

**HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 4, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m., by Chair, Jessica Wooten.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present by Roll Call: Dan Moore, Jessica Wooten, Mary Geetings, Beverly Holbrook, and Shelley Rosa.

Also Present: Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner. Residents attending: Sherry Taylor, Paul Mallon, Mark Walmsley, Chad Hollenbeck, Kirk and Sharon Jones, Debbie Fowler, Karen Kamp, Winona Roper, Greg Sorich, Craig Johnson, Pam Laing, and Matt Skeels, Benzie County Road Administrator.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Mark Wamsley - I visited St. Ambrose and received a tour and explanation by Kirk. Benzie County needs growth, he offers growth. He is open to fund raiser with no charge, he is a great neighbor. We should be honored to have Kirk in our township. His business is known nationally, his business is important to Benzie County.

Chad Hollenbeck - Benzie Bus Administrator - Distributed a brochure to the board and left flyers for the audience to review. Tomorrow's election is a renewal of a ½ mill. I encourage all of you to support the renewal. We offered 80,000 rides last year, we are working on efficiency, and we have reinstated Saturday and evening runs. We are using liquid propane, which has saved \$37,000 dollars last year alone. Propane is healthier for the environment. Benzie Bus is one of the top 6 fleets in the nation, number one in Northern Michigan. Support the Benzie Bus.

Sherry Taylor – Cinder Road - I have no objection to mead and wine. They however are not sticking to their license. They are operating as a bar. I do not want a bar where people attend every Friday and Saturday night, or, have a night club on the weekend. This can bring unwanted crowds in the neighborhood.

Debbie Fowler – How did they ever get a business in a rural area? Where does it state in the Zoning that he can operate a bar and have event venues? Did you as a township board ok this kind of operation? Were you asked? Seem like they are doing, and then asking. Why weren't we as neighbors notified? We are covered with bees. It was a great fund raiser, but is this where it should be taking place? The music is loud, even with my windows closed, I can understand every word.

Karen Kamp – Leya Lane - The music is loud. I sometimes work a 10 hour shift. I want to come home and go to bed. Even with my windows close, the music is loud. There was a night, that this went on until 1:00 or 1:30 in the morning. Why are the rights of a business, taking place

over the right of the people? This was supposed to only be a bee farm. They don't have to live there. There is no adequate parking. What are you going to do to protect our rights?

Kirk Jones – Owner St. Ambrose – We close at 5:00 usually 8 in the summer. We buy local fruit from local farmers in Benzie County. We have had parties. We are not a bar and we are not operating as a bar, saying that, has to stop.

Greg Serich – I live next to this, even with my windows close, it is loud. I moved up here to retire and to live in a quiet rural area. His hives are right on my property line. They should have some respect for my home. I think you need to look out for the residence. The bees impact me, and I cannot go outside.

Karen Kamp - Leya Lane - I have no problem with St Ambrose, I have a problem with the music not the business.

Paul Mallon – Sugarbush Lane - I have heard everyone talk. That property is Zoned Rural Residential. I have no problem with the winery zoned as it is, and what it is doing. But, if you go to his website, he is promoting parties, benefits. He needs to take his business, parties to downtown Honor, Beulah, to a business district. Rural residential needs to remain Rural Residential. I am not anti music, but I do not want it in my back yard. The music is very loud, even with the windows closed. They have not followed the rules, who's to say they are going to follow the rules in the future. We do not want this in our back yard.

**AGENDA** - Motion by Wooten to approve the agenda with addition, Matt Skeels – Benzie County Road Commission. - Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Matt Skeels – I am here to introduce myself, I have been only on the job for 3 weeks, so I have plenty to learn. He gave the crowd an update on current roads that have been worked on which include Goose Rd, culvert on Valley road, and the poor conditions of such roads like Weldon Road. Local road projects are funded 50% by the Road Commission. The cost for road repair is great. The next local road meeting is at the end of the month.

**CONSENT GROUPING - Minutes** - Motion my Wooten to accept the minutes presented with corrections. Support Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**BILL PAYING** - Motion by Wooten to pay all bills. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Moore – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Holbrook – Yes, Wooten – Yes and Rosa – Yes. Motion Carried.

**JPC – Dan Moore** - JPC Approve residential housing with a commercial entry way in Inland Township. The property behind the red bed and breakfast on US31 is zoned residential, and he would like to rezone it as commercial. There will be a public hearing, regarding the bed and breakfast. He also filled us in on how Christy Anderson will work with Inland Township's Fire Chief regarding the water tower needed on the North Side of the Sub Division on Bronson Lake. They are hoping to keep this out of legal.

Marijuana questions are being surfed to the attorney for final review.

JPC Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, switching back and forth between Inland and Homestead.

**FIRE DEPT - Craig Johnson, Benzie County EMS -** MFR are within the Fire Dept, they are almost always the first to respond to a medical emergency. They are the first to assess the situation, and majority of the time are the ones, that make the difference between life and death in a critical situation. County millage is for advanced life support and ambulance. The county millage brings in \$650,000 dollars, and it takes 1.5 million to operate the EMS department. The county cannot fund MFR, but they support the continuing Education, and they replenish the supplies needed in the township unit. If MFR are not present to help with a lift, the Fire Department is called to assist.

