

Moran Twp. Board Resists Policy Violations, Continues Development Projects

Replacement of Signs Will Take Longer Than Expected, To Be Topic at Jan. Meeting

By Paul Gingras

A large number of dogs housed on property in Moran Township, upgrades to the water system, the ongoing effort to replace street and address signs, and the burning of mail were discussed by the Moran Township board Wednesday, December 7.

Mark Spencer, in his role as zoning administrator, has notified kennel owners Keith and Wendy

Frosland that they were out of compliance with zoning laws by housing too many dogs on their property.

Only four house dogs are allowed at a residence, and, according to Township Supervisor Jim Durm, the Froslands, who breed Dachshunds, had 20 dogs at their kennel on Old Portage Road. They held a kennel permit for ten additional dogs and sought county

permission to house up to 25 dogs, some of them overflow animals from the Mackinac County Animal Shelter.

Mr. Durm said he was not aware of the number of dogs on the property until he received noise complaints from neighbors. A neighbor also complained that one of the Froslands' dogs escaped and attacked a neighbor's dog.

Although the county has the power to allow more dogs on the property under a special use permit, the township board must agree to it, and the township planning commission has decided against the proposal. The Froslands have six months to comply with the ordinance and find homes for six unauthorized dogs, Mr. Durm said.

A settlement was reached between SEMCO Energy and the township concerning the amount

the company paid in recent years on its energy distribution systems in the area. Owing to underpayment between 2002 and 2004, SEMCO will pay Moran Township \$3,600 in back taxes, but because of changes in the assessed value of SEMCO's distribution systems, the township will receive \$2,000 less from the company in future years.

The settlement settles a dispute about the value assessed on the company's personal property. The Michigan Tax Tribunal has ruled that energy companies' assets depreciate in value faster than previously allowed, meaning local taxing authorities will collect less in taxes.

In its ongoing efforts to upgrade the township's water system, trustees have moved forward with plans to replace a water line that

runs from the St. Ignace city limits to Portage Road, where it branches at Old Portage Trail. Road closures are likely throughout the course of the project.

Duane Reid of the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, must approve the plan. It is unclear when work will begin.

"Federal funding is difficult to predict," Mr. Durm said. It is possible that the money will be available sometime in 2006.

Another stretch of the water system will be replaced from the east side of Moran Road River to Gros Cap Road, he added. This part of the project is unlikely to disrupt traffic, Mr. Durm said.

The township board hopes to get grant money for the project. If no grant money is available, a low-interest loan may be secured to do

the work.

Replacement of road and address signs in the township will take longer than expected. Trustees hoped to have the signs replaced by January 1, but two weeks ago, Mr. Durm sent an updated list of addresses to the St. Ignace post office and Moran post office, which are in the process of updating their lists.

Emergency services also need the project completed before they can upgrade the database and provide quicker 9-1-1 emergency response to Moran Township.

Mr. Durm said the sign replacement project will be under heavy discussion at the next board meeting in January.

Board members discussed the closure of a case involving Kevin Vieau, who burned a large bag of township mail in 2004. Two years ago, a private mail carrier for the township went on vacation, Mr. Durm said. Mr. Vieau, who served as a temporary replacement, had difficulty doing the job, he said. In frustration, he burned the mail, which included tax government payments to township residents and tax payments to the township board.

Mr. Vieau will pay \$1,500 in fines and be under home detention, Mr. Durm said.

Family Seeks Homes for Dogs

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Frosland's kennel in Moran Township was built without the board's knowledge, yet board members agreed to acknowledge her 10-dog permit. Like all Moran Township residents, Mrs. Frosland is also allowed four house dogs of her own. Board members did not, however, agree to allow any more dogs than that.

Mark Spencer, in his role as zoning administrator, notified Keith and Wendy Frosland that they were out of compliance with zoning laws, Mr. Durm said.

Mr. Durm added that he was not aware of the number of dogs on the property until he received a complaint that the noise of barking dogs was excessive. The complaint also stated that one of the Froslands' dogs escaped and attacked a neighbor's dog.

