

There is some agreement

The township board, in rare unanimity Tuesday night, voted to initiate the process which would lower density standards for multiple development and establish a new zoning classification requiring 1½ acre residential estates for the area north of I-75.

The latter would take advantage of newly adopted plat standards which would permit single family home construction without curb and gutter roads. The 1½ acre sites could be built on asphalt roads with open ditching.

The vote was 3-2 to require the township fire department to include two

new sites — one in the northeast and one in the northwest of the township — as a priority item in its new budget.

The department will be permitted to buy two small trucks — one for grass fires and one for resuscitator runs — but it must put off purchase of the larger "squirrel" truck until the sites have been acquired.

With these items included, the Fire Department budget was approved.

Pine Knob north of Clarkston-Orion Road to Bailey Lake School and Pelton a half mile west of Sashabaw have been given paving priorities.

Supervisor Gary Stonerock said developers of the Caberfae area at Pine Knob and Clarkston-Orion Road have agreed to pay half the township's costs for work done in front of their property.

Two new doors for the township hall will be purchased at a cost of \$2,091 from City Glass Co. of Pontiac. The doors will replace both front and back entrances at the hall.

Miertl named ITA president

Independence Township Association with seven voting members present Tuesday night elected Donn Miertl, 8297 Reese Road, president.

Darrell Cooper was named vice president, Colette Kloc, treasurer, Marie Brendle, recording secretary, and James Lowe, corresponding secretary.

Board splits on lot splits

It was lot splitting time at the Independence Township Board meeting Tuesday.

Representatives of some 40 residents of Sunnybeach Subdivision who signed a petition appeared to object to board action last week which allowed a less than minimal size lot in the Walters Lake area.

Supervisor Gary Stonerock took the opportunity to score the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances it has allowed both in lot sizes and building codes.

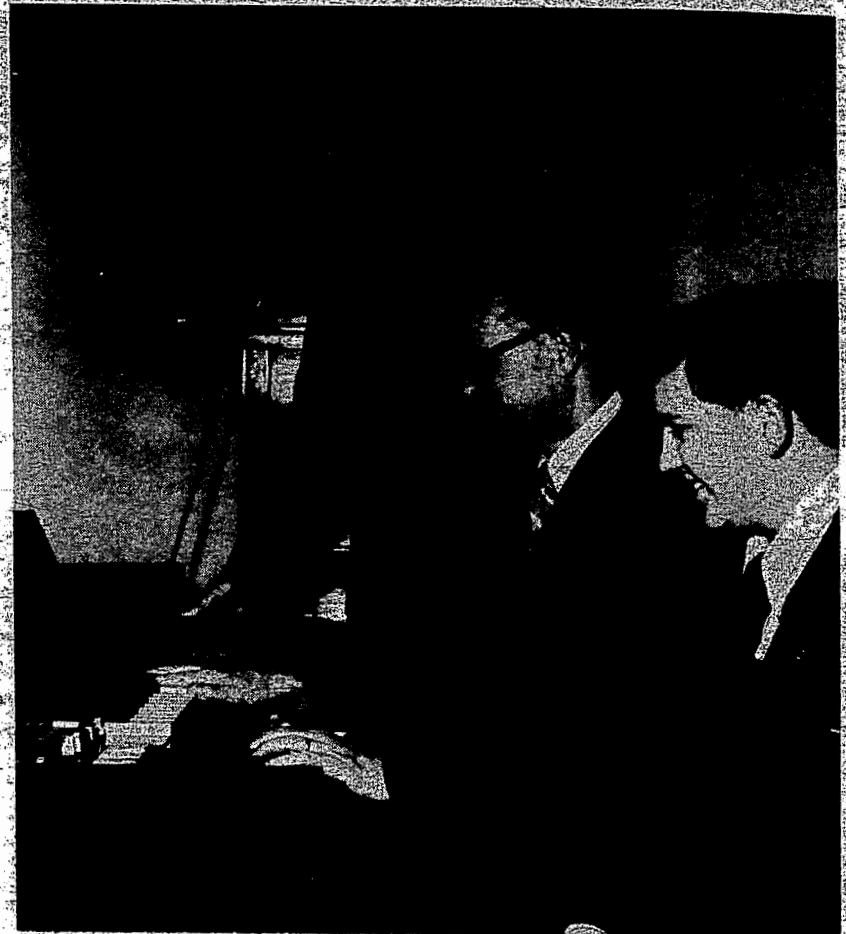
When Trustee Tom Bullen attempted to read Planning Consultant Larry Burkhart's opinion on the owner's rights to his land and the illegality of township failure to allow building on minimal lots, he was gavelled down. Bullen then asked for an attorney's opinion on the matter.

Stonerock said he would introduce a

motion next week requiring the Board of Appeals to advertise its agenda prior to a meeting.

Keith Humbert proposed that the board of appeals adhere to standards which permit building on no less than 75 percent of the lot size required in the zoning ordinance. "Let the owners sue us," he said, and there was applause.

