

Ovid Township Board

August 13, 2012

Public Hearing

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, August 13, 2012. The following members were present: Sue Miller, Supervisor; Larry Omo, Trustee; Nancy Price, Treasurer; Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Judy Sabaitis, Clerk, was absent. Also in attendance were eleven guests.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00p.m.

The Board led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sue Miller explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was to create a special assessment district for aquatic weed control in channel areas abutting Buckeye and JoJo Lanes. Ms. Miller reviewed the estimated costs of the project, outlining the total payouts spread over the course of five years; \$2,697, \$2,832, \$2,974.30, \$3,123, and \$3,279 for a total of \$14,905.30.

Sue Miller asked if there were any letters or other thoughts and Nancy Price stated there were two letters on file. The first from James Justinger who is in favor of the aquatic weed control in the channel and understands it won't begin until April. The other letter, from Doug Matthews, stated that he is not opposed to weed control, but is opposed to the chemicals being used.

Sue Miller welcomed public comments at this point and Doug Matthews was in attendance and asked to speak. He stated that he had suffered a property loss due to the type of chemical used in the weed control. Ms. Miller explained that this type of weed control is regulated through the DEQ. Mr. Matthews stated that the DEQ is concerned about the weed control, but may not have a concern for the personal property of the owners affected by the treatments. He further stated his concern that copper sulfate is one of the components in the chemicals used for the weed control and believes this is the reason he had a paddle boat sink and a pontoon boat damaged. Sue Miller explained to Mr. Matthews that the Township received a cost estimate from the company providing the service, but the chemicals used still need to be regulated by the DEQ. Mr. Matthews further stated that the DEQ is only concerned with the environment and that the township should be concerned with protecting its tax-paying residents and their personal property. Mr. Matthews described "pitting" on his pontoon boat and the paddle boat and also stated that he observed the same type of damage on the neighbors' property. Sue Miller explained that a special assessment petition was sent out and Mr. Matthews was the only one who responded with concern. Mr. Matthews responded by stating that he had a paddle boat that had sank and pitting on his pontoon. He stated that he went to the marina and they were puzzled by the damage. Mr. Matthews also stated that he contacted Sue Miller when this occurred to see what could be done. A lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Matthews, his wife, Sue Miller and the board members regarding the type of process used, the DEQ regulation of environmentally safe processes, Mr. Matthews' opinion regarding the DEQ's interest in environmentally safe materials and lack of concern for personal property, and repetitive discussion regarding the type of damage Mr. Matthews had to his boats. Sue reiterated the fact that a petition was circulated to which Mrs. Matthews stated they were never approached. Doug Matthews then stated that there were other channel residents in other areas who sustained even heavier damage and that he is currently working with the company who last treated the channel to have his boat repaired through their

insurance. Additional discussion regarding the damage to boats on Marble Lake took place between Sue Miller, Russ Jennings and Doug Matthews.

Doug Matthews and his wife asked if it was necessary to treat their area since they are two end lots. Sue Miller asked Mr. Matthews if he had research any alternatives for weed control to which he responded, "No." Sue Miller stated that the petition was circulated and signed by 66% and reiterated that only 51% is required to establish and create a special assessment district.

Sue Miller closed the public hearing at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis
Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes prepared by Robbi Omo