

Glen Arbor Township

P.O. Box 276 Glen Arbor, MI 49636
231-334-3539 FAX 231-334-6370

John C. Soderholm, Supervisor Bonnie Quick, Clerk Terry J Gretzema, Treasurer
Kent Kelly, Trustee Wm. Thompson, Trustee

Annual Meeting
Minutes

March 28, 2009
(Meeting Tape Recorded)

The Annual Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairman, John Soderholm at 10:00 AM in the Glen Arbor Townhall. All Town Board members were present including, John Soderholm, Supervisor; Bonnie Quick, Clerk; Terry Gretzema; Treasurer; Kent Kelly, Trustee, and Wm. Thompson, Trustee. There were 55 people in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A clean audit was received by the Township as of March 31, 2008.

Supervisor Soderholm went line by line through the proposed budget.

Public Comment – Ruth Chapman asked about liability for public restrooms. Insurance coverage is in place and was a minimal additional cost. She believes the public should have voted on the Glen Arbor Garden.

Budget Hearing adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

Annual Meeting called to order at 10:34 A.M. by Soderholm. Copies of the March 29, 2008 annual meeting minutes were reviewed. **Motion by Lance Roman, support by Bill Freeman to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

Public Comment – Henry Blanksma is disappointed with sidewalk snow removal. An ordinance is being considered.

Township activity reports –

1. Township Board Report – Soderholm recapped key issues;
 - Emergency Services,
 - Assessor,
 - Dredging,
 - Sewer,
 - two Township ordinances (Invasive species and road endings),
 - a successful Board of Review (only a nominal showing of citizens),
 - Glen Arbor Garden. Construction on garden began in 2008 and nearly all is done. Dedication on Memorial Day weekend '09. Very gratifying as a result of the Fund Raising Committee a total of \$136,000 was raised. There was considerable volunteer help; Ted Peterson with architectural help, Bill Stege with water/well help and the Glen Lake Garden Club.
2. Fire Chief Report – John Dodson believes taxes will go down as result of the merger. 502 total emergency requests. 127 fire and rescue. We offer services outside our jurisdiction often and use off-duty and part time personnel for the purpose to maintain coverage for own district. A new ambulance was purchased this year without increase in budget. Equipment replacement scheduling is carefully planned and budgeted accordingly. Dodson assures the public that the budget will not increase.
3. Emergency Services Advisory Commission Report – Andy DuPont, Chairman not present. A seven member committee meets monthly.
4. Assessor's Report – Polly Cairns sent out assessments 3 weeks early this year. Appreciate input. Sales mapping software helps better plot land values. Record cards available at office. Online information as well. Assessments went up this year even with the tough market. May 1st is deadline for applying for homestead exception. State

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- mandated a 4.4% increase in assessments. Foreclosures in Glen Arbor Township are minimal and below state average. Board of Review had a new computer presentation.
5. Sewer Project – Frank Siepker and Don Matschke. This is a feasibility committee. Cost is dependent on the treatment plan. If the location of the treatment plant is located on NPS property, they would require an Environmental Impact Study at a cost of \$100,000; probably cost prohibitive. Matschke reported that the Township will have difficulty getting grants to help pay for a municipal sewer, but possibility loans. July 1, 2009 is deadline for the stimulus grant money (Federal). Public comments and questions from Meserve, Young, Hoagland and Dykstra. Siepker reiterated that one of the main goals of the committee is to seek sources and opportunities for funding and to get a handle on project costs and plans so that, in the future, a better scope of project is available. Soderholm thanks the Committee for their many hours of hard work.
 6. Dredging Committee Report – Bill Freeman. The channel is narrow under the bridge. Groebel Planning has a contour map with satellite photos of channel from October 08. A sentiment analysis was performed. A study indicates 1500 cu. yards of sand needs to be removed and will suffice for 10-15 years. Empire also contributes to dredging project. Where to place dredged material is an issue and will have to wait until after bridge construction project is completed by the October 2009 deadline. Shirley Hoaglund asked when bridge will be done, hoping for an earlier date since they started the project earlier than scheduled. Freeman says that the finish date remains the same.
 7. Glen Arbor Garden – John Soderholm – see earlier comments.
 8. Zoning & Planning Report – Lance Roman, Chairman. He reported that currently the committee is making proposed changes to several ordinances and will have public meeting on April 6th. Issues at present include; formally permitting rentals, changes to site plan review (commercial area requires Board approval), a requirement to hire consultants for clarification of issues of expertise outside the knowledge of the Board, hillside development restrictions, windmills, and comparing Empire's ordinances to Glen Arbor's as it relates to the lakes. Hoagland asks about submitting comments. Website and written feedback are welcome. Matschke asks about windmills. Structures are limited to 40 feet. Cherrie Stege asks about the sign ordinance. Currently part of the Zoning, but maybe moving the sign ordinance from Zoning to the township board jurisdiction will be made. If so, grandfathering of signage will be impacted. Gretzema chairs a 7 member Sign Committee. Hoaglund asks about light rules.
 9. Glen Arbor Township Park Commission Report – Paul Walters read a letter from Jim Fowler, Chairman. Don Vavra was honored for 8 years of service and is now retired from the Commission. Resurfacing on courts 2, 3, and 4 wintered fine. Court 1 is cement and patch system did not work. Summer camp is a success and is funded by the Glen Arbor Days Tennis Tournament and has a carry over balance of \$2,060.00. Three picnic tables added. Recreation plan rewritten by Lapham and Associates and had a public hearing. Goal for 2009 is to erect a pavilion at the park.

