. Genesee Valley Vault has been absolutely wonderful in assisting the Township.

Supervisor Lambert indicated the cemetery is over 100 years old. Some graves date back to the Civil War.

- **Treasurer Mark Freeman moved to approve the use of Metro Act funds for the improvements of Oakhill Cemetery, as well as the ability to request proposals for the work involved. Clerk Karin Winchester 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.**

11. OCRC Sign Expense Approval

Supervisor Lambert noted the proposed signs will be located at North Holly Road, just south of County Line/Ray Road; Grand Hall Road, east of Eddy Lake Road; and Grange Hall Road just west of I-75. The proposed designs and sign specifications are included in the Board packets.

Trustees Ruth and Leslie indicated they liked Design A.

- **Trustee Janet Leslie moved to approve the purchase and installation of Holly Township road signs up to the amount of \$2800.00. 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 by a 5/0 vote.**

12. May 28, 2009 Joint Meeting Review

Trustee Ruth expressed disappointment that he was unable to attend the meeting. Reviewing minutes, he didn't see the point in having a facilitator. He would have expected the facilitator to ask for a consensus on future meetings.

Treasurer Freeman noted he is sure that the facilitator is a reputable man, though what he contributed wasn't that beneficial. It appeared the judge had been given information from a member of the Village Council. If the judge wanted information, he should have also asked for information from Holly Township so he had a balanced review of information in front of him. Any future joint meeting should be done without a facilitator.

Clerk Winchester indicated she agreed with Treasurer Freeman's comments. In addition, Public Comment is fine before and after. Board and Council members can get more work done on the municipalities' issues if there isn't public dialogue throughout the meeting.

Supervisor Lambert stated it's a tremendous effort to pull resources together from either municipality and you want to actually come away with something that is workable; if not, something that can be worked toward.

Trustee Leslie indicated she also was disappointed the municipalities didn't walk away with any plan of action. The things discussed were under discussion anyway. There were members of the public who had something to say and felt very energetic about doing that. Maybe that's what was needed for a first meeting. In the future the agenda should be smaller, one or two items, and proceed with, if not resolutions, at least plans of action. There were a lot of ideas generated. Now a meeting may be needed where we actually sit down and say what we are going to do.

Supervisor Lambert stated he's also optimistic about what can be done between the municipalities. For a first meeting, everyone came away with somewhat of an understanding of where everyone stood on specific issues and who they'll be working with over the next four years to try and make the community a better place. He questioned whether the Board would be open to another joint meeting around September.

Treasurer Freeman indicated there is room to get a consensus regarding water and sewer services. That could be used to build a foundation for future collaborations or cooperative efforts.

Supervisor Lambert noted another item that could be looked at would be any kind of immediate fiscal relief on either end because both municipalities are dealing with budget constraints. In the next four weeks, if anyone can come up with something that will save both the Township and the Village money by building some sort of joint effort, it could be put on the agenda.

Trustee Leslie indicated that was probably the most positive thing that came out of the meeting is both sides were in agreement, some more than others, that we need to cooperate to find efficiencies.

Treasurer Freeman noted water and sewer can be worked on in September when the Silverman contract expires. That's a good target date for another joint meeting. He e-mailed to everyone copies of an article from the Oakland

Press. Oakland County's Deputy Executive commented, "These local communities can learn to work together right now or a year from now they'll be forced to because of financial reasons."

Clerk Winchester indicated N.O.C.F.A. and the Village fire department have a strategic plan to work together. The first part has been approved. She'd like to see them move towards the second part. She believes ultimately the fire departments will have to consolidate regionally. It's in our best interest to start right now. Other than that, one planning commission for the whole community can be discussed so there is one vision for the whole community, though there would be struggles to build a foundation.

Trustee Leslie stated discussion was held regarding a need for a possible stopgap decision to be made between now and August 2010 should police services be put on the ballot. That is an issue that needs to be discussed by the Board. By July 1st the Village will only respond to threat of life calls.

Old Business:

1. Survey

Supervisor Lambert stated he is in favor of developing a strategic plan regarding police services in Holly Township in the long run. In the short run, it depends what kind of research is done or what kind of data is received from the community. He can see Holly Township needing a police department if economic trends continue and the jobless rate continues to go up. When you add more people, you add more problems.

