

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOLDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD
JULY 25TH, 2006
AT THE GOLDEN TOWNSHIP HALL

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss a request from Val-Du-Lakes Campground for a letter of consent to use 54 undeveloped campsites for the Labor Day Weekend.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Walsworth at 6:30 p.m., Board members present, Walsworth, Cargill, Ackley, Fuehring and Kolosci.

Chairman Walsworth asked that a few items be added to the agenda, it was said that we can not act on any other items during a special meeting, but we can discuss Log rd and the Recreation committee.

Mr. Fitzpatrick explained how things have been at the campground in the last few weeks. Has had a few problems but has taken care of them himself.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he has an issue near the creek as to fence placement but plans to reconfigure the placement of the fence to help buffer the sound.

Mr. Fitzpatrick says he has not had any police reports filed other than those he has filed himself.

Chairman Walsworth asked the board for their thoughts on the request for the letter of support which could be any number, Kolosci stated that she thought the request by Mr. Fitzpatrick was premature, Cargill agreed.

Cargill stated that that would be a lot of bodies, if there were to be 50 plus sites extra. Ackley asked how many are allowed on each site? Mr. Fitzpatrick stated an average of 4 to 5 per site, Fitzpatrick stated that they do not pack 8 people in per site and that some will have 2 per site and some will have 8. Over all probably averaging 8 people per site, (Mr. Fitzpatrick asked that this be changed to 4)He stated he needed this to continue his operations and expansion plans this year. Fitzpatrick stated that with out the additional sites he would run out of money for fence, infrastructure, improvements, and expansion plans. It would put him behind schedule as Memorial had already set him back a year in his estimation.

Mr. Fitzpatrick Feels that Golden Township should issue a letter to the Health Department stating that the Township has no objection to him seeking a temporary use permit for up to 54 campsites for Labor Day Weekend.

There was much discussion how other campgrounds are filled to capacity not just the Holiday weekends and that they are not given any breaks beyond the number of sites they are legally licensed for. The noise in the area in general and how responsible business is intended to be run in the Township to ensure our Township progress in the right direction was discussed in depth.

Chairman Walsworth asked Zoning administrator Whelpley if overflow camping permits were a privilege or a right? Whelpley stated that the site plan for the additional sites was approved by the planning commission but that approval is for completely developed campsites, the answer would be no, it is not a right, but the option is there to approve it. Fuehring stated that the board has no intent on putting anyone out of business, but if we were to do as Mr. Fitzpatrick asked what would happen if something went wrong? The board has endured a lot of complaints from the community about this particular business because of the type of clientele and past history of behavior. The Board has been working for the last 5 years to control the mindset that any field becomes a campground if you can fill it with bodies. Fitzpatrick stated that he felt that that was an issue that would be better dealt with at the State level not here, because the state allows you to do that. The board then replied to Fitzpatrick that the state does not have to answer to the community's complaints. Fitzpatrick says he can't expand unless the board were to allow him to use the undeveloped area for camping. Fitzpatrick stated that he needed to be able to make the extra money so that he could improve the situation Kolosci stated that it seemed that he was trying to expand the situation, where is the improvement? Val-Du Manager stated that that was not the situation. The people are looking forward to this area. It was said that they would have the room when the expansion was finished legally.

Motion by Cargill, Support by Fuehring to deny the request for a letter of support for the use of 54 undeveloped campsites for overflow camping on the Labor Day Weekend to the Health Department. Until the campsites are constructed properly Val-Du-Lakes Campground is to use only it's 87 sites licensed by the State.

All yes motion carried.

Mr. Fitzpatrick then asked for a roll call vote Fuehring, Cargill, Walworth, Kolosci, Ackley, all yes motion Carried.

Chairman Walsworth then told to Mr. Fitzpatrick that the answer is the board does not want him to go out of business but that we would like him to develop the rest of his sites legally run his business in Golden Township under the same rules as all other campgrounds in the Township.

Chairman Walsworth then explained that the board had not included a portion of Log rd. in the work order and that we would need to deal with that issue at the next meeting. Ackley was asked if he would be interested in being on the Recreation board and Kevin stated that he intended to ask Calvin Ackley if he would be interested and the board agreed that appointment would be made at the next regular meeting..

Motion to adjourn by Fuehring, Support by Kolosci meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.'

Respectfully Submitted by,

Laurie Kolosci
Golden Township Clerk