

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
February 13, 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
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Stan Rakowski
Trustee Neil Sikora

Also present was James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, and Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge.

Discussion – County Commissioner John Nieuwenhuis was present and provided information to the Board on various issues.

Oshtemo Community Center Driveway – Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge provided information regarding two alternatives for redesigning the driveway and parking lot at the community center that will be necessary due to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission project planned for Stadium Drive and Parkview Avenue.

The board work session was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

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

Also present were Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge, OFD Lt. Chip Everett, Building Official Bob Horton and 2 interested people.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the January 9th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$270,590.48 and disbursements of \$321,115.67 were reported. Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Capt. William Timmerman from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department presented information regarding 2006 activity.

DRAKE HOUSE – ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Trustee Rakowski advised a bid had been received from Larry Goostry of Country Lane Electric in the amount of \$18,333 for replacing the electrical wiring in the Drake House. He further advised members of the Oshtemo Historical Society had also met with Mr. Goostry; he has experience with older homes being restored.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to accept the bid as presented. Carried.

OSHTEMO COMMUNITY CENTER DRIVEWAY REDESIGN

Senior Planner Bugge presented two alternatives had been proposed for the configuration of the driveways on the south side of Parkview due to the reconstruction project planned by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for the Stadium/Parkview intersection.

Ms. Bugge advised the Warehouse Distributors property would continue to be served by a driveway from Stadium Drive but would be modified to a right-in and right-out drive designed to accommodate trucks; the design of the access to and from Stadium Drive for accommodating trucks is critical, cars would be able to enter and exit through the community center due to a cross-access agreement, however, trucks would be prohibited from using Township property.

Ms. Bugge advised Alternative #1 was a driveway from Parkview into the Warehouse Distributors property located 30 feet from the intersection which does not satisfy Access Management criterion for driveway distance from an intersection. She commented that owner Jack Siegel would prefer this alternative due to his concerns about truck traffic to his property

Alternative #2, which is designed to widen the Community Center drive to accommodate two way traffic, and enable vehicles intending to turn east or west on Stadium Drive to exit the parking lot and utilize the traffic signal installed as part of the intersection safety project, with modifications to the parking lot, including, but not limited to restriping of the spaces, will be required to accommodate two way traffic.

She advised the Park Committee recommends the Board endorse Alternative #2 due to safety concerns and request assistance from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission with internal parcel improvements necessary to accommodate the changes necessitated by the project.

Motion by Sikora, second by Everett to endorse Alternative #2 due to safety concerns and request assistance from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission with internal parcel improvements necessary to accommodate the changes necessitated by the project. Carried.

FIRE DEPT ACTIVITY – CHILD CAR SEAT CHECKS

Clerk Everett advised the Fire Department has for some time been performing child car seat checks, however, the Township's insurance carrier recommends the activity be formally sanctioned by the Board.

Lt. Chip Everett advised the activity is coordinated through Safe Kids Worldwide local branch at Bronson Hospital. He further advised a monthly inspection is offered at Fire House No. 2 and performed by members of the Fire Department who have been certified by Safe Kids.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to approve the Fire Department participation in the child seat check program contingent upon a letter from our insurance carrier, certification of personnel on file, and provided the activity is performed at times sanctioned by Safe Kids. Carried.

ELECTRICAL PLAN REVIEW FEES

A request from contracted electrical inspector Arthur Earl to change electrical plan review fees from the current .005 per square foot to 25% of the building plan review fee was before the Board.

Building Official Bob Horton was present and advised the requested change would be the same formula used by the State of Michigan and International Code Council.

There was discussion as to the need for the change with some members commenting the change in increase would be too high for a one time increase and perhaps it should be phased in.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve an increase to .01 per square foot, review the issue in four months after receiving more information to justify an increase, and direct a letter to local architects and electrical contractors who would be affected by the change. Carried.

MEETING ROOM RENOVATIONS

Clerk Everett advised a proposal had been received from Schley Architects for updating the meeting room.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to accept the bid in the amount of \$2800.00 from Schley Architects to provide interior design services for the meeting room. Carried.

RELEASE OF EASEMENTS KL & ELKS STORM DRAINS

Documents for release of two storm water easements, one located on KL Avenue and one on the Elk's property were before the Board for consideration. A memo from Attorney Porter noted with recent legal changes to Phase 2 Storm Water regulations he recommends the Township extricate itself from further involvement in the storm water process.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to approve the release of easements. Carried.

TRUSTEE PAY

Clerk Everett advised the Personnel Committee had discussed an increase in the rate of pay for Township Board Trustees and the item was inadvertently overlooked when adopting the 2007 salaries. She advised the recommendation was in increase the base annual pay from \$1800.00 to \$2400.00

Trustee Grace commented he felt the full board should consider this issue.

Motion by VanDyke, second by Everett to table the item to the February 27th meeting for full Board consideration.

WALK FOR WARMTH RESOLUTION

A resolution supporting the 14th Annual Kalamazoo County Walk for Warmth to be held on February 17th was presented. The event raises funds to provide emergency heating assistance for those in need who do not qualify for aid from other sources.

Motion by Everett, second by Rakowski to adopt the resolution. Carried.

WATER EXTENSION – WEST MAIN & NORTH 5TH STREET

A recommendation from the Sewer/Water Committee to approve the expenditure for the Township’s participation in the extension of 12” water main in West Main and North 5th Street.

Engineer Elliott advised the developer of the Western Woods plat is responsible for extending water to the plat, however, the committee felt it would be in the Township’s best interest to install 12” main along West Main and 5th Street.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$84,331.60 for installation of 12” water main as discussed. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

WHIFFLE BALL FIELDS – FLESHER FIELD

Trustee Sikora advised the Park Committee was recommending the installation of two whiffle ball fields at Flesher Field. He noted the field installed last year at the Township Park is very popular. He further advised the whiffle ball league would install the necessary fencing and benches.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to approve the project. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Sikora advised the 2008 World Disc Golf Tournament will be held in Kalamazoo and will be utilizing the course at the Township Park.

Trustee Grace advised the Metro Transit Board may be changing due to the funding change. Board consensus was the Township should still be represented.

Trustee Grace inquired how recommendations in the recently received maintenance report would be handled; it was noted the Maintenance Department would address most of them.

Trustee Sikora commented it was nice to see the sidewalks on Stadium Drive and 9th Street being cleared of snow.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: JOHN VANDYKE
Supervisor