Treasurer Freeman noted we don't know how long the state police services will be available. From a financial standpoint, the State of Michigan is trying to deal with the State's serious budget constraints.

Trustee Leslie encouraged Supervisor Lambert to ask the Village to provide monthly statements of any runs they do so the Township can begin to see the real picture. It will only tell the Township about extreme emergency situations. It will not tell us about any other services that people might require. The Township should know exactly where each call is going and for what reason.

Treasurer Freeman noted he becomes concerned when he sees Holly police cars with a vehicle pulled over in excess of a mile outside Village limits, writing a ticket, collecting revenue when they've said they do not go into the outer Township except for an emergency calls from the state police. He's personally witnessed that and other citizens tell him they've witnessed that, including seeing a vehicle pulled over at Alex's gas station which is two miles outside of the Village and definitely not in pursuit.

Clerk Winchester indicated the state police needed the time to iron out the situations they had internally. Just as the Township was unaware of the dispatch problems, the state police were unaware they had dispatch and other problems. Everyone needed to be on the same page and communicate better and it would have gone smoother.

Treasurer Freeman stated if the state police were going to vacate and discontinue services, they would give the Township plenty of advance notice so there is adequate time to secure other police services. He likes the idea of a survey at face value. He has reservations regarding the details of a survey. He's concerned about leading questions and questions that may not be answered honestly. As an example, on one sample survey, at number 5, the question reads "Generally how safe to you feel living in Holly". You can ask that question one day and they'll answer safe. If they've had a recent incident, they might answer unsafe.

Trustee Leslie indicated the Township can't provide feelings anyway; we can only provide services. She would rather limit the questions to what are your expectations for service and not your past experiences or feelings. Then as a Board, we can see whether we're meeting the expectations.

Clerk Winchester noted even if the Township were to have police, it may not meet people's expectations. The Township needs to know what kind of services we should be providing as leaders under the circumstances and then posing those questions associated with the circumstances. She would like to pay only \$200.00 a year, but it may cost township residents \$700.00 a year. We should be asking them are you willing to pay up to \$700.00 a year. We need to define how much it's going to cost, what kind of policing we believe we need and ask are we meeting residents' expectations. Right now the Township isn't providing a service.

Supervisor Lambert stated he has spoken with both the County and the Village. They both have indicated until the Township figures out what services people want, they will not give the Township statistics. The County has provided estimates on what it would cost for a patrol, but they will not put forth the effort to put together something formal until the Township learns whether residents want it.

Clerk Winchester indicated even if the Township put this on the ballot, the Township should have all of this information. We should be looking at similar communities, seeing what kind of services they have. We know how much per deputy it is. She spoke with the insurance loss control who said for the three townships, seven to ten deputies may be needed at \$136,000.00 and you divide that among the three communities. He believes regional is the only way to go, especially because the State wants everybody to consolidate. The Township needs to do a lot more homework before questions are asked of the residents. If it's going to be put on the ballot, the Township should already have that information and then ask questions based on that, or make it a ballot question.

Mr. Dave Curtis, Belford Road, stated he knows that some township supervisors whose townships are contracting services with Oakland County have requested and received stats from Oakland County Sheriff's Department. The frequency and severity of crimes should be researched to determine what services are needed.

Supervisor Lambert noted he has received stats from the state police.

Clerk Winchester stated she would like to see the run sheets from the Village.

Trustee Leslie noted if the state police have to call another agency because they can't respond in a timely manner, once the state police get there, they're the ones that would write the ticket or take the action. As far as the state police are concerned, that was an issue they attended to. What the Township needs to know is did they have to call someone else to get there in a timely fashion to initiate the action.

Mr. Curtis stated many stats will show Groveland, as Holly Township residents file reports at Groveland.

Supervisor Lambert noted Groveland's stats are the heaviest regarding total number of complaints.

Mr. Hutchins indicated people have to be educated first of all on what they have for police services.

Supervisor Lambert stated he would like the Township to collect data and have data to fall back on for future decisions whether the data is needed now, a year from now or when they may close the MSP post.

