

Supervisor Hebert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 64<sup>th</sup> St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps, Gooding.

Supervisor Hebert opened the Public Hearing for proposed Property Purchase Adjacent to Pier Cove Park

**Public Comments –**

Andy Murch, 2384 Lakeshore Dr.- Stated that he was neutral to the process, but feels that we are putting the cart before the horse. If the township expands ownership he would like to see us devote resources for oversight and maintenance of the property with a budget item. He would also like to see a public document of record to hold the board accountable for taking care of Pier Cove Park.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Asked the board to stop any further plans and efforts to secure grants or any funding until the township has agreed to a well publicized, well organized “charette” administered by an independent qualified individual. (See Letter for further comments)

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd- Thanked the Trull and Simonds family for their willingness to have a conversation to have this idea come before the community. He enthusiastically supports the idea of the application to the DNR. Pier Cove Park helped shape his life. (See letter)

John Hagen, 2127 Lakeshore Dr- Expressed his interest in seeing the Township purchase the property at Pier Cove. He believes that we need to buy first, then develop. There’s no point in having a plan if you don’t have the property. It should be simple. (See Letter)

Charles Landefeld, 2089 Lakeshore Dr- President of the LMSA stated that the township needs to slow down the process. Most were just made aware of this Friday before the meeting. He also asked that all correspondence be posted to the Township website. Feels that they need to be more informed. (See letter)

Tim McKeown, 2318 Lakeshore Dr- Representing the Simonds family and also Pier Cove Ravine Trust, is working with the Township and the Trulls to find an equitable solution. He supports Sara Cullen’s points. We need input from as many people as possible and making sure that rights of the private beach owners and the neighboring community members are being heard as well. Pier Cove Ravine Trust has not formulated an opinion as of yet.

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Asked if there had been an appraisal done and is it available to the public? Also, what was the appraisal? (See letter)

Daphne Fairbanks, 2343 Lakeshore Dr- Supports the purchase, but also would like hearing ideas about maintenance. Believes we should get the property first.

Andy Murch, 2384 Lakeshore Dr- Felt that the township didn’t get the info out in time.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Asked if there was any way that she could get assurances about having a “charette”? Stated that she was fortunate enough to participate with Westside County Park. Explained that a charette came first and then continued with an explanation of how it worked.

John Hagen, 2127 Lakeshore Dr- Stated that the level of effort needs to fit the size of the project. Let’s not over complicate it. There’s no point in doing a charette unless you have control of the property. Do not put the cart before the horse.

David Nash, 2308 Lakeshore Dr- When there is contention, the township should send an official letter to all residents. Pier Cove Park needs to be better taken care of. Would like to have an independent person come in to lead. (See letter)

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd- Stated that he appreciates the dialogue. Friends of Pier Cove Park tried to reach out to all stakeholders. He is not opposed to a charette. The Township is close to receiving scores for the development grant. No design has been done beyond the drawing that Bob Griese has done. When we get awarded the grant, it would then be a good time to have a charette. If you haven’t read the park plan, you need to.

Helen Curtis Foster, 2265 Lakeshore Dr- Believes that the township should be sending a letter to all Ganges Township residents to let them know. Tax payers should be notified.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Believes that getting the property first and then having a charette is problematic. She wants an assurance that a charette will happen. There are people that have the ability to make the acquiring of the property possible so we want some assurances that a charette will be in place.

Greg Dzewit, 6945 Lakeshore Ct- Asked what the opportunity of time is to make the acquisition? Hates to see the Township lose the property. (See letter)

Tim McKeown, 2318 Lakeshore Dr- Stated that this was like trying to buy a car before knowing how to drive it. Wants the township to be clear about assurances. The Simonds family is looking for a set of assurances. Presented a report from Ganges Township in 1970. They had the exact same issues with similar constituents and board challenges with resources. In 50 yrs, problems have not been solved. We need to find balance.

Daphne Fairbanks, 2343 Lakeshore Dr- We wouldn't be here if Dana hadn't taken us under his wing as a project to try to improve the park. She appreciates that.

Hebert closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular meeting at 7:41 pm.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to accept the agenda dated 9/1/2021 as presented with the removal of 14C. Proposed Pier Cove Park Property Purchase and DNR Grant Application and the addition of 14C. Solar Speed Limit Signs and 15A. Virtue Cider Outdoor Entertainment Application. Motion carried.

**Correspondence –** Letter was received from Apple Blossom Chapel regarding complaints that a neighbor is in violation of our Noise Ordinance and believes that there is a health code violation as well. They are asking the township to look into it.

Many letters have been submitted regarding the possible Pier Cove Park property acquisition. These letters will be posted on the Township website.

**Comments Regarding Agenda Items-** Jeffrey Pappenheimer, 6044 Forbidden Oak Dr., commented on last month's meeting minutes and items that he felt were not included in regards to the road maintenance agreement fees.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/10/2021 as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 8/31/2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$413,641.83
Ambulance Fund	16,762.29
Fire Fund	114,483.40
First Responders Fund	13,625.26
Road Fund	669,669.20
CD	194,234.20

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Hebert seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 9/14/2021 as presented from the following funds: General Fund - \$36,582.88; Fire Fund - \$7,353.45; First Responder Fund - \$1,545.28; Ambulance Fund - \$7,072.50; Road Fund-\$22,815.94. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dan Diaz, Fire Chief, Nothing to report.

A J Broe, Cemetery Sexton, reported 1 burial for the month. Eagle Scout is finalizing the project for the cemeteries.

Hutchins moved, Gooding seconded, to approve a variance for a headstone placement by the family of Rodney Stehle at Taylor cemetery. Motion carried.

Barry Gooding reported on the August Planning Commission meeting. New Roads and signs were discussed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS -**

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the purchase of a new outdoor posting board. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Gooding seconded, to approve the work order from the Allegan County Road Commission for the purchase and installation of 2 solar powered radar speed limit signs for Lakeshore Dr between 121st Ave and 124th Ave for approx. \$6500. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Hebert moved, Gooding seconded, the approval of the Virtue Cider Outdoor Entertainment permit for the remainder of 2021. Motion carried.

**Public Comments-** Jeff Pappenheimer, 6044 Forbidden Oak commented that the dead-end private road concerns that Mr. Gooding spoke of are a civil matter.

Russ Nally commended the board and gave his appreciation. He is concerned about the 5 volunteer firefighters that he heard had quit.

Andrew Murch, concerned about the speed of vehicles on Lakeshore. There are more people walking and riding bikes since the road was widened. Survey was done by local residents and speed limit signs were the number one item so they are pleased to hear we are putting those in. They would also like to see crosswalks. Are there resources, grants for other signage?

Jeff Pappenheimer stated that the township could create a police department or have a code enforcement officer to help with Pier Cove and enforce the rules.

Andy Starring, asked if the township has developed a criteria to get speed signs for other area roads. The Lakeshore isn't the only area with these problems.

Diane Broekhuis stated that they should put bike path signs on the bike path. People are parking in that lane. Spoke with a county police officer who suggested that we should hire a township police officer. She believes that we should look into this. It would be for the whole township. Not just Pier Cove.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Phelps, Clerk  
Ganges Township