

Special Meeting of the Burt Township Board

Community Center
Grand Marais, Michigan
January 4, 2006 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Lee Durrwachter, Lori Savage, Jim Seibert, Lois Leavenworth, Gordon Kniss

Public Attendance: Ten (10) Citizens... and three school board members – Pat Munger, Frank Mead and Howard Baker.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:01 Request by Evelyn Morrison, Ambulance Chief, to have Township Board write a letter of support to be submitted with Smokeless Tobacco Grant application for a Polaris Ranger 6x6 Utility Vehicle. Letter needed by January 6th. **Motion by Seibert and seconded to write the letter of support. Seibert to write the letter. 5 – ayes. Motion carried.** Discussion about Youth Center. Bud & Lynda Caryl expressed concern about the Youth Center supervisor's actions and said that their child can not go to the Center as long as she is there. They said that Tim and Deb McKinstry agree with them. Lynda said that nothing positive is coming out of the Youth Center as it is right now. She said that there is no structure and the kids are just running wild there. John Bauknecht said that he thinks that there are positive things at the Center, but that funding and direction is necessary because the kids need a good safe place to be. Sal Brooks said that it is NOT the Township's responsibility to run a day care center. If the Youth Center is so important – where are the parents? Conni Durrwachter said that the kids should go home after dinner time and that the Center shouldn't be open past 6:00 pm. Frank Mead said that there needs to be a committee of volunteers to raise money. When asked if the KIDZ INK group would help support the Youth Center – Janie Dowe and Bud Caryl said that the KIDZ INK group has discussed this and determined that they do NOT want to support the Youth Center. They added that IF the Youth Center wanted a new TV and approached them and requested it – they might help with that – but they will NOT help with the salary of the staff that is there to supervise the kids. Janie Dowe asked where the parents are – only two parents with children attended the meeting. Some of the parents are members of the KIDZ INK group. Pat Munger was concerned that if the Youth Center has fund raising activities people would be tapped out because they are already supporting KIDZ INK. John Bauknecht offered his financial support as a parent of children who use the Center. Lori Savage also offered financial support. More discussion. It was stated that the biggest need for the Youth Center is after school when the out of town and local kids are waiting for practices to start and on the weekends. Christine Rosenberg said that the basketball team comes in until 6:00 p.m. when their practice starts and the volleyball team comes in after their practice and until the basketball team is through. The Girl Scouts also come in before and after their meetings. Many of the out of town kids ride home together – they are asked to leave the school when they are not involved in practices. It was asked if there was a room at the school where the kids could be until their practices. Lee Durrwachter suggested that the meeting proceed past Public Comment to address these issues. Closed 7:40.

Approval of the Agenda: **Motion by Leavenworth and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. 5 – ayes. Motion Carried.**

Current Business:

Youth Center Sustainability:

Durrwachter addressed diverse funding – asking if the school could partner with the Township to share the cost of after school activities and possibly use a portion of their Title I monies for after school programming. The school board members said that they could consider it for next fiscal year, but that they had no money in the budget for this fiscal year. Pat Munger said that she would check into the after school classroom that was suggested and find out why the out of town kids are being asked to leave the building before and after practices. Seibert said that at the rate it is going, the Township budget will be \$7000 in the hole trying to keep the Youth Center running. Many of the people in the audience felt that the parents don't care whether the Youth Center is open or not because they were not present at this meeting and because they do not volunteer their time to help at the Youth Center. Several people in the audience said that they do not believe that the Youth Center should be a babysitting service unless the parents are paying for the service. The Board members were concerned about youths whose parents could not afford to pay for this service – they do not want any child to be turned away. There were also suggestions about charging summer visitors to use the Center. Some people in the audience felt that the Youth Center should **CLOSE** until the parents show some concern about the cost of keeping it going. Durrwachter designated a committee to look into funding the Center – Lois Leavenworth is chairman – Pat Munger and Sandee Sibbald are also on the committee.

Adjournment: **Motion by Leavenworth and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Savage

Lori Savage, Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____, 2006

Lee Durrwachter, Township Supervisor

These minutes are proposed until approved by the board and signed by the Township Supervisor.