

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
May 9, 2006

An open house celebrating the completion of the Township Office addition was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Also present were James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Planner Mary Lynn Bugge, Fire Chief Ken Howe and 6 interested people.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Culp to approve the April 25th regular and May 4th special meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$53,721.07 and disbursements of \$196,102.83 were reported. Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

BOARD APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Board Appointment Committee to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission as a result of Jim Turcott's resignation and the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the appointment of Grace Borgfjord as Township Trustee.

James Grace, 5986 Scenic Way to fill the remainder of the Planning Commission term expiring 12/31/06.

Roger Taylor, 7684 West Main to fill the remainder of the ZBA term expiring 12/31/07.

Trustee Rakowski requested the Supervisor send thank you letters to those who have served and welcome letters to the new appointees.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to approve the appointments as recommended. Carried

TEXT AMENDMENT – VILLAGE THEME DESIGN TEXT

Planner Bugge presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission to revise the introductory paragraph of Section 33.400 of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to Site Development Standards in the Village Commercial District to facilitate consideration of the design suggestions in the Village Theme Development Plan adopted for the DDA District when development proposals are formulated and presented for review. She advised further revisions to Section 33 of the Zoning Ordinance are anticipated in the future.

Motion by Everett, second by Sikora to accept the recommendation and set First Reading for May 23rd. Carried.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR PUMP STATION

Attorney Porter advised a letter had been directed to the owner of property on KL Avenue, east of 11th Street, for purchase for future location of a municipal water pump station as directed by the Board at the February 14th meeting. He advised the assessor had placed a value of \$16,600 on the property which was offered to the owner and a letter of acceptance had been received.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Culp to direct the attorney to proceed with the purchase of the property on KL Avenue. Carried.

PROPOSAL FOR VIDEO EQUIPMENT

Trustee Bushouse reviewed past discussions regarding purchase of video equipment for the meeting room, noting such discussion dated back some 20 years. He also commented the agreement with the Community Access Center approved by the Board in July 2005 included a joint purchase of video equipment and use of Township facilities for training; CAC has agreed to contribute up to \$35,000.

Dan White of Service Wizard presented a proposal for the equipment and advised the total expenditure would be approximately \$72,000 noting final pricing would be probably be lower.

Lengthy discussion concerned state and federal legislation that may affect revenue from cable franchise fees, how loss of the funds could affect the CAC and public access channels.

Trustee Borgfjord commented she had attended the CAC Board Meeting that afternoon and reported an amendment to the urban cooperation act was adopted clarifying that equipment purchased would belong to the local unit. She also commented the CAC is moving toward more options to offer their services, i.e., webcasting and radio.

Treasurer Culp felt the issue should be tabled until the proposed legislation has been acted on.

There was also discussion of current funds available and their restricted use, comments are received from the community that they do watch the board meetings, possible future uses, i.e., broadcasting Planning Commission and ZBA meetings and use by other community groups and that web casting could reach a wider audience.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to approve an expenditure up to \$71,000 with a contribution from CAC of \$35,000. Carried 6-1 with Culp voting no.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RENOVATION/EXPANSION – FIRE HOUSE NO. 1

Fire Chief Howe presented a proposal for renovation of current office space used by the Fire Department and a portion of the space in the previous Township Office, expansion of Fire House No. 1 dayroom and addition of a garage. He advised the projected cost of the project would be approximately \$509,828.00 which would include construction, office furnishings, computer/phone relocation, and upgrade of the apparatus exhaust removal system. He noted the project would be funded from the department's Operations and Fire Equipment budgets with funds saved over several years.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Sikora to approve sending the project out for bids. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS REQUEST FOR LEGAL FILES

Clerk Everett advised Lewis, Reed & Allen, P.C., the Township's former legal firm, still has in their possession files needed by the current Township Attorney.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to direct the Supervisor to request all Township files stored at Archive One and any active tax cases be turned over to James Porter, P.C. Carried.

PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Park Committee to adopt a policy that would prohibit digging and prospecting on Township property and subject anyone in violation to suit for trespass or malicious destruction of property.

Motion by Sikora, second by Bushouse to adopt the policy. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor VanDyke advised the Township Board, Planning Commission, and ZBA have been invited to meet with those boards from Texas Township and Southwest Michigan First regarding the 9th Street corridor.

He also advised a letter had been received from Kalamazoo Mayor Hannah McKinney regarding the Kalamazoo Promise; a meeting date has not been determined.

Trustee Bushouse advised a tree will be purchased for Flesher Field and a plaque purchased by the Oshtemo Rotary honoring Trustee Ted Corakis.

He also commented on the positive comments heard from the public at the open house.

Trustee Rakowski advised the Oshtemo Grange held a memorial service for Trustee Corakis at their May 5th meeting.

He also advised the Oshtemo Historical Society is trying to obtain liability insurance for the groups activities at the Drake House.

Trustee Borgfjord commented her decision regarding the purchase of video equipment was influenced by the Community Access Center's recognition they must move forward with other types of services; i.e., web based services and radio.

Trustee Sikora commented on the letter received from Tom Koenig thanking the Township for the efforts made to obtain the property next to the landfill for the capping project.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: JOHN VANDYKE
Supervisor