The Froslands went to the township planning commission and applied to renew their original 25-dog kennel license, but the proposal was turned down, leaving the Froslands six months to comply with the ordinance and find homes for six dogs.

"The commission had to come to a judgment," Mr. Durm said. "In this case, the reason that the special use permit was denied was based on a neighbor's complaints, which were based primarily on the noise of barking dogs, and secondarily on the kennel's smell."

"Most of my dogs are debarked," Mrs. Frosland said, "and I believe in running an extremely clean operation. You can come to my house and listen, anytime. It's not loud. And the house does not smell powerfully of dogs, either."

Mrs. Frosland also contested the charge that one of her dogs attacked her neighbor's dog.

Mrs. Frosland was housing a Greyhound/Boxer mix: a dog which was scheduled to be transported to the Luce County Animal Shelter, she said.

While she was looking out of her window, the Greyhound/Boxer jumped her eight-foot fence and ran off.

"I went right after him," she said. According to Mrs. Frosland, the

Greyhound/Boxer was not dangerous, she was close behind, and she did not see it attack her neighbor's dog.

"In all my years of kenneling, this is the first incident like this I've dealt with," she said.

Mrs. Frosland plans to contest the commission's decision. In the meantime, however, she must find homes for six dogs.

"I'll wait until after Christmas to find places for them," she said, noting that rash decisions about animal adoptions are often made during the excitement of the holidays.

Mrs. Frosland plans to send a list of the dogs to various adoption services.

Those up for adoption include an Australian Shepherd, a Brittany Spaniel, a five-year-old Rottweiler, and three Dachshunds, which are retired show dogs.

Mrs. Frosland can be reached at 643-6318.

Survey Garners 158 Adult, Student Responses

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School, including expanded open hours and more swimming programs, and a desire for more organized sports, activities, and clubs in the community.

"People have a lot of good ideas about expanding recreation in our community, but many of these ideas take a lot of time and money," said Mrs. Evashovski. They would be more feasible, she suggested, if the city received some public support and volunteers to work on the projects and to find ways to fund projects.

"It's nice when you have interested community members going out and seeking possibilities to accomplish these ideas," she said.

Residents also support the city's recreation programs through their taxes.

Some respondents suggested facilities or programs that the city can't do, such as a movie theater and a paintball course, both of which should be privately operated, Ms. Evashovski said.

She noted that 19 of 24 requests for a movie theater came from 10th grade students.

"It was interesting to see so

many 10th graders wanting a movie theater," she said. "It may be because they can drive but they don't have the extra money to spend for bridge fare or for gas."

Another idea that was suggested, which could be considered for private ownership, was a paintball course.

The paintball course suggestion, she said, would carry too much liability for the city.

Clark Township Board Meeting Minutes

Clark Township Board of Trustees
December 15, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:05 p.m.
Trustees Present: Leach, Cruickshank, Carpenter, Hudson, Nordquist
Consent Agenda:

Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting of Nov. 17th, Special Meeting of Dec. 8th
Pay Bills: \$4,916.80 General Fund; \$2,608.46 Sewer Fund
Special Event - Living Nativity
Special Event - Artisan's Cooperative, Music & Art Dockside
Special Event - Artisan's Cooperative, Art in the Park

Cruickshank motioned to accept the consent agenda. Leach supported.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Cruickshank, Hudson, Carpenter, Leach

Hudson motioned to pass the resolution regarding the Union contract. Carpenter supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Leach, Carpenter, Hudson, Cruickshank. Motion Carried.

Leach motioned to keep the meeting times the same and to schedule a second meeting as needed. Carpenter supported. Roll Call Vote: Leach, Carpenter, Hudson, Cruickshank, Nordquist. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned that Clark Township enter into contract with EUPNTA for the Forest Service grant and sign this agreement with the changes of Bud Lowers as liaison and dates by the signature lines. Nordquist supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Hudson, Cruickshank, Carpenter. Nays: Leach. Motion Carried.

