

The regular meeting of the Kinderhook Township Board was called to order by Paul Meredith on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kinderhook Township hall. The pledge was recited to the American flag. All members were present.

The minutes were accepted as printed.

Correspondence: Chuck Lillis, MDOT, Branch County Substance Abuse Task Force, MI Housing Development Authority. Letter from Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith to Jeffrey Ray regarding Wilczynski v Kinderhook Township was read. Wilczynski's have accepted our settlement offer.

Citizen Comments:

Floor was opened at 7:45. There were no comments and the floor was closed at 7:35.

Commissioner's Report: Norm Heinemann gave a brief report.

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff will start charging an hourly rate and mileage for serving papers.

Treasurer's Report:

Castor reported October's expenses of \$8,528.47, revenues of \$21,882.22 with cash on hand of \$255,057.47. Barnes moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Stetler seconded. Motion carried.

Zoning Report:

Eight permits were issued and there were eight zoning complaints. Mr. Mahoney has 40 days to clean up his property since he didn't show up for his court hearing. If he doesn't comply, the township will clean up the property and the fee will be added to his tax bill. The C.P.I. is 2.3%.

Old Business:

The new roof will be installed as soon as the weather permits.

New Business:

The board agreed the sexton's request for new flags for the cemetery. He was told to order them.

Mr. Boggs hearing for a variance was cancelled and he is requesting a refund of a portion of the \$150 fee. After reviewing the expenses incurred for notification, no refund will be allowed.

Reminders: December 29th the Treasurer will be in the office to collect taxes. January 15th is the primary election

Poverty Guideline Resolution:

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township board; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 Kinderhook Township, Branch County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of board of review.
- 7) Any additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Newby and supported by Board Member Castor.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye:" Barnes, Stetler, Newby, Meredith, Castor
"Nay:"

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Clerk

I, Diane Newby, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Kinderhook Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on November 26, 2007, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk

Next Board meeting is December 17, 2007 with a holiday party to follow.

Barnes moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Stetler. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.