

**MINUTES OF GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
April 14, 2008**

Present: Hilton, Osterink, Haagsma, VanLaan, Fryling, Giarmo, Pieters
Fryling offered opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Call to order by Supervisor Hilton at 7:00 p.m.

2. Motion by Haagsma and supported by VanLaan to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: all

3. Recognition of individuals to address the Board

A. Ken Yonker, candidate for Michigan's 72nd District House of Representatives introduced himself to the Board.

B. Mike Schmidt, manager of the Dutton Mill Village mobile home park explained his proposal for "Dutton Days" on June 20 and 21. Mr. Schmidt was encouraged to continue his plans

C. Bill Hirsh, 8006 Breton Ave introduced himself and mentioned he was a candidate for County Commission District 10. Hirsch said his platform will include better land use including agricultural land. He also stated he was against the sign ordinance in place in Gaines Township.

D. Eric Fouch, 2339 84th Street spoke against the sign ordinance, calling it "restrictive"

E. Angela from Rapid Cellular stated she believed the new sign ordinance has hurt business.

F. Francesca Lopiparo of Carmellos 3555 68th Street also said she believed business was hurt by the new sign ordinance

G. Gabe Hudson, 8269 84th Street said that he opposed the sign ordinance. He also stated that he had filed paperwork to be on the ballot in August for the Township Supervisor position.

H. Peter Tran of All American Chili Dog 6630 Kalamazoo Ave. said his business was down without the availability of the portable sign.

I. Melissa Buckowing, 103 Roth spoke about a notice she received over a trailer parked in their side yard.

4. Jenni Lamb, Administrative Assistant, made a presentation on the new web site and the access available to the Trustees.

5. Motion by Giarmo and supported by VanLaan to approve the consent agenda including payment of the bills for March 6 through April 1 in the amount of \$158,590.25.

Ayes: Fryling, Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma

6. Clerk's Office Resolutions in regards to pension

Motion by Fryling and supported by Giarmo to adopt the resolution changing the eligibility requirements for the 401 A and 457 plans to be the first day of the month following one full month of employment.

Ayes: Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma, Fryling

Motion by Pieters and supported by VanLaan to adopt the resolution to amend the 401A pension plan to allow employee contributions up to 90% of their gross wages.

Ayes: Osterink, Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma, Fryling, Giarmo

7. Planning and Zoning Department

Haagsma explained the text amendment for the portable freestanding sign regulations ordinance. The Trustees asked questions and discussed the possible actions to be taken.

Motion by Pieters and supported by Haagsma to send the ordinance back to the Planning Commission for review of several issues including: penalties for violations, fine structure, lighting and anchoring, time limitations.

Ayes: Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma, Fryling, Giarmo, Osterink

8. Treasurer's Department

Motion by Pieters and supported by Haagsma to transfer \$70,000 from the TIRF Fund to the Vision for Division fund to pay for bills received from the Kent County Road Commission.

Ayes: Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma, Fryling, Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton

9. Water and Sewer Department Capital Improvements

Motion by Haagsma and supported by Pieters to approve the recommendation of the Gaines Township Engineer and the water and sewer committee and construct watermain loops on both Wayne Street (to Regal) and on the Crossings Drive.

Ayes: VanLaan, Haagsma, Fryling, Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton, Pieters

10. Engineering Department Prairie Wolf Park signage

Engineer Gritter reported that the sign for Prairie Wolf Park with the addition of the installation of concrete foundation and aluminum tubing for mounting of sign would cost \$9695.00

11. Supervisor's office

A. Applebee's Restaurant change of ownership and transfer of liquor license

Motion by Pieters and supported by Haagsma to adopt the resolution requesting transfer of ownership of a 2007 Class C Licensed Business from Applebee's of Michigan to Applebee's Restaurants Mid-Atlantic LLC.

Ayes: Haagsma, Fryling, Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan

B. Prairie Wolf Park – committee request for rental of handicap accessible portable bathroom unit.

Motion by Pieters and supported by Giarmo to approve for the remainder of 2008 the rental of a handicap accessible portable bathroom not to exceed the cost of \$125.00 a month.

Ayes: Giarmo, Osterink, Hilton, Pieters, VanLaan, Haagsma Nays: Fryling

12. Comments from the audience - no one wished to comment

13. Motion by adjourn the meeting was made by Giarmo and supported by Pieters at 8:45 p.m.

Ayes: all

The next regular meeting of the Gaines Charter Township Board will be held on May 12, 2008 in the Community room of the Township Offices. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing accommodation for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Township Office at 698-6640 one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Don R. Hilton Sr., Supervisor

Crystal Osterink, Clerk