The board, after considerable discussion, failed to approve another lot split in Thendara Park Subdivision on Walters Lake Road. In so doing, it obtained a guarantee from builder Jack Raisin that he would sell what would have been a landlocked parcel and turn the money over to the township for maintenance of the three neighborhood parks he promised to donate to the township last week.



Harold Sutherland (far right), past master and president of the Clarkston Masonic Temple Association, checks the organ presented recently to the Temple by members of Cedar Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Vernon Kath (center) was financial adviser to the boys, who earned the money selling fruitcakes. Gerald Kenyon is master councilor of the 136-member young men's organization.

CLARKSTON NEWS

Section 2

The Clarkston (Mich.) News

Thurs., April 13, 1972 9

Drain officer vows environment care

William M. Richards, Oakland County Drain Commissioner, today announced a "complete turn-about" in the Drain Commissioner's environmental policy.

"I am directing that before our office takes any major action that we weigh and balance the impact it will have on the environment before the action is taken."

"In the past we have gone about our business and if environmental damage or harm was done then court cases were filed and damages assessed after the fact and in some cases after irreversible harm had already been done.

"The new environmental policy will insure that we have a new fund of

information which will have equal standing with cost benefit analyses and engineering feasibility studies."

Richards announced his new environmental policy at a public hearing on two drains proposed for the City of Southfield, the Claire and Pernick Drains.

Richards said "citizens are at a great disadvantage in protesting proposed actions of a governmental agency and they have an enormous problem of developing evidence and material to counter that of the agency."

Planner interview scheduled

Independence Township Board will interview an applicant for the position of full-time planner at 7:30 p.m. April 19.

Supervisor Gary Stonerock has suggested the board make an offer of \$14,000 a year to hire Larry Burkhart, Parkins and Rogers consultant now employed by the board, to work three full days each week in the township.

As consultant Burkhart's firm was paid \$20,000 last year.

Stonerock said the arrangement would "give us three times the planning service we now have." Trustee Tom Bullen objected, favoring the full-time approach to planning.

Bullen opined that Burkhart could remain on as consultant for a couple of months to assist the new planner in taking over the reins of several projects now in progress.

Trustee Keith Humbert said that despite some objections to Burkhart, he had attempted to the best of his ability to follow the general development plan of the township.

Hawk Tool explores future plans

Allen W. Hawke appeared before Clarkston Village Council Tuesday night to obtain sanction for two different routes the now unused Hawk Tool & Engineering Co. property at 20 W. Washington may take.

The company has not functioned since a strike began December 12, 1970, affecting 28 to 30 workers.

The plant was built in the late 30's by Henry Ford and was used during the war years for manufacturing. The Hawkes purchased the vacant building in 1949 and enlarged the original facility.

Hawke said that since the land is zoned for manufacturing, it might be possible to get light industry on the 5 to 6 acre site, or that a condominium complex could be erected with the present plant converted to small specialty stores.

"We live here and we intend to do what is best for the town. We were just seeking some of her opinions," Hawke said of his approach to the council.

The council, in turn, told him it would be apt to go along with any decent plans formulated.

In other business, the council approved the installation of two extra gasoline storage tanks by Flintex Oil Co. at the Union 76 station at the corner of Main Street and Clarkston-Orion Road.

The council is expected to approve the annual village budget at its April 25 meeting.

Problems, problems

Problems in getting a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department to provide policing for Independence Township were admitted Tuesday night by Supervisor Gary Stonerock.

Said the supervisor, "Despite any erroneous information about how the police millage is being handled, I have not been derelict in my duties."

He said the county had failed to answer two letters requesting amendments to the original contract which would give the township on-the-spot policing by county units.

Trustee Tom Bullen suggested the problem may have stemmed from a personality clash between Stonerock and Auditor Chairman Daniel Murphy. Stonerock denied the allegation, however he asked and received authority from the board to send a certified letter to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners "notifying them of inaction on the contract."

Park money in doubt

A letter from the State Department of Natural Resources in answer to a phone call from Trustee Keith Humbert has raised the question of whether state monies will be available to finance acquisition of neighborhood parks in Independence Township.

"In earlier stages it would have worked out," said the department's Dr. Horvath, "but we cannot now give permission to deviate from the approved project."

He said the township would be required to proceed with purchase of the 40-acre site at Sashabaw and Clarkston-Orion Road or that the \$38,736 grant would be cancelled.

Voters at the annual meeting had expressed a preference for neighborhood parks as opposed to a centrally located park, contending they would be easier to police.

It was also pointed out that accepting state funds for a park site would automatically open the park to all residents of the state, that it could not remain just for township residents.

Sewer bonds ready for sale

Bonds to finance the construction of Independence Township sewers will be sold April 19, and construction of the \$9 million project should begin immediately, it was announced at the township board meeting Tuesday.