**FIRE CHIEF - Tim Markey** – Busy Month - 24 runs, 8 fire, and 16 Medical. We have a new application for the fire dept, and the fire men have approved. Kendra Lengyel. Motion by Wooten to accept the application of Kendra Lengyel to the Fire Department. Support Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

The fire department will be in the Coho Festival parade; we will have men present during the Fire Works, and will have the equipment out for show during the festival.

The two new men are in Emergency Driver Training. I am hoping to have the simulator back for training. I would like to sell the old Mack Engine, it can be used as a water truck, however, the water points are not easy to access. Once sold, I would like to apply for a grant to get a new truck.

**BALL PARK MANAGER - Frank Walterhouse** - Kids games are done. Men and Women's leagues have 4 more weeks to play. Things are running well. It's been a busy year.

Motion by Wooten to approved the JPC, Fire and Park reports as given. Support Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**COMMISSIONER – Frank Walterhouse** – Buildings and Grounds are working on Cameras for Safety inside and outside of the government center. Locks and keys are being changed. There were 139 building permits issued in the last 6 months. Tomorrow is the Benzie Bus and Jail Renewal. Animal Control has 53 dogs, and 38 cats.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Doug Durkee wants to attend training for JPC. Motion my Wooten to allow Doug to attend a training session for the JPC at the cost of \$101.00. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Correspondence that the Clerk has, would be read during discussion of St. Ambrose.

Board took a quick recess.

Back in Session at 7:41

**APPLICATION ST. AMBROSE** - Kirk Jones stood and spoke to the board regarding his business. Founded 35 years ago, employs 40 people between here and the business in Florida. They are high paying quality jobs. He expanded his honey mustard products, and then decided to try wine. He buys fruit from local farmers and brings a great business to Benzie County. We want to make Honey Malt, and I need a micro brew license for Braget, the malt. We do not want to be a bar. We do not have music very often, usually 2 acoustical players. Yes we had a benefit for a cancer patient, they raised over \$20,000 dollars, and we are having one for a women who lost her son, and she is raising money for a scholarship. Joshua Davis from the Voice, will be there. We have no plans to extend our hours. We operate under 1 license, under 1 tasting room. Jack Ogden issued the license. We cannot have a cash bar.

Pam Laing - Zimmerman Road - I like the business, I ride my bike over to visit the winery. The music does not bother me. My neighbors have parties. That's a personal note. On a business note, being the previous Loan Manager from the Honor State Bank, the Jones's are very profession, very responsible business people, one of the most responsible business people I know. If the law regarding their liquor license was being used illegally, Jack Ogden, would be all over this.

Debbie Fowler - No one has a grudge against your business, it is the wrong place for a fund raiser. Those of us that live close, want to go home and have a normal evening.

Suggested by Geetings to table this discussion until next month. Not all the material was put into everyone's packets. Not everyone has the same material.

Jessica Wooten read from Homestead / Inland zoning, that there is no Noise Ordinance in our Zoning. You must call the Sheriff's department.

Motion by Wooten to grant a new application for a liquor license for malt for Micro Brew to St Ambrose. Support Moore. Roll Call. Mary Geetings – No, Moore – Yes, Holbrook – Yes, Rosa – Yes, and Wooten – Yes. Motion Carried.

Parking, noise, and the bees, are items that need to be address, for noise, the sheriff department should be called.

Winona Roper - We want positive. Music will end at midnight.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO INTERNET** – The cost to offer this benefit to our hall renters, users, would be \$300.00 dollars. The board does not agree to offer Wi-Fi.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Power for the Pavilion** – suggested by the Coho Festival Committee. The estimated cost would be \$9,000 dollars. We will wait to see if the Coho Festival has any funds to contribute to the cause.

**Homestead Cemetery Quote -**

A quote for the replacement of water lines for Homestead Cemetery for \$5,980.00 from Moore Mechanical was read to the board. This will be tabled at this time, and will possible look into both Homestead and Champion Hill.

**Medical First Responders –**

Does the Fire Department have the money to compensate MFR? Tim distributed to the board, a detailed pay schedule including MFR pay of \$10.00 per run. The runs will have to be an hourly pay to be in compliance with the law.

An hourly pay was not being decided upon, as well as when this should take into effect. Back to April 1, or as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, so Motion by Geetings to table until next meeting when these decision could be presented. No Support. Motion dies.

Motion by Holbrook to pay Rescuer Responders ~~MFR~~ \$10.00 per hour in 15 minutes increments, and to be started on August 5, 2015. Support Rosa. Roll Call. Moore – Yes, Holbrook – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Rosa – Yes, and Wooten – Yes. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURN** - Motion by Wooten to Adjourn - Adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Geetings, Clerk

Jessica Wooten, Supervisor