

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
January 9, 2007

Township Board work session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor VanDyke called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor John VanDyke
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Stan Rakowski
Trustee Neil Sikora

Also present was James Porter, Township Attorney, Bob Snell and Marc Elliott, Township Engineers, and Fire Chief Ken Howe.

Discussion – Ambulance Contract – Chief Howe presented a review of the ambulance contract and answered board members questions. He advised the department's annual review would be presented soon and he was asked to include statistics regarding ambulance responses in the quarterly reports.

Discussion – 2007 Board Goals – The Board reviewed the 2006 list and updated a list for 2007. Goals accomplished included the completion of the Township Office addition and meeting room video system.

The board work session was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Supervisor VanDyke called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Also present were Bob Snell and Marc Elliott, Township Engineers, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, and 4 interested people.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to approve the December 12th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$71,196.15 and disbursements of \$599,654.58 were reported. Motion by Rakowski, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

VARIOUS ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS

The various text amendments that had been individually reviewed at the December 12th board meeting were now before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to adopt the text amendments.

Planning Director Stefforia advised a letter had been received from Scott Husted requesting changes not be made to requirements regarding frontage for a private street. Ms. Stefforia advised his property in question would not be affected by the text amendments.

Marty Dodge, representing the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, commented he had attempted to review the proposal and found it difficult to determine the exact changes, inquired as to the effective date and if some issues would be considered grandfathered and were the changes consistent with other municipalities.

Matt Milks, representing Meyer C. Weiner Company, commented he had concerns regarding the proposed required parking for restaurants. It was noted the proposed language uses the building code occupancy calculations. Ms. Stefforia suggested the section be removed for further study.

Dale Shugars, representing the Homebuilders Association of Greater Kalamazoo inquired if the special event signs language would pertain to the Parade of Homes.

Chad Hughson, 18 North VanKal, inquired regarding the removal of crop growing in the Rural Residential District as a permitted use. Attorney Porter advised references to this type of activity were moved to the Agricultural district due to the language of the Right to Farm Act. Mr. Hughson also had questions regarding the setback for accessory buildings, authorizing the Planning Director to approve width to depth ratio and accessory buildings commenting this limits public input. Ms. Stefforia advised the width to depth applied only to parcels established prior to the Land Division Act and other than routine accessory building reviews would still go to the ZBA.

Trustee Grace amended his motion, with second by Rakowski to adopt the text amendments except those proposed for Section 68.400 which would be returned to the Planning Commission for further study. Carried.

AMEND PARKING VIOLATIONS ORDINANCE

Amendments to the Parking Ordinance which would increase fines for parking in a marked handicap space to \$150.00, parking in a marked fire line to \$40.00, parking illegally in the Township's parks to \$60.00, and all other parking violations to \$20.00 was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Everett, second by Sikora to adopt the amendments. Carried.

PARKVIEW AVENUE SEWER EXTENSION

A recommendation from the Sewer/Water Committee to accept a bid from Hoffman Brothers for extension of sewer in Parkview Avenue in conjunction with the planned Kalamazoo County Road Commission project for the Parkview/Stadium intersection was before the board. The total bid is \$51,915.25.

Clerk Everett expressed concern that the Oshtemo Community Center remain accessible during the project.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to accept the bid from Hoffman Brothers in the amount of \$51,915.25 for the sewer extension project. Carried.

SEWER EASEMENT – 11TH ST/KL AVENUE

A recommendation from the Sewer/Water Committee to purchase an easement for sewer Consumers Energy to be located on 11th Street south of KL Avenue was before the board. This issue had been previously discussed at the December 26th board meeting.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Grace to approve purchase of the easement in the amount of \$16,163.60 subject to easement language approved by the Township Attorney. Carried.

TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE

In response to the proposed gravel mining operation in Alamo Township and concern the board has regarding the potential traffic impact, Attorney Porter presented a draft truck ordinance for review. Discussion included the need to do a township wide comprehensive review for the proposed ordinance.

There was also discussion regarding the opportunity to get federal and state officials involved in addressing the need for highway access for the proposed project. Consensus was the Road Committee should initiate the process.

Motion by Everett, second by Rakowski to direct the Planning Department, Township Attorney and Engineer to begin work on the truck ordinance plan. Carried.

ELECTRICAL PLAN REVIEW FEES

A proposal from Building Official Bob Horton to change the formula for calculating electrical plan review fees to the method used by the State and International Code Council; 25% of building plan review fee was before the board. Building permit fees are calculated according to the State Construction Code and ICC. As Mr. Horton was not present, consensus was to table the item for further discussion. Carried.

POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES – 2007

Clerk Everett advised poverty guidelines established by the State Tax Commission used by the Board of Review in reviewing poverty exemption applications must be adopted by the local unit.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to adopt the resolution establishing poverty exemption guidelines for 2007. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

SIDEWALK SNOW PLOW BIDS

Trustee Sikora advised two bids had been received for snow removal on sidewalks on South 9th Street and Stadium Drive.

Motion by Sikora, second by Bushouse to accept the bid from DeVisser Landscape on a per time basis at \$100.00 for the west side of 9th Street, \$75.00 for the east side of 9th and Atlantic, and \$110.00 for Stadium Drive. Carried.

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR CONTRACT

Supervisor VanDyke advised Building Official Bob Horton has recommended Rich Healy for the position of contracted mechanical inspector. Trustee Bushouse commented a letter should be sent to the State advising them of the appointment.

Motion by VanDyke, second by Bushouse to approve a contract with Mr. Healy at \$38.00 per hour. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Bushouse commented he had observed issues in the Fairlane Plat, i.e., parking of vehicles that the Ordinance Enforcement Officer should be asked to address.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: JOHN VANDYKE
Supervisor