

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
April 24, 2007

The Oshtemo Township Board public comment session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor John VanDyke called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, and 3 interested people.

Discussion – M-43 Bike Path – There was lengthy discussion regarding the funding method for the M-43 bike path to be constructed by MDOT this summer. Some board members felt property owners should not be assessed due to the location and nature of use the path will receive. Trustee Bushouse cautioned a consistent policy needs to be considered. There was also discussion that a request could be placed before the residents on the August ballot for a capital improvement millage to fund these types of overall community enhancement projects. It was noted the Metro Act funds received by the Township could be used for such projects.

Richard and Judy Weddington, 6139 West Main, commented this issue was first presented to the public by the Park Committee as an enhancement to the park; they feel everyone should help pay.

Consensus was the Park Committee will further study and discuss the issue and bring a recommendation to the Board.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Supervisor VanDyke called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Also present was James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia and 15 interested people.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the April 10th regular and April 12th special meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$9,441.42 and disbursements of \$202,814.39 were reported. Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Parker, 22252 Red Arrow, inquired as to the status of acquiring the AT&T abandoned right of way along Atlantic Avenue. Attorney Porter advised all documents have been submitted and are awaiting signatures from AT&T.

Judy Weddington, 6139 West Main, commented she wished to thank the Board for their work regarding the M-43 bike path and also commended Planning Director Stefforia for her work on the issue.

Larry Fitch, 10273 Skyview Drive, advised he was representing Skyview Estates and commented they were concerned there was no resolution to the issue of reimbursement for the public water installed in the development. Mr. Fitch advised they had discussions with the KL Group and thought an agreement was reached. Attorney Porter advised discussions were still ongoing with the KL Group and the Township's environmental legal counsel and two meetings are scheduled.

Dan Wilkinson, 81 Skyview Drive, commented he had ongoing e-mails and telephone contact with members of the KL Group and thought they had reached an agreement prior to the Township asking other issues be considered. Attorney Porter advised their concerns are a major point of the discussions with the KL Group.

WEST MAIN SEWER/WATER EXTENSION

A recommendation from the Sewer/Water Committee to seek bids to construct public water main and sanitary sewer in the south right of way of M-43 between 9th Street and Lodge Lane was before the Board. It was noted the project should be expedited so it may be completed in advance of the bike path being constructed by MDOT this season.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to direct the Township Engineer to seek bids for the project. Carried.

CHANGE ORDER – PINEHURST PUMP STATION

Engineer Elliott presented a change order in the amount of \$15,789.94 for repairs to the pump station equipment being installed at the Pinehurst pump station. He noted the equipment was being reused from the pump previously located on North 9th Street but required some repair due to damage that occurred during storage.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Grace to approve the change order. Carried.

CHANGE ORDER – WEST PORT SEWER

Engineer Elliott presented a change order in the amount of \$33,152.72 for extending the sewer project in West Port to include properties on West Point Drive. He noted a request for service was received at the preconstruction meeting with the residents.

Motion by Culp, second by Rakowski to approve the change order. Carried.

PLAINVIEW PAVING CONTRACT

Clerk Everett advised a revised paving contract for Plainview Street had been received from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission with a reduction in cost; KCRC requests the previously approved contract in the amount of \$68,125 be cancelled and the revised one in the amount of \$53,714 be approved.

Motion by Everett, second by Grace to cancel the previously approved contract and approve the revised one. Carried.

RENTAL FACILITIES CANCELLATION POLICY

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Park Committee to adopt a cancellation policy for the Township rental facilities. The policy allows for full and partial refunds based on amount of notice given and would be incorporated into the rules information provided to all renters.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to approve the cancellation policy. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS ZBA APPONTMENT

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Board Appointment Committee to appoint current ZBA alternate Grace Borgfjord to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of ZBA member Millard Loy. He advised they will have a recommendation at the next meeting for filling the alternate vacancy.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to appoint Grace Borgfjord to the ZBA effective immediately. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Rakowski commented he was concerned about office safety in light of recent national events and feels an exit is needed at the rear of the building and wished his comments to go on the record. The Safety Committee will be updating current policies and procedures and will also consider this issue.

Trustee Sikora inquired as to the status of the maintenance survey recently conducted. He noted he observed issues with the vehicle building service doors that should be addressed. It was noted the Building & Grounds Committee will begin scheduling with maintenance items brought to light by the survey.

Trustee Sikora commented he had received comments from residents on Quail Run regarding excessive speed of traffic and inquired if the speed trailer could be placed there.

He also commented he has observed a lot of activity at Flesher Field this spring including use of the two new whiffle ball fields.

Trustee Bushouse shared with the Board photos of a cell tower disguised as a pine tree and an alternative method of stormwater retention he had recently seen.

He also commented that during the Parkview/Stadium project, the contractor, Hoffman Brothers will take care of the large pile of dirt has been at the Oshtemo Community Center for some time.

Trustee Rakowski commented he found the recent MTA trustee retreat he attending very informative.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: John VanDyke
Supervisor