

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
April 12, 2011

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 James Grace
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, and 2 interested people.

KCSD Activity Report

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

Kalamazoo County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Brandt Iden provided an update of recent Kalamazoo County Commission activities.

Committee Appointments

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a recommendation to appoint Patti Winters and Carol VanAntwerp to the Friends of the Parks. This item will be taken up for action on the regular agenda.

8th Street Bridge

There was discussion regarding the Kalamazoo County Road Commission's decision to remove the 8th Street bridge from their project list.

Board Priorities/Goals

There was discussion regarding ideas and issues board members would like to see addressed in the next year; specifically mentioned were options for open space preservation, moving the Township forward technologically, adding more police protection, capital improvements, broadcasting board work sessions, and discussion with neighboring jurisdictions.

Other Business

Oshtemo Sunburst 5K Run Agreement

A contract with Classic Race Management to manage the Oshtemo Sunburst 5K to be held on August 13th was before the Board.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Everett to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Classic Race Management. Carried.

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

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

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliot, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, and approximately 25 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to approve the March 8th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General, Building, Fire, Sewer & Water Funds of \$3,371,603.84 and disbursements of \$268,545.18 were reported. Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stan Rakowski, 7151 West G Avenue, had questions regarding the newsletter and status of the Friends of the Parks 501(c)3 application.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Lt. Matt Wilton who was honored at the previous meeting for 20 years of service was present to accept his recognition certificate.

TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

A proposed ordinance amendment to the Township's truck route ordinance was before the Board; it was noted pending litigation and an upcoming hearing on April 18th could void the current ordinance. The proposed amendment would allow a north bound only truck route on 10th Street from West Main to H Avenue, two way truck traffic on 10th Street from H Avenue to G Avenue, south bound truck traffic only on 9th Street from H Avenue to West Main, two way truck traffic on H Avenue from Drake Road to 10th Street and west bound truck traffic only on H Avenue from 10th Street to 9th Street.

The following public spoke:

Jim Sterenberg, 4110 Oakharbor Street
Kathleen Garland-Rike, 6180 Ashwood Court
Irene Stec, 1373 South Village Circle
Ray Robinson, 2860 North 10th Street,
Margaret Masuzawa, 331 West Ridge Circle
Pat Glass, 6617 West G Avenue
Arvida Price, 2900 North 10th Street
Bernard Zwart, 1181 North 10th Street
Joe Gemmill, 3300 North 10th Street
Larry Glass, 6617 West G Avenue

Their comments included:

Thanks to the Board for their diligence, persistence and tenacity.

Opening up 10th Street for two way traffic could keep trucks off H Avenue and 9th Street giving residents another way out.

Could concessions regarding days and hours of operation, lower speed limit, construction of a bike path, etc. be reached if 10th Street could be used for two way traffic?

Proposed amendment is fair.

The truck traffic should go through Alamo.

Has access to 131 been sought/considered?

Is a route to the north from the gravel pit being considered?

How could the Township be in control of its roads?

Concerned about decreasing property values.

Board should continue to challenge constitutionality of law allowing border road objections.

Can noise ordinance address issue of truck traffic?

Trustee James Grace commented he agrees with the original filings but will not support this ordinance amendment, the Township has fought a good battle but will not support spending any more on the issue.

Trustee Bushouse commented he agrees with Trustee Grace and feels we could still sit down with Aggregate Industries and talk. He also commented he would encourage residents to let the Board know how they feel regarding exploring the possibility of becoming a city; perhaps that effort has not been aggressive enough.

In response to board members questions, Attorney Porter advised the amendment is meant to provide some control until the matter reaches a conclusion in the courts.

Motion by Larson, second by Borgfjord to adopt a resolution to support a truck route ordinance amendment, accept it for First Reading and set Second Reading for April 26th. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, James Grace-no, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE VEHICLE PURCHASE

Fire Chief Barnes presented a proposal for purchase of a rescue vehicle planned for in the 2011 budget. He advised three sealed bids were received:

Custom Fire - \$257,775.73, Pierce Manufacturing - \$240,688.00, Rosenbauer - \$231,412.00

He recommended accepting the proposal from Pierce Manufacturing noting the low bidder failed to meet the minimum specifications. He advised the Pierce vehicle is a current demonstrator model immediately available and meets specifications in all categories.

In response to board member questions he advised the vehicle being replaced will be sold; there is an interested party.

Motion by James Grace, second by Culp to accept the proposal from Pierce Manufacturing in the amount of \$240,688.00. Carried.

LIQUOR LICENSE NAME CHANGE – WINGS, ETC.

A resolution to transfer total ownership of the liquor license for Wings, Etc. to Denise Hiatt was before the Board. Attorney Porter advised the application was in order.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to adopt the resolution. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

2011 ROAD PROJECTS

Trustee James Grace presented the list of recommended road projects from the Road Committee:

Chip seal - Country Club Village, Wickford, Rose Arbour, LaSalle Homesites, Twelve Oaks, the streets of Red Bud Trail, Bramble Drive, and Cheaspeake Drive in the West Port plat, J Avenue, Wolf Drive, H Avenue from 2nd Street to 6th Street

Crack sealing - Maple Hill Estates

Crack & chip seal – KL Avenue from VanKal to Almena

It was noted residents must petition for and be assessed for the “seal layer” for the chip seal projects, the petition deadline is June 15th, and the seal can be done next year.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to approve the list of projects as presented. Carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

Several proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission were before the Board for Second Reading. They included providing administrative review and approval for one day temporary outdoor events, providing definition of filling station to include propane tank refills, changes in front and rear setbacks, providing for administrative review and approval of width to depth variance requests, changes in landscaping requirements, changes in permitted signs and area requirements, clarification regarding fence heights, language regarding keeping of animals, and site plan review requirements.

Planning Director Stefforia commented upon review of Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell's concern regarding a change in language in the sign ordinance to permit more than one sign for commercial properties with more than 200 feet of frontage, which could cause unintended consequences, she requested the Second Reading move forward with direction to the Planning Commission to revisit this particular item.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to adopt the proposed text amendments and direct the Planning Commission to reconsider the language to permit more than one sign for commercial properties with more than 200 feet of frontage. Carried with Heiny-Cogswell voting no.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH RECEIVING BOARD – MAY 3RD ELECTION

Clerk Everett presented a resolution to establish receiving boards for the May 3, 2011 election noting that State law requires Township Board action to do so.

Motion by Culp, second by James Grace to adopt a resolution authorizing the establishment of receiving boards for the May 3, 2011 election. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, James Grace-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEE AMENDMENT

A recommendation was before the Board from the Sewer/Water Committee that the Water Service Connection fee be amended to \$1,100.00 in instances where the curb-stop is present and was installed at Township expense, and amended to reflect no water service connection fee be charged in instances where the developer installed the water main and curb-stop.

Planning Director Stefforia noted the current fee structure was established before the City required curb-stops at time of installation of water main.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to adopt a resolution amending the Water Service Connection fee as presented. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Updated position descriptions for Fire Department Paid on Cal Firefighter & Resident Intern Firefighter, Planning Department Administrative Assistant, Supervisor's Administrative Assistant, Township Attorney, and Township Attorney's Paralegal Administrative Assistant were before the Board, adding the essential job functions to each description.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to approve the updated job descriptions as presented. Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a recommendation to appoint Patti Winters and Carol VanAntwerp to the Friends of the Parks.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Everett to approve the appointment as recommended. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee James Grace commented the non-motorized facilities should be surveyed for maintenance needs.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell reminded the public she has open office hours each week.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor