

Draft: January 23, 2007

Village of Bingham Farms
Council Meeting
January 22, 2007

Approved: February 26, 2007

The regular meeting of the Village Council was called to order by President Bauer at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Bauer, Ettenson, Freeman, Kesley, Leckie, Gollnitz & Tripp

Absent: None

Also Present: Police Chief Patrick Browne, Fire Chief Tony Averbuch, Earl Wolfe (Old Orchard Trail), Marcia Gershenson (Oakland County Commissioner), Hagaman, Ludwick & McDermott

Agenda

Motion by Leckie, second by Tripp to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Leckie, second by Ettenson to approve the meeting minutes of December 18, 2006 as submitted.

Motion carried.

Public Comments Not on the Agenda

Marcia Gershenson advised Council that the County has many openings for volunteers in many areas of County government. Anyone interested should access the County website.

Mr. Ettenson thanked Ms. Gershenson for her help to get the "No Turn on Red" sign removed.

Ms. Gershenson clarified, that contrary to news articles, she is not calling for a ban on Trans Fats, but has asked the County to authorize a study to determine the health concerns relating to the use of Trans Fats.

Police Chief

Chief Browne updated Council on the Arden Ct. investigation. Their findings have been presented to the Prosecutor's Office to determine whether any charges will be filed. Other agencies are also conducting separate investigations to determine whether there are any code violations at the facility.

Embezzlement charges were filed against an employee in the 30300 Telegraph Rd. building for faxing forged time sheets with padded hours.

In other activity, two people were cited for driving with suspended licenses.

Detective Castro is enrolled in a management program for police officers. It is offered locally by Northwestern University School of Staffing & Command. It is a supervisory management program that will add to Detective Castro's academic background.

Other police officers are receiving training through programs sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Dept.

Mr. Leckie addressed a concern regarding the dumping of wood chips on 14 Mile Rd. The Chief indicated that he has directed his officers to pay special attention to this area. He hopes that the

“No Dumping” signs will help discourage illegal dumping.

Fire Chief

Chief Averbuch reported on the special presentation created by the Fire Dept., which highlights the training and services provided by the Department. A CD is available for any trustee to view. This presentation is not available to the public due to confidential information contained in the presentation.

The Chief updated Council on the use of a Knox box at Bingham Woods Condominiums. This provides emergency personnel with access to a unit in an emergency. Mr. Leckie addressed several concerns of residents regarding the security of the key and how the Fire Dept. identifies the keys to the unit. The Chief indicated that the keys are coded and are kept in a secure location.

The Chief indicated he is developing the specifications for a transport ambulance. The goal is to have the vehicle by the end of the year.

Ordinance Amendments

Residential driveways & parking areas

Mr. Kesley summarized the discussions the Planning Commission had regarding driveways and auxiliary parking areas. The DRB is receiving more requests to have auxiliary parking areas on private property and/or very wide driveways. The Design Review Board currently has no authority to review driveways for single-family dwellings and has requested an ordinance amendment to expand their authority over driveways and auxiliary parking areas. The Planning Commission concurs with this request and had drafted two ordinances on this issue.

The first Ordinance amendment would provide restrictions on the size and location of auxiliary parking areas and prohibit both an auxiliary parking area and a circular driveway. The concern is over the amount of impervious surfaces and the resulting excessive water runoff.

Discussion ensued. Two changes were made to the draft ordinance. Section 1 was expanded to include the specifications controlling the size of the parking area. Section 6 was changed to refer to the Zoning Ordinance relative to storage of vehicles in a parking area.

Motion by Kesley, supported by Tripp to adopt Ordinance # 202 amending the Residential Driveway regulations in Chapter 97 of the Village of Bingham Farms Ordinance Code, restricting semi-circular driveways and providing for auxiliary parking areas as discussed. Motion carried.

Design Review Board

The second Ordinance amendment will specifically provide the Design Review Board with the authority to review driveways and auxiliary parking areas for single-family homes.

Motion by Ettenson, supported by Tripp to adopt Ordinance # 203 amending Chapter 153 of the Village of Bingham Farms Ordinance Code to authorize the Design Review Board to review and approve residential driveways and auxiliary parking areas.

Motion carried.

Mr. Kesley addressed another issue raised by the Planning Commission relative to the amount of time a recreational vehicle is allowed to be “stored” outside. The current ordinance allows for

outside storage not to exceed 12 hours. This is very restrictive as it may take a resident at least 24 hours to adequately prep the vehicle for a trip.

Council discussed several alternatives ranging from a 24 to 48 hour time limitation for outside storage of recreational vehicles.

Motion by Tripp, supported by Kesley to request the Planning Commission review the current ordinance and forward a proposal to Council.

Motion carried.

