

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Meeting**  
**March 11, 2008**

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, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Interim Fire Chief Paul Karnemaat and two interested people.

Attorney Porter suggested in response to an inquiry from an on call paid firefighter, the Township should send a letter to the Michigan Townships Association requesting they consider proposing legislation that would offer some protection to the full time employment of an on call paid firefighter if they miss or are late for work due to a major incident. Board consensus was to ask the Supervisor to send a letter on the Board's behalf.

Attorney Porter advised an appraisal is needed for property that may be used for an easement to assist in solving the storm water problem with the LaSalle Plat.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to proceed with obtaining an appraisal. Carried.

Attorney Porter advised an appraisal will be needed for the Meijer tax appeal. Consensus was to obtain bids for consideration by the Board.

Attorney Porter requested clarification from the Board regarding the current administrative fee applied to enforcement of the Township's Plant Growth Control Ordinance. Consensus was if compliance is met, the charge would be waived.

Kirsten Fredrickson introduced herself as the new Kalamazoo Gazette writer who will be covering the Township.

Christine Zeigler and Cathy McNeill from MCR Industries presented information to the Board regarding services they have available for cleaning, bulk mail projects, etc.

Interim Fire Chief Paul Karnemaat advised a mailing had been done for residents on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street advising them they may see and hear an increase in emergency vehicle traffic during the 9<sup>th</sup> Street road project.

Interim Chief Karnemaat also reviewed a request to purchase three SUV's to replace the two current fire cars which are over six years old and have over 110,000 miles. He commented \$150,000 had been budgeted for vehicle purchase for 2008. Discussion included the Fire Direction Committee findings concerning delivery of EMS services; an SUV could provide those without utilizing a fire engine, the vehicles would also be used daily for inspections the department conducts and by the Parking Enforcement program. Trustee Bushouse and Treasurer Culp felt the purchase should be postponed until a new Fire Chief has been hired.

Quotes provided were from Don Seelye Ford, Signature Ford, Harold Zeigler, and Cole Automotive Group. Interim Chief Karnemaat recommended the purchase as quoted by Cole Automotive Group for three 2008 GMC Yukon XL 1500 at \$29,937.43 each. He advised he would return to the Board with proposals for light/siren packages, pull out devices for maximizing storage in the vehicle and lettering.

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 James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Interim Fire Chief Paul Karnemaat, and seven interested people.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$40,166.24 and disbursements of \$121,045.47 were reported. Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

#### **CHANGE IN INSURANCE CARRIER PROPOSAL**

A proposal from Geoff Lansky, representing the Ted Hartleb Agency, for the Township's liability, property, and vehicle coverage was before the Board.

Trustee Sikora inquired if a comparison had been done with the current insurance coverage, what the savings in premium would be and if the current carrier had been asked if they would meet the proposed premium. It was noted the annual premium for the proposed coverage would be \$49,631 and the current carrier renewal premium was approximately \$62,000. Trustee Rakowski and Supervisor VanDyke commented the best price should have been offered at renewal. Trustee Bushouse asked Mr. Lansky for assurance the proposal had been cleared through the underwriters; Mr. Lansky advised it had. Attorney Porter commented he felt the proposed coverage for legal defense was better than the current coverage.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Grace to change insurance carriers to EMC through the Ted Hartleb Agency. Carried.

#### **MEETING ROOM TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS**

Dan White, representing Service Wizard LLC presented a proposal for a new lectern and document camera for the meeting room. It was noted this would provide for more professional presentations to be made by laptop and/or printed documents and eliminate the need for an overhead projector and use of transparencies. Mr. White advised the cost for the lectern, camera and required software and hardware for set up would be \$17,962.00.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Everett to approve the expenditure. Carried.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Interim Chief Karnemaat presented the proposal for purchase of vehicles as discussed at the Board work session.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski, to approve the purchase of three vehicles from Cole Automotive Group in the amount of \$29,937.43 each. Carried with Culp voting no.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

Interim Chief Karnemaat presented a proposal for purchase of six sets of turn out gear at a cost of \$1,468.00 per set. He advised the gear has been purchased in cycles to meet NFPA requirements that fire gear 15 years or older shall not be used in structural fire fighting activities. He further advised the particular gear utilized by the department for many years is handled by two distributors, Moses Fire Equipment and Apollo Fire Gear with Moses Fire Equipment being the vendor for the western side of the state. Trustee Bushouse inquired if other bids had been sought; Interim Chief Karnemaat advised a quote received from 5 Alarm Equipment was for different specifications.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to approve the purchase of six sets of turn out gear from Moses Fire Equipment in the amount of \$8,808.00. Carried.

#### **TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – SECOND READING WEST MICHIGAN FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO DRAKE ROAD**

A recommendation from the Planning Department for a proposed amendment to add West Michigan Avenue from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Drake Road to the Truck Route Ordinance was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to adopt the ordinance amendment. Carried.

**PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDINANCE – CABLE & VIDEO PROVIDERS – SECOND READING**

A proposed ordinance regulating the use of public rights of way by cable and video service providers was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt the ordinance. Carried.

**REPLACE/STANDARDIZE FACILITIES DOOR LOCKS**

A proposal to replace some existing keypad locks with updated units was before the Board. It was noted this was discussed for the 2008 budget and would standardize all facilities door locks. The total cost to upgrade would be \$6,435.00.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Culp to approve the expenditure. Carried.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Sikora commented he liked the new newsletter colors and commended the Clerk's office for the update.

Trustee Grace commented the Fire Chief Selection Committee had made the first cut in reviewing the resumes received.

Supervisor VanDyke advised he had received a bid from Quality Cleaning for cleaning services. Consensus was he should seek other bids as discussed at the work session.

Trustee Rakowski proposed that Trustee Sikora replace him as Board liaison to the Oshtemo Historical Society. Trustee Sikora indicated he would be happy to do so.

Trustee Rakowski inquired as to the status of posting the Truck Route Ordinance signs; he will follow up with the Planning Director.

Trustee Bushouse commented conditions of sign posts, trees, shrubs, etc. should be documented prior to mowing this season.

Clerk Everett commended Associate Planner Brian VanDenBrand for his work on the preliminary census preparation.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: JOHN VANDYKE**  
Supervisor