

Negaunee Township Special Board Meeting – November 13, 2014

Call to Order

William Carlson, Township Supervisor, called the Special Meeting of the Negaunee Township Board to order at 6:00 p.m. Other Board members present included John Ennett, Carl Nurmi, Rachel Sertich and Duane Soine.

Absent: None

Purpose of the Special Meeting

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to review: 1) Lindberg Gravel Pit Litigation

Closed Session

At 6:04 p.m. and upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given for the Board to go into Closed Session to meet with the Township attorneys to discuss the gravel pit litigation. Ayes: 5
Nay: 0 Motion Carried

Return from Closed Session

Board members returned to Open Session at 6:40 p.m.

Gravel Pit Litigation The Township Supervisor informed those in attendance no decisions would be made at the meeting as to whether or not to appeal the recent ruling, as the attorneys were not certain Judge Mazzuchi's ruling was a Final Order due to the fact only 1 of the 2 litigation items had been addressed.

Public Comment Individuals were allowed to provide Public Comment, however, the Supervisor noted any comment would only be for the benefit of Board members as the case file was closed – and if an appeal was undertaken only those comments already on file with the Court could be used.

Brian Steede, Chief Operating Officer of the McClure Basing Association, noted he hopes the Board continues to oppose the gravel pit.

Les Connon and Carolyn Crowley, 50 Basin Ridge Road, provided a letter to the Board read by JoAnn Olivier. They noted they had helped collect the signatures on the petition against the gravel pit. They are concerned about the safety of the environment along with the impact to property values in the area and air quality and noise concerns. PA 113 was not designed to allow for a gravel pit in a residential area – a law should promote safety and security not the opposite. They recommend Negaunee Township appeal the law implemented with PA 113.

Lisa Ossenheimer, 116 Arbutus Trail (across from Hoist Road), addressed the Board. She echoed Brian Steede's comments. She noted if the gravel pit begins, the Township taxpayers will be the ones paying to make certain it is policed and is in compliance. Why should the taxpayers be the ones have to pay this cost.

Chris Lunswth, 120 Harood Lane, asked about what the second issue was the Judge had not ruled on. He was advised it had to do with Inverse Condemnation, and if the Plaintiff would seek damages for not having been able to use their property during the time of the lawsuit.

Dale Ossenheimer, 116 Arbutus Trail, noted his concern for the fact: 1) Lindbergs had not listened to public concern, 2) plans for the property lacked detail and transparency with regards to airborne pollutants, water run off and traffic, 3) lack of the businesses moral integrity with regards to the issue, 4) who will potentially police the property, and 5) the way information from the business was distributed. He believes Lindberg will be far from an ideal neighbor, a business which used bullying in the Courts versus trying to work with the Township.

JoAnn Olivier, 69 Co. Rd. 510, noted her concern for the issue and if Casperson should be contacted regarding the law and the way it is being used.

Mike Quayle, 1700 Mildred, Marquette (Owns a camp on the Basin). He noted it is a lose / lose situation – the Township will either lose money in the lawsuit or lose money by property values declining resulting in lower tax funds. He said it is unfortunate, especially the fact the Marquette County Road Commission play a part in it for having supported the gravel pit.

Eugene Wickenheiser, 253 Carrie Road. Noted his concern for the gravel pit and possible consequences of the same, especially because his property abuts the Lindberg property.

Gary Wommer, 64 Co. Rd. 510, apologized to the Board as he feels his committee vote is part of the reason the Township is in the spot it is with the litigation, and it would be difficult to change the Judge's ruling on the main issue.

Adjournment

No further public comment or business appearing the Special Board meeting was duly adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk