

INTERIOR TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2006

Meeting called to order at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present were Treasurer Dolores Peltola, Trustee's Eugene Hautamaki and Bob Knivila, Supervisor Bill Besonen and Clerk Mikki DeWitt.

Motion was made by Knivila and seconded by Peltola to adjourn and move to the American Legion. Motion carried.

Public Hearing re-opened at 7:11 p.m. Agenda item: Re-zoning of the Bond Falls Area.

The following people spoke under the 3 minute Public Comment time:

Cathy Shamion, Superintendent, Ewen-Trout Creek School~At it's regular meeting the night before, the board of education passed a resolution supporting the rezoning of property adjacent to Bond Falls Flowage to a Lake-Residential District. The board also supports plans including water access and dock privileges. Shamion stated that she appreciates the opportunity to speak at this meeting. Explained the financial difficulties facing our school, we are a deficit school district, and there are only 2 things you can do to eliminate a deficit, decrease expenditures and increase revenue. We need the tax dollars that can be generated from this project. Since 1994, the year of Proposal A, our school district has lost more than 200 students. Our school is the largest employer in the 7 townships that make up this district.

Maggie Brown, Ewen-Trout Creek School~presented the town board a petition from the teachers and the support staff supporting the Bond Falls Project. Explained that she is a life long resident of Bergland and lives very close to the shores of Lake Gogebic. Explained that years ago, there were tiny cabins on the shores of Gogebic, now, it has expanded beautifully, million dollar homes, beautiful landscaping, docks that are not even noticed. Explained that the growth on the lake is unbelievable and has done nothing but benefit the residents of Bergland. Change is good and progress is necessary and the approval of the Bond Falls Project is vital to the survival of the people and the businesses in this area.

Skip Schultz~Wants to let people know that being a business owner, his comments have no effect on what his station has done for coverage. Has given both sides every opportunity to comment on this issue and has been fair. Commented on over the years, all of the chances surrounding communities have had to add a development, different groups come in and tell us we can't have any development. Gave different scenarios on different ideas that have been given to different communities on how to upgrade.

Dave Forsburg, Community & Government Affairs Leader, UPPCO~On behalf of UPPCO, he would like to thank the town board and the planning commission and everybody who has labored on this project. Urges the board to vote in favor of the rezone.

Nancy Gatta, Ewen-Trout Creek School~says that if this project doesn't go through, we will not have a school in a few years. As Mrs. Shamion stated earlier, the school is the largest employer in the 7 township of this district. If our school closes, our children will have to be bussed to Ontonagon or Watersmeet, also the jobs that will be lost, people will have to move to support their families. Urges to approve the rezoning with the docks.

Bobbie Murray~landowner and registered voter of Haight Township~Commented on the "facts and fictions" package that was sent out by UPPCO. Stated that she is concerned and deeply saddened that the comments and resolutions supporting to the changes and current use and management of the lake buffer zone and project areas surrounding Bond Falls Flowage are related directly to increased tax revenues as projected by statistics generated by the company standing to make the financial gains from these changes. She is also concerned and deeply saddened that we as a community are so quick to sell such a unique and important resource.

Linda Rein~Thanks the board for having this additional public hearing. Read a letter commenting on the proposed zoning changes for Bond Flowage area from FR to LR. Says that reasons why there is another public hearing is because the first public hearing that was held on June 1st, comments, concerns, emails and letters were not adequately considered, acknowledged or addressed by the township board or by Supervisor Besonen, public comments were not only ignored, they were not documented or summarized in the official minutes of the meetings. Says there have been improper procedures on behalf of township officials including conflict of interest, possible secret meetings in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Janet Dellaria~stated that everybody in attendance can thank her and Linda Rein because if it weren't for them, she states, the board would have voted without a public meeting. Understands how schools need money, but, people have to do their homework!! Commented on property taxes going up, requires Naterra to do a cost of service study.

Joy Ibsen~commented that we need development, but opposed to docks, although, if it is a limited number, it can be handled. Spoke on the importance of business and development in the community, but extremely important to culture. Feels we need to move forward and approve the zoning change, and hopefully all organizations involved will see that things are done in a reasonable way that is good for the community.

Al Warren~spoke about why the price that Naterra paid UPPCO for the land hasn't been mentioned. Spoke about some of the parcels that were sold in Haight Township and taxable values of some parcels. Feels a cost of service study should be done. Spoke on the "fact & fiction" sheet that was sent out. Wants to see what Naterra is going to do and what it's going to look like 10 years from now and how much it's going to cost taxpayers.

Tom Baade~representing Naterra land. States regarding the Naterra plan, it was shown at a public meeting to let people know where they are in the process. It is very far from a finalized document because of everything concerning the piers. The plan to date shows 424 lots and a density of 1 unit per 4 acres. That is 4 times greater than what the current zoning district is in Interior and in Haight. As that plan is developed, he will bring it to future town meetings and once they have it finalized with the environmental studies and what is presented to FERC it will be published for all to see and will be happy to answer questions on it.

Fred Sliger~Urges the board not to get bogged down with the dock business. The board is here to change the zoning classification, and urges the board to do so. Stated that he is a member of the county EDC, and every loan that the county has made has gone bad (since he has been on the EDC board). These are good people who are trying to make a business work, and it can't be done around here. Stated he has a small business, and it is very hard to run that business. Feels economic activity is needed, and urges the board to vote in favor.

John Pelkola~stated he is favor of the Bond Lake development and is support of the Lake Residential change, increased public access and good sound economic development.

Don McLaughlin~chairman of the EDC of Interior Township. Don read a letter that the committee adopted the previous night. It stated that the EDC urges the Interior Township Board to approve the Lake Residential Zoning and the map for the Bond Falls Flowage area. Stated what an important impact this will bring to different businesses to Ontonagon County. Feels it is unnecessary to rehash the same issues that have been brought to the board and the planning commission time and time again by the opposing group. No negativity has been brought forward to any organizations involved to date. The EDC goes on record stating it is time to move forward with this project and urges the town board to do what is correct for our township and approve the rezoning and the map.

Gerald DeVowe~stated he has spoken to many people on the development issue, some for and some against, many who are not residents, and he feels the board should take a poll from the residents of the township, not people from Chicago, California or wherever they are from.

Roger Trudeau~UPPCO estate director-strongly urges and recommends that the rezoning should take place. Gave thanks to the board. Agrees with Fred Sliger on not getting caught up on the dock issue. The project lands are part of a whole other process that they have been engaged in since December and will be resolved hopefully sometime next year by FERC.

Letter from Nancy Warren~DeWitt read a letter that Ms. Warren sent to Bill Besonen. She stated that she has stated her concerns and objections in the past, none has been recorded as part of the official minutes. Stated that Interior Township has taken the position to support private lighted docks and trails within the project lands and this support is also without regard for the fluctuating water levels or the impact these docks will have on the natural resources and suggests Interior Township should follow the lead of Stannard Township and not support said docks. Believes the 25 ft setback from the project lands should be extended to 100 ft or more for any permanent structure. Commented on the packet of materials UPPCO sent to Interior Township residents outlining anticipated tax revenues. Feels that the information is misleading, inaccurate and inappropriate. Feels UPPCO and Naterra do not have township or county resident's best interests in mind. A full copy of Ms. Warren's letter is on file at the town hall.

Letter by Jim Ojala, Ewen-Trout Creek School Board President~Reads that the E-TC Consolidated School District Board of Education supports Bond Falls Project #1864 and believes the project will provide positive social and economic impact on

our area's economy and will help support local units of government, community programs and our school. A copy of said letter is on file at the town hall.

Petition letter~Members of the E-TC School District Teaching Staff and Support Personnel would like to go on record in support of the Bond Falls Project #1864 and its continued development. 30 signatures were present on said petition and is on file at the town hall.

Scott McLaughlin~resident of Interior Township, local contractor, and fire chief ~ Scott explained how he watched his parents leave this area in order to find work, how he had to leave the area when he got out of college. Stated that if this development doesn't happen, there will not be anything here for our kids. We have to think of our kids generation and what this development can do for them. Also stated that the fire department is in approval of this development.

Don Lenef~Wants to go on record by saying he is support of this development and that the board and the planning commission had an opportunity to create some "meat" in their proposals which would control docks, lot size, pollution and access to the project land.

Charles Murray~Does not know how this project will improve the environment.

Frank Pentti~his concerns are how we can get money into this area and are the lots that are we are proposing too small to attract the type of investors that we would like to have in this community.

A motion was made by Supervisor Besonen and seconded by Trustee Knivila to proceed with the rezoning and zoning map amendment. The Township of Interior ordains that the property adjacent to Bond Falls Flowage is rezoned from a Forestry-Recreation District to a Lake-Residential District.

Knivila spoke up by stating he was born and raised in this community, attended the Trout Creek School. Loves this community and have watched it decline and has always had an interest in hoping somehow we could get resurgence in this community. Commented on the resurgence with the White Pine Mine. We need something more than tourism. This is the chance in Ontonagon County to shift the whole direction of what is happening in this county. Is in favor of this development and does not believe that the board has done anything that is of a questionable nature.

Hautamaki spoke by stating he is in favor of the development for the community, the school and the fire department.

DeWitt stated that she has 2 children that go to E-TC school and that she wants her kids to continue going to and graduate from that school.

Besonen stated that he is pro development and thinks this development will be good for the county, the township, and the school.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted aye:

Trustee Hautamaki, Treasurer Peltola, Trustee Knivila, Supervisor Besonen and Clerk DeWitt.

Supervisor Besonen declared the Zoning Ordinance Amendment adopted as of August 31, 2006.

Besonen closed this part of the Public Hearing at 8:45 p.m. and called for a 15 minute recess.

The Interior Township Special Meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

SUPERVIORS REPORT.

*NMPSA workshop scheduled for 9/11/06~Besonen reported he will not be here, but if any other board member or planning commission member is interested, the workshop is available.

*MSU Ext-Master Citizen Planner Certification Program-\$385/person-9/12-11/7-Knivila spoke of interest in attending, but is not sure on the township budget. Melanie Pelkola stated it may only come around every 4 years or so, but is not quite sure.

*Randal & Laurel Ureavich Property~May be interested in selling their lot across from the township hall & the people who own the land next to it already indicated they are trying to buy it from them. If they decide not to buy it, Besonen suggests that the township buy it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

*Sewer Extension Considerations-U.P. Engineers & Architects-Motion was made by Knivila and seconded by Hautamaki support the letter Besonen drafted that states "For the CDBG grant application, Interior Township has \$50,000 in its

Sewer Fund that the township has committed as matching dollars for the Mill Town Road Sewer Project.” Motion carried.

*Township’s Road Signs-Speed Limit and Informational~Besonen reported that Maloney was gone during the week, so he couldn’t get any exact wording, but in November, the road commission has the option of setting the speed limit based on the number of driveways there are per mile.

NEW BUSINESS.

*Liquor Control Commission Resolution-Attending the meeting were the new owners of Da Flowage, Joe & Bob Wilhelm. They both informed the board and the public that they will be opening the business and gave brief descriptions on what remodeling they have done to prepare for the opening.

A motion was made by Besonen and supported by Peltola to transfer the liquor license from Headwaters State Bank to Wilhelms Northern Adventure. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted aye:

Trustee’s Knivila and Hautamaki, Treasurer Peltola, Supervisor Besonen and Clerk DeWitt. Carried.

*Tax-Foreclosed Parcels Resale Profits to the State-\$972.65~A motion was made by Peltola and seconded by Hautamaki to send a check for \$972.65 to the State of Michigan for profits for the sale of the property. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted aye:

Supervisor Besonen, Trustee Knivila, Treasurer Peltola, Trustee Hautamaki and Clerk DeWitt.

*SOS Resolution-Motion made by Besonen (as a friendly amendment) and seconded by Knivila to adopt the “Stop Overspending” Resolution #083106-00. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted aye:

Trustee’s Hautamaki and Knivila, Treasurer Peltola, Supervisor Besonen and Clerk DeWitt.

Besonen declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

*K-16 Resolution-Motion made by Besonen and seconded by Hautamaki to adopt the “K-16 Spending Mandate Ballot Proposal” Resolution #083106-01. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted aye:

Trustee Knivila, Treasurer Peltola, Trustee Hautamaki, Supervisor Besonen and Clerk DeWitt. Besonen declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

*Ontonagon Twp Park Board-Motion made by Knivila and seconded by Hautamaki to support the Ontonagon County Boards application for a grant. Motion carried.

*Planning Commission/Zoning Administrator Request~Motion was made by Besonen to support the existing zoning ordinance as written until such time as the ordinance can be reviewed and tied into the newly developed master plan to avoid any further inconsistencies in enforcement of the ordinance. Seconded by Peltola. Mike Pope (township attorney) stated that such a motion is not necessary and motion was withdrawn.

*GOCAA Membership~Motion made by Knivila and seconded by Besonen to endorse the appointment of Dolores Peltola to fill the vacancy on the GOCAA Governing Board of Directors. Motion carried.

*Pond Fest Donation~Motion made by Knivila and seconded by Besonen to approve a \$1000.00 donation from the Pond Fest Committee to the Fire Hall Fund. Motion carried. (The remainder of the money will go into the Parks and Recreation Fund.)

*FOIA Coordinator~Motion made by Knivila and seconded by Peltola to appoint LeeAnn Anderson as the FOIA while Besonen is on vacation. Motion carried.

*Voter Registration List~We are in the process of getting such list up to date.

*Letters from Dale Schmeisser, Linda Rein, Nancy Warren and Janet Dellaria

Dale requests not to be reappointed to the Planning Commission Chair. A letter of thanks will be sent to Dale for his years of service to the Planning Commission.

Legal advice from attorney Mike Pope concerning a letter from Nancy Warren Peltola voiced her opinion regarding letters the town board has received from different individuals, both inside and outside of the township. She also commented on the downfall of Interior Township through the years, and also stated how poor this township is and the money that is paid out to the township attorneys for just a few individuals is upsetting. Besonen added if the board gets any more additional letters, they should be forwarded to Mike Pope. Mr. Pope stated that he needs some type of direction as far as letters that are sent to him directly. It was decided that if any other letters are received, they will be forwarded to Mr. Pope and a reply will

be sent. If letters are sent directly to Mr. Pope, he then will contact Besonen and a decision will then be made by the board at the following board meeting.

*Foreclosed Store Update~Ms. Norton was notified that she can take what she wants out of the building by the end of September. Hally's last request was that she would like to buy the building back from the township.

*September 12 Twp Board Meeting~Knivila will chair the meeting in Besonen's absence.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT.

Patsy May requested copies of all resolutions that were passed at tonight's meeting and copies of all of the letters from Dale, Janet, Linda and Nancy. This will be done under FOIA.

Joy Ibsen asked about the property across the street from the town hall and commented how the township should look at this piece of property as it is such a prime lot. She stated how disappointing it would be to see someone buy it and use it for garbage. Knivila explained which lot it is that was in question and what may be developed in that area.

Janet Dellaria stated that she pays taxes in this township and has a right to attend meeting and has the right to question what the governing body is doing. Explained that she is legally an Illinois resident, and everyone may have a copy of letters that she has sent to the town board. Commented on the last notice that was put into the paper was inadequate, FOIA requests that she asked for.

Rosie Larrin asked about the \$972.65 and wanted to know about the \$600 (not sure on the exact figure) and what that was for. DeWitt said that off hand, she wasn't sure what that figure was for, but will look into the township books and make a copy of it for her.

DeWitt requested from Linda Rein a copy of the list of concerned citizens that she speaks on behalf of regarding the Bond Lake Development.

Linda Rein questioned the Trout Creek website. Besonen said that it is active now and can be found at www.interiortownship.com and is the official website.

Patsy May suggested that the answering machine at the town hall should say "you have reached the Interior Township Town Hall". It will be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Mikki DeWitt, Interior Township Clerk