

**Public Hearing
Minutes
June 11, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

Attendance

Jeremy Irrthum
CaSondra Schaffer
Larry Runyan
Dave Peine
Mike Tix

Meeting was called to order regarding Ordinance 627 regarding swimming pools and fences. Jeremy Irrthum read the ordinance and stating that the swimming pool is required to have a 4 foot fence. Randy and Jackie Serres were present. They are planning on putting a hard cover on the pool instead of the fence. Randy had papers regarding the automatic covers and the benefits. It's called a swim line auto cover. The panel is mounted and is require by the manufacturer that the operator is near the pool when opening and closing the pool. Randy stated that is was code. He can automatically cover the pool and then lock it with a key. The cover holds 2000 lbs. STM states that the three option to protect the pool. One is the alarm system which once someone hits the water, the alarm goes off but that does not protect when you are not home. The fence is the second option. And Randy stated the third option is the cover. He stated that the cover is going on regardless of the fence decision. He stated that he wasn't asking for the fence to be removed from the ordinance but to give the option to put the cover on in replacement of the fence.

Jeremy stated that he had an example of an ordinance from a Empire township that gives two options to the residents. The one option was a 5 foot fence or in an agricultural area, the fence could be waived if they choose to install an automatic hard cover. Dave asked Randy since he researched the covers already, where there some other companies with the same weight restrictions as the one he choose or is there some cheaper covers that should be aware of. Randy stated that the cover he picked out is a high quality and yes, there are some lower grade covers. Larry asked

about the weight restriction regarding the 2000lb and how it would be dispersed. Randy stated that the advertising on this has a young elephant on the cover and it also had a family with 2 adults and 2 kids. CaSondra asked how the pool cover works. Randy explained the rail system in the concrete and explained that it is locked all the way around. He also explained the hand rail into the pools. Randy stated a few properties around the area that has this cover and eliminated the fence. The board stated that it is a good ideas but it just has not been brought up to the board before since the covers have been sold.

The board discussed the options. He stated that if there was a manufacturer that has the printed specs is normally a replicable company. Everyone was in favorable of including this option in the ordinance. They then discussed the wording of the ordinance and were questions if they should only give the option to the agricultural or give the option to all township residents.

The recommendation of the board would be to change the Ordinance 627 to 627A Swimming Pools and 627B for waste storage pits. Ordinance 627B would keep the same wording, less the swimming pool references. For 627A "Private Swimming Pools", a building permit is still required and there should be a 5 foot fence in height and the fence type will remain the same. Also to add the wording to include fence and/or automatic safety cover is required. The Township shall have complete discretion in determining whether a particular proposed automatic safety cover is adequate. Manufacturing detailed information including the weight resistance shall be submitted with the pool application.

They also talked about violations and penalties. 715 Section in our ordinance book explains the violations and penalties if the ordinance has been violated. The board recommend leaving our ordinance 715 (page 84) the way it is written.

CaSondra made a motion to recommend to the board to change the ordinance to separate the waste storage pits and swimming pools. Also to request a 5 foot security fence and/or automatic safety cover when applying for a permit. They will need to bring the specs of the fence or safety cover to the township for approval or denial, seconded by Larry Runyan and unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Dave Peine to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Larry Runyan and unanimously passed.