

**SANDS TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
December 1, 2014**

A. CALL TO ORDER – 4:00 by B. Yelle

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL: Ben Yelle, Cheryl Schram, Darlene Walch, Joe Wixtrom & Lee Yelle

EMPLOYEES IN ATTENDANCE: R. Wilson and C. Kerkela,

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Roni Yelle, Bob Kallio, Nancy Olsen, Dave Kallio, Jay Johnson, James Kidder, Steve Foulks, *Bob Myers*.

D. AGENDA: D. Walch motioned, C. Schram supported, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT: David Kallio suggested the board be consistent with policy of advertising regarding the ZBA position that is due for renewal.

F. DISCUSSION ITEM:

R. Wilson gave information from a meeting he attended and discussions he had with representatives from Bison Oil and House Pacific regarding a possible power plant and oil refinery built on land currently owned by Marquette County in the Township. Not much information is available yet on the project, but it seems the refinery that is expected to refine 40,000 gallons of oil per day is the main focus, with a power plant that produces 250-300 megawatts per day a secondary plan. An environmental impact study should be completed next spring, and they are willing to meet with Ben and discuss the project and its intended location. They plan on bringing in water from the City of Marquette instead of drilling into the aquifer. R. Wilson has spoken with Attorney Grashoff regarding this, who will support the Township in any stand they make regarding this project. Discussion followed, with several questions being asked by Board members that cannot be answered at this time. Board consensus is to contact our County Commissioner and the City of Marquette to try and determine where they stand on this issue and what type of discussion and progress has occurred so far.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Kallio stated he is against the project and gave examples of past oil spills and the environmental and economical impact they had. He feels the County is too eager for development and is not looking at the full impact.

Jim Noe said he feels the water issue is a red herring for this issue. The Marquette water system and its filtration system cannot handle the volume of water this project would require.

Bob Myers questioned R. Wilson on the power plant project being dismissed. R. Wilson explained it is not dismissed, but the refinery seems to be the main objective. B. Myers said the energy turmoil in the U.P. may come into play,

D. Kallio said the Lundin mine is on 40 acres, while 1,000 acres are being looked at for this project. There could be a huge environmental impact, along with the possibility of a cancer “hot spot” due to carcinogens from the refining.

James Kidder said the County may be in favor of this project, the Township does not need it and he knows what Earl Yelle would have said about the project if he were here.

Steve Foulks said his dad is a petroleum engineer and an oil refinery is in his hometown. He gave figures on the tremendous amount of energy required for a refinery and said it takes several years to build a refinery, so they cannot sneak it in quickly. He likes the Township the way it is and said a refinery puts the smell of ammonia in the air for miles.

M. ADJOURNMENT: B. Yelle adjourned the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Lee Yelle
Clerk

Benjamin Yelle
Supervisor