Soderholm summarized the salary recommendations made by the 3-member Salary Advisory Committee (Chairman, Sandy Miller, Bruce Wagoner, and Joel Battinger). Sandy Miller said the Committee recognizes the good job of the Board and take in many factors: property values, number of property parcels, and comparison to other township salaries. Jeff Rabidoux commented on salary comparison to Empire and says that Glen Arbor is almost twice that of Empire, and why? Sandy Miller responded that GA's pay is 'straight forward'; without pensions, health insurance or sick leave. Empire is not. Wagoner is aware of MTA data and assures that the Committee has taken that in to effect. Freeman, a previous member of committee, says that Empire has two separate government bodies (Village and Township). Jim Dykstra asks – Are they part time positions? Soderholm response – positions do not come with specified hours except for some government requirements before tax time and elections. Wagoner comments that the Board performs exceptionally well. Terry Casper asks about other wage increases in townships elsewhere in the County. Gretzema sites 2 differences between the Empire and Glen Arbor

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Boards; 1) there are 30% more parcels here and, 2) office hours and office presence. The Salary and Wage Commission recommended a 3.7% increase for the all Board members.

Resolution #1-2009 Supervisor Salary \$18,900 plus \$500 (towards the cost of insurance benefits) = \$19,400.00. Motion Bill Freeman, second Don Miller to approve resolution. Motion carried.

Resolution #2-2009 Clerk Salary \$31,000 + \$500 (towards the cost of insurance benefits) = \$31,500.00. Motion Bill Freeman, second Don Matschke to approve resolution. Motion carried.

Resolution #3-2009 Treasurer Salary \$27,000 + \$500 (towards the cost of insurance benefits) = \$27,500.00. Motion Paul Walters, second Bill Freeman to approve resolution. Motion carried.

Resolution #4-2009 Trustee Salaries \$2,700 + \$100 (towards the cost of insurance, plus \$50.00 per Diem for each Special Board up to 10 special meetings per year) = \$2,800.00. Motion Stan Brubaker, second Bonnie Quick to approve resolution. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting Adjourned 12:06 p.m.

Special Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. in the Township Hall. Purpose of meeting is to approve the budget, general appropriations act, and any other issues that come before the Board.

Motion Thompson, second Quick to approve the 2009-2010 Budget. Motion carried.

Motion Gretzema, second Thompson to approve the resolution in support of the General Appropriations Act. Motion carried.

Motion Thompson, second Quick to move the unused dredging funds into a reserve account. Motion carried.

Motion Kelly, second Thompson to approve a resolution in support of Mitchel Roman's application for a Michigan Township Association scholarship. Motion carried.

Motion Quick, second Thompson for Soderholm to sign the MDNR grant application for bridge area dredging. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 12:14 p.m.