Clerk Winchester noted if a survey is sent out and residents call with questions, the Township has absolutely no information on what the Township anticipates is needed. The population should also be projected. As the population rises, you should have a gradual scale on what's needed. We should have our homework done before sending out a survey. We should be working together with Rose, Groveland and Holly and invite the Village also, not just on police, but on fire and police. Nobody will be able to afford them independently in the future. With a consolidated effort, extra funds would be available to move forward with some level of policing.

Mr. Hutchins indicated the people will let you know what they want. He doesn't see any candlelight vigils with people picketing that they want police protection, there's been no outcry. It will be a big job educating residents.

Supervisor Lambert stated there is a proposed public opinion survey. We can take the time to go through this question by question and end up with a finished product ready to mail out with the tax bills in July. He questioned whether Board members wanted to proceed question by question to get a finished product.

Trustee Leslie stated she would like to proceed, as the Township has been promising a survey for a long time.

Clerk Winchester noted she didn't believe any promises were made regarding a survey.

Trustee Ruth stated the Board could begin working on the survey, though he doubts it will be finished tonight.

Treasurer Freeman indicated if you want the survey sent with the July tax bills, it will have to be finished tonight. If you think the logistics of that are not likely, you're looking at it being inserted in the December 1st tax bill.

Clerk Winchester stated inserting the survey in the December 1st tax bill is more appropriate. She doesn't know why this has been rushed. It was a reactive remedy to something going on at the Village. The whole Board should agree on it. With this many survey questions, there will be disagreement.

Treasurer Freeman indicated because the burden of mailing them out will fall on his shoulders, he has concerns regarding the mailing logistics. The majority of the property owners have a home mortgage and pay taxes through an escrow account. They do not receive a tax bill in the mail. He and Trustee Leslie were able to generate an address list that will actually print address labels for them. They can receive a survey even though they're not getting a tax bill. There are also property owners who do not reside in the township that pay property taxes but can't vote. He questioned whether they would get a survey. People who rent apartments or homes can vote but they don't pay property taxes and they're not the property owner. They would need police services. People who own manufactured homes don't pay property taxes, though they vote. They also need police services. The owner of the manufactured home communities pays property taxes and manufactured home owners pay taxes in their lot rental.

These things all have to be determined. We're going to get phone calls, my neighbor got a survey and I didn't; how come? We have to establish criteria of who will get a survey and who won't. He doesn't want to mail out a survey to someone who shouldn't have gotten one and he doesn't want someone not to get one when they should have.

Supervisor Lambert stated everyone who is eligible to vote should get a survey.

Clerk Winchester noted there are some taxpayers who are ineligible to vote.

Treasurer Freeman noted people who don't pay property taxes may want police services and it won't cost them anything. These are examples of things he doesn't have a clear cut answer to. When we get to the point of asking for a millage, someone who owns a large tract of vacant land will pay a disproportionately large amount of property taxes through a police millage for a service they don't need, don't want and will never use.

Supervisor Lambert indicated what we're trying to get at is do a majority of people in Holly want or have an interest in receiving added police services in the future.

Clerk Winchester suggested just asking it that way.

Treasurer Freeman suggested just keeping it as simple as possible by sending it out to everybody, taking into consideration whatever results you get back. Ideally, a survey should go to every registered voter in Holly Township, but not a resident of the Village; only the Township precincts. Now you're talking about individual mailings rather than inserting it in the tax bills. You're talking a much bigger expense.

Treasurer Freeman questioned whether a straw poll should be taken of Board members to see if they would prefer to go right to a ballot question such as, would you like Holly Township to enter into a contract for additional police

services; not having a survey, but putting it on the ballot and let them decide. The language would have to be in a manner that authorized the Township to enter into a contract.

Clerk Winchester indicated the cart is still being put before the horse. The Township hasn't examined all the run calls and other things. We've been reactive. More time needs to be spent looking at the issue as a Township Board, leaving everything else out of it, including the situation with the Village. The Township needs to decide for Township residents and the residents need to speak. There should be another Town Hall meeting scheduled for this.