Non-Motorized Safety Paths

Mr. Kesley explained that the Council had asked the Planning Commission to investigate the concept of safety paths. This concept is included in the Master Plan. Additionally, one of the conditions for receiving Act 51 monies (offsets some of the cost of maintaining major and local roads in the Village) is to apportion a percentage of that money for non-motorized pathways.

Birchler Arroyo was asked to present a proposal to study this issue. The cost of the study is approximately \$7,000. The Planning Commission is requesting funding to conduct the study.

Motion by Kesley, supported by Tripp to authorize \$7,000 to conduct a Non-Motorized Pathway Study as detailed in the Birchler Arroyo Proposal dated January 8, 2007.

Motion carried.

Planning Commission Recommendation

President Bauer informed Council of an opening on the Planning Commission due to a member moving out of the Village. Two candidates have indicated interest in the vacancy: Dr. Kathleen Yaremchuk and Nathaniel Towle.

Dr. Yaremchuk for several years has indicated a desire to serve on one of the Village Boards. She is a long-time resident. Mr. Towle also brings a background that would benefit the Planning Commission.

It is the President's recommendation to acknowledge Dr. Yaremchuk's long-standing interest in the Village and appoint her to the vacant position on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Gollnitz, supported by Tripp to appoint Kathleen Yaremchuk to the Planning Commission, said term to expire in March 2008.

Motion carried.

The Council requested that Mr. Towle be considered for the next vacancy.

Appoint Budget Committee

Mrs. Ludwick indicated that work on the Fiscal Year Budget 2007-2008 has started and it is time to appoint a Budget Committee.

Mr. Leckie & Mr. Freeman both volunteered.

Motion by Gollnitz, supported by Tripp to appoint Dave Leckie & Bill Freeman to the Budget Committee.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The December 2006 Financial Report showed a General Fund balance of \$3,175,473.61 with income for the month of \$19,002.58 against expenditures of \$104,705.07. The Gas & Weight Fund balance was \$191,503.54, with income for the month of \$5,293.00 against expenditures of \$57,704.04.

Motion by Leckie, supported by Ettenson to accept the December 2006 Financial Statement as presented.

Motion carried.

The Bills to be Paid for January 2007 were in the following amounts: General Fund, \$111,727.44; Gas & Weight, \$19,542.90.

Motion by Gollnitz, supported by Kesley to approve payment of the January bills as presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ludwick reported that investments in CDs through Multi-Bank Securities have significantly increased returns over the last year, as confirmed by the 6/30/06 audit. Monies would be drawn from the pool funds to meet January 2007 expenditures.

Treasurer's memo attached to original minutes.

Clerk's Report:

Mrs. Hagaman referred to a newspaper article on Bloomfield Township's Safety Path Program. The township floated a bond in 1999 to construct pathways. This year they will spend almost \$1.6 million on the next phase of the program.

President Bauer summarized the Village's prior policy on pathways. Concerns remain regarding liability and maintenance issues. The Planning Commission should address these issues as part of the study.

Staff would like to receive CPR training. The Fire Dept. has offered to conduct a special training class for the office staff. It would be more efficient to have the training during the workday and close the office for a 1/2-day. Council supported the concept and asked to be notified when it is scheduled, as they would like to participate if possible.

A meeting was held with the Southfield Postmaster, Roger Blackwell and two other postal employees to discuss the delivery problems associated with the Village newsletter. A few recommendations were made which hopefully will improve delivery times.

Clerk's memo attached to original minutes.

President's Report

President Bauer expressed her delight with the holiday lighting throughout the Village. She lauded Beachum Roeser for their exceptional display saying it brightens up the area during a bleak time of the year.

Sewer & Water/Ordinances-Freeman

No report

Fire/Police-Leckie

No report

PC/Legislative- Kesley

No report

Cable/Non-Residential-Ettenson

Mr. Ettenson updated Council on the latest legislative actions and its implications for the viability of the Cable Board. The Board is in a “wait and see mode”. A Comcast Vice President has moved into the Village.

Roads/Residential-Gollnitz

Mr. Gollnitz indicated that AEW is working on specifications to solicit bids for several road projects to be undertaken in the spring and summer. The bids will probably go out at the end of February.

Solid Waste/Insurance-Tripp

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Kesley alerted the Village to a recent home sale on his street and his concern it might become a rental property. The Village should investigate whether this home will be a rental and provide the homeowner with the applicable forms for rental properties.

Mr. Ettenson asked whether the Village is contemplating a turn lane on Thirteen Mile Rd at Bingham Rd. Mrs. Hagaman replied that funding is a major issue and there is limited money in the Tri Party Account, where costs would be shared between the County, the Road Commission and the Village.

There being no other business before the Council, the President adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.