Cruickshank motioned that the Board accept the format of the Clark Township Service Contract for two-percent money. Leach supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Carpenter motioned to give two-percent money to the two organizations

who have already applied since the money is sitting in the account. The organizations fill it out, their respective office-holders sign it, it comes back to Cathy's office. Cathy gives it to each of us individually, if we agree with it, we have free will to sign it. If everybody signs it, the money is disbursed, if somebody has a problem with it and doesn't sign it, then it comes back to the board. Nordquist supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Hudson, Leach, Carpenter. Nays: Cruickshank. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned to buy light repair parts for a total of \$1,233.40 for the airport. Nordquist supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Cruickshank, Hudson, Leach, Carpenter. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned that the Board appoint Mike Patrick to a two-year term on the Planning Commission ending in 2007. Cruickshank supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Hudson, Cruickshank, Nordquist, Leach, Carpenter.

Hudson motioned that the Board appoint Marti Hart to a two-year term to the Planning Commission ending in 2007. Cruickshank supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Carpenter, Leach, Hudson, Cruickshank, Nordquist. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned that the Board appoint Michael Miller to a one-year term to the Planning Commission expiring in 2006. Cruickshank supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Carpenter, Leach, Hudson, Cruickshank, Nordquist. Motion Carried.

Nordquist motioned that the Board adopt the Social Security Number Privacy Policy. Carpenter supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Hudson, Carpenter, Leach, Nordquist, Cruickshank. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned that the Board allow the Chamber of Commerce MIRA snowmobile race, using our facilities the 27-29 of January as listed on

Special Events Application dependent upon liability insurance. Carpenter supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Leach motioned that we allow Linda Hudson, the Township Supervisor, to sign this request for ambulance and crew at a public event, contingent upon review of our insurance to see if the rig can be on the ice and the corp.'s cooperation. Hudson supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Leach motioned to approve all meeting dates for 2006 for the Clark Township Board of Trustees. Cruickshank supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Cruickshank motioned that Clark Township enter into contract with Kinross Intercept for their intercept services. Hudson supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Cruickshank, Hudson, Leach, Carpenter. Motion Carried.

Hudson motioned that Clark Township would make a budget amendment in the amount of \$4,827 to the Airport Revenue fund. Cruickshank supported. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nordquist, Cruickshank, Hudson, Leach, Carpenter. Motion Carried.

Nordquist motioned to adjourn. Cruickshank supported. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Student Expelled

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endorsed by the State Board of Education Tuesday, December 13. They are now headed to the state legislature.

The state board resolution, with legislative approval, could require all Michigan students to complete the new 18-credit "Michigan Merit Curriculum," complete the standardized Michigan Merit Exam in the spring of their junior year, and complete one online learning course. Students will complete algebra I, algebra II, and geometry, and take one mathematics class in their senior year, regardless of whether they completed the three required courses.

Students will also take English every year of high school and complete biology, either physics or chemistry, and one year of an additional science course. The social science requirement includes government and civics, economics, United States history, and world history.

Mr. Schaedig said the director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals does not expect state legislators to adopt the proposed requirements before March, so, if the requirements are adopted as law, they would not be implemented until the fall of 2007. The first group affected by the new requirements would be this year's seventh grade students, he added.

NOTICE OF ZONING APPEAL City of St. Ignace

Notice is hereby given that a hearing is scheduled for the Zoning Board of Appeals on TUESDAY, January 3, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of the St. Ignace Municipal Building, 396 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781, to consider the following:

Mr. JAMES EVERSON, 20 First Street, St. Ignace, has a 36x66 garage which is located to the north of his home, also on First Street. Mr. Everson made a request to convert this garage to a low volume store, selling furniture and home decorating supplies. He would supply the store with inventory from his store in Newberry.

The request was denied. This area is zoned R-2, Two-family residential district. Allowed is one and two family dwellings, commercial uses not permitted.

Because you live or own property within 300 feet of this property, you are being notified of the hearing. If you have concerns, please attend the meeting.

Paul R. Sved,
Building Inspector

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