Mr. Lilly stated we're forgetting we need an emergency police fund that's for both Holly Township and Holly Village. We should be working for and servicing the 10,000 residents, getting their input. Surveys do work. We have to serve the whole Holly community. We have to have that mindset and so does the Village. We're asking for an emergency police fund. Something's going to happen and it will be too late. What you're doing here is excellent, but we need to get the 10,000 people involved. Make the survey simple and get it out as soon as possible.

Treasurer Freeman indicated he sees many complications associated with a survey and there are five people on the Board. For everyone to come to a consensus, that could take another 90 days. If we scheduled a work session devoted to the survey, we may be able to accomplish a survey. But we need additional information. He would like the information from the call runs from the Village before doing the survey.

Trustee Leslie stated if we agree as a Board that we're putting a proposal regarding police services on the ballot in August 2010, we don't need the survey.

Supervisor Lambert indicated he would agree with Trustee Leslie.

Treasurer Freeman stated that's the cleanest way to do it.

- **Trustee Janet Leslie moved that the Board agree to put the question of police services on the ballot in August 2010 and that the Board will endeavor to specify the language of that ballot proposal between now and the appropriate time.**

Clerk Winchester noted the survey alone is on the agenda, not a ballot proposal.

- **Supervisor Lambert moved to postpone the public opinion survey for Holly Township until July. Treasurer Mark Freeman supported the motion. A voice vote was taken; all those present voted yes; the motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Mr. Hutchins noted there are registered freeholders in the township who are registered voters.

Mr. Sean Galloway questioned what the benefit was of the road commission dedicating some of the streets in the Pulte subdivision.

Supervisor Lambert indicated by doing that, the road commission will now be able to take care of those roads. He has information he can make available after the meeting.

Mr. Galloway stated whatever the Township decides regarding police services, he would prefer they not go with the Village. The Village isn't doing much now in regard to the water issue. They went overboard and built too much of a system. Water bills are out of control and they're going up again soon. He personally has been stopped by a Village of Holly police officer east of the high school. When he asked the officer what he had done inside of the village only to be stopped east of the high school, the officer said not one word, got back into his car and left. The Oakland County Sheriff Department is better equipped and is a better organization to contract with. If the Township

contracts with the Village for police services, they will be Johnny-on-the-spot at the beginning and provide everything you need. Then they'll say they have to start pulling back a little bit, then they'll say, well, maybe you should annex in with us and things will be better for you. If you do that, taxes will go up tremendously because the Village tax rate is similar to Farmington Hills and there's nowhere near the quality of service that is found in Farmington Hills. He strongly opposes anything to do with the Village.

Mr. Lilly indicated he attended the Village's budget meeting on June 9th, 2009. He recommended renewing the 2 mills with the specification that the \$802,000.00 be put into a special emergency fund for police services for the 36 square miles of the township and 10,000 residents. He believes the Village police do an excellent job and they can service the whole township. Without the Township being assessed, they could donate to the emergency fund to build a solid foundation of cooperation with one another. There are three new members on the Board and you were voted in to make changes for the whole Holly community, not the Village does this and the Township does that. We have to get rid of that mindset and serve and work for the 10,000 residents. Please do that, all of you.

Mr. Galloway questioned whether there was any legal way for Pulte residents to get off the Village's water system.

Supervisor Lambert stated all the Village would have to do is shut off your water and sewer and for you to purchase a tank and tile field and all the residential expenses involved. You have to make sure you have the recommended setback and lot size for that to happen. It would be a huge cost on a resident.

Clerk Winchester indicated one acre of land is needed or a community well and sewer.

Supervisor Lambert noted there are pros and cons to that. Pro being you have your own system. Con being 50 or 60 years from now the whole subdivision or individual residents will be hit with a lot of bills for the maintenance of it.

Mr. Lilly noted the Village owes \$18 million in bonds for the water and sewer system both. He was in all those negotiations. The Village did not get any security or performance bonds from Silverman or Pulte. He told them at the meeting they had to get them and their attorney was there and they didn't do it.

Adjournment: Supervisor Lambert, hearing no other business, adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Zo Turner, Recording Secretary
Holly Township

Karin Winchester, CMC
Holly Township Clerk