

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
March 13, 2012

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

PRESENT:
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, and 1 interested person.

KCSD ACTIVITY REPORT

Sgt. Todd Meyers was present and provided information on recent activity in the Township.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

County Commissioner Brandt Iden provided an update on recent County activities.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to adjourn to closed session to discuss purchase of real estate. Roll call vote showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

The Board adjourned to closed session at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Larson to return to open session at approximately 5:55 p.m. Carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Everett, second by Borgfjord to authorize the Supervisor and Township Attorney to proceed as discussed regarding purchase of real estate. Carried.

PRESENTATION BY SHERIFF RICHARD FULLER

Sheriff Richard Fuller provided an update on the current jail expansion.

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

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Deputy Chief Rick Griffin, and approximately 25 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Larson to approve the March 2nd special meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General, Building, Fire, and Sewer & Water Funds of \$118,612.99 and disbursements of \$250,399.11 were reported. Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Goudie, 6580 Bella, commented her daughter was seriously injured in an automobile accident when a vehicle exiting left from the east Meijer driveway hit the vehicle she was a passenger in; she feels the driveway should be a right turn only.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

Administrative Assistant Tracy Fricke – 10 years

Firefighter Eric Burghardt – 5 years

Firefighter Grant Gelling – 5 years

Firefighter Jed Wild – 5 years

Assistant Fire Chief Jim Wiley – 15 years

Trustee Dave Bushouse – 15 years

UPDATES

MEIJER EAST ENTRY DRIVE

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a proposal had been received from the Township's traffic engineer for a traffic study regarding the east Meijer driveway, however, she had been advised that MDOT will be conducting a safety study, therefore the Board does not need to act on the proposal at this time.

In response to an inquiry if Meijer's had been approached, Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she had contacted the store director.

ITC TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she was contacted by Karen Boyd of ITC who requested a meeting with her. Ms. Heiny-Cogswell advised she invited Ms. Boyd to the Board meeting but received the following written statement; "The Weeds Lake high-voltage transmission line and substation project is essential to the reliability and integrity of the transmission grid in the Kalamazoo area. ITC is continuing to move forward to address the reliability needs of this region in a responsible and cost-effective manner. "Discussions with landowners along the route are ongoing. We are evaluating all input from property owners and are continuing to communicate with them about the line route. We will contact local officials at the appropriate time in the near future to update them on the status of the project. ITC remains committed to completing this important project as soon as possible."

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell advised she will extend an invitation to Ms. Boyd to attend the April 10th Board meeting.

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) EVALUATION

Fire Chief Mark Barnes provided information regarding the Insurance Service Office (ISO) process advising the Township is scheduled for an evaluation in May; the Township was last evaluated in 1999. He advised the Township's rate is based on three components; a community's dispatching capability (10%), fire department capability (50%) and water supply (40%). He noted ISO grading is a 1 – 10 score with 1 being the best and 10 indicating that there is little fire protection available. There are only 42 communities with an ISO 1 in the United States. The score is used by insurance companies to set premiums. He advised the current rating is 4 where hydrants are available and 9 where they are not; the rating could improve slightly due to improvements in equipment, the addition of Station #2 in 2001, and a moderate increase in staffing.

REPLACEMENT AERIAL TRUCK PURCHASE

Fire Chief Mark Barnes presented an overview of the information provided at the March 2nd special meeting at which the Board approved the purchase of a replacement aerial truck. As presented originally at the February 14th meeting, Fire Chief Barnes advised the aerial fire truck, Unit #541, in the Fire Department's fleet had been removed from service in October, 2011 due to mechanical failure and it has been determined repairs would be significant and noting the truck's age of 30 years, and other remaining questionable components; his recommendation was that it be recognized as having reached its serviceable life with the projected repairs exceeding its current value.

Chief Barnes advised three potential replacement vehicles had been delivered to the Department and extensively reviewed by members of the Fire Department. He provided a detailed comparison of each vehicle and criteria used for the evaluation. Chief Barnes recommended the purchase of the Smeal aerial truck at a cost of \$826,725 with a \$3,000 contingency for additional items; upgrade of the safety railing at the base of the aerial, and high visibility chevron stripping to outrigger posts. He advised equipment, i.e., radios, etc. will be removed from the retired vehicle and installed in the new. He also recommended the purchase be approved subject to a favorable inspection by third party maintenance vendor Moses Fire Equipment. Chief Barnes advised funds for the purchase are available in the Fire Department fund balance.

INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT – KABA

As discussed at several previous meetings, Supervisor Heiny-Cosgwell advised the Interlocal Government Agreement to establish the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) has been finalized and approved by Comstock and Kalamazoo Townships. She reiterated the purpose is to provide standardization, efficiencies and use of technology and an Economic Vitality Incentive Program grant from the State in the amount of approximately \$80,000 was received to provide technological support for the program start up.

In response to Board members questions, she advised the Home Builders Association had been included in the discussions, they expect other local units will join, KABA will contract with the participating units during start up of the organization, and each participating unit will approve KABA's annual budget.

Motion by Ernstes, second by Culp to adopt a resolution to approve the Interlocal Government Agreement to establish the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA). Roll call showed Ernstes-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

KABA REPRESENTATIVE

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Board must select a representative to serve a two year term on the KABA Board. She noted the purpose of the KABA Board is to serve in the interest of fiscal policy responsibility; the operational responsibility and code authority will be that of the hired Director and Building Official. Trustee Larson indicated he would be interested in serving as the Township's representative.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Ernstes to appoint Trustee Larson as the Township's representative to the KABA Board. Carried.

CIC RECOMMENDATION – ADDITIONAL 2012 ROAD PROJECT

A recommendation from the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) to add an additional road project to the 2012 list was before the Board due to additional PAR funds being available from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. It was noted the additional project, crack/chip seal of 2nd Street between Alma and KL Avenue, at \$8,158.00 is within the 2012 budget.

Motion by Everett, second by Borgfjord to add the additional project to the 2012 road project list. Carried.

FLESHER FIELD MNRTF GRANT APPLICATION

As discussed at the February 14th meeting, the Park Committee is recommending the approval of a grant application to the Michigan National Resources Trust Fund in the amount of \$300,000 with a match of \$135,300 for implementing Phase I of the Master Park Plan for Flesher Field which would include relocation and replacement of the parking lot, a walking path and new rest room building. In response to a previous question of obtaining a grant only for the new parking lot, information had been received that only one such grant had been awarded, others included restroom buildings, playgrounds, etc. It was noted if successful, the grant would not be received until 2013; the grant match would be budgeted for in 2013.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Ernstes, to adopt a resolution approving submittal of a grant application to the MNRTF. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

CONSULTANT – NON-MOTORIZED PLAN UPDATE

A recommendation from the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) to hire a consultant to update the non-motorized facility plan was before the Board. It was noted two consulting firms were contacted for estimates with two responses, one in the amount of \$4,660 and the other \$36,000-\$40,000; the recommendation is to accept the proposal from The Greenway Collaborative, Inc. in the amount of \$4,660.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to accept the proposal from the Greenway Collaborative, Inc. in the amount of \$4,660. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Borgfjord advised the public dedication for the Township Park improvements will be held on May 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COSWELL
Supervisor