

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
June 24, 2008

The Oshtemo Township Board public comment session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor 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, Fire Chief Mark Barnes and 3 interested people.

Larry DeShazor introduced himself as a candidate for 61st District State Representative.

Discussion Item - West Main Sidewalks: Discussion was held regarding establishing a special assessment district for completing the sidewalk network on West Main from Drake Road to US-131. There was also discussion of considering Maple Hill Drive, Croyden Avenue, and Drake Road to complete a loop. Consensus was to direct the Planning Director to work with the Township Engineer to provide estimates for the possible projects discussed.

Other items discussed were outdoor wood burners and wind turbines. Consensus was the Board needs to review more information on these issues.

Trustee/Fire Commissioner Grace asked for Board consensus that the new Fire Chief will be a salaried employee and attend Board work sessions on a regular basis, and the Oshtemo Firefighters Significant Others be permitted use of a fire vehicle for display at a fund raiser.

Trustee Sikora requested a review of current benefits for on call paid firefighters and advised he had been asked by one fire department member regarding the possibility of offering health insurance. Discussion included the difficulty of forming a large enough pool to be cost effective.

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

Supervisor VanDyke called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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, Fire Chief Mark Barnes and approximately 11 interested people.

Supervisor VanDyke introduced new Fire Chief Mark Barnes.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the June 10th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$36,747.31 and disbursements of \$316,649.89 were reported. Motion by Rakowski, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Julie Phillips introduced herself and advised she is running for district judge.

Michael Evans, Jane Dudley, Norman Young, Colleen Loc, and John Musak spoke regarding the Michigan Organizing Project and Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network support of the Kalamazoo County Local Housing Fund. They requested the Board make a donation of \$20,000 which would be matched by Kalamazoo County.

OSHTEMO FIREFIGHTERS SIGNIFICANT OTHERS ENDORSEMENT

Theresa Paddock, President of the Oshtemo Firefighters Significant Others Group advised they would be publishing a flyer for public education concerning the organization and requested the Township Board be listed as endorsing their efforts.

Motion by Grace, second by Culp to be included in the list of endorsements for the SO group. Carried.

FORM BASED CODE OVERLAY ZONE – SECOND READING

A recommendation from the Planning Commission for adoption of the Village Form Based Code Overlay Zone and the inclusion of 223 properties which are within the Downtown Development Authority area was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt the Village Form Based Code Overlay text and inclusion of 223 properties. Carried.

LIQUOR LICENSE NAME CHANGE – APPLEBEE'S

An application for a corporate name change for the liquor license held by Applebee's restaurant was before the Board for consideration.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the liquor license name change. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH RECEIVING BOARD

Clerk Everett advised State Election law requires the local unit to adopt a resolution to establish receiving boards for elections. A resolution to establish receiving boards for the August 5th primary and November 4th general election was presented.

Motion by Sikora, second by Culp to adopt the resolution. Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

The Personnel Committee, after considering recommendations from Department Heads concerning additional duties and responsibilities of some staff members, recommended the General Fund budget be amended by \$4,600 to provide salary adjustments.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to approve the budget amendment. Carried.

8TH STREET & O'PARK WATER EXTENSION PROJECTS

Engineer Elliott advised bids had been received and reviewed for the water extension projects on 8th Street south from KL Avenue to the railroad and on O'Park Street south from Stadium Drive to Frie Avenue. He recommended accepting the bid from Balkema Excavating in the amount of \$143,903.

There was discussion the timing of the 8th Street project should be considered in conjunction with the current 9th Street road project to minimize impact in that area.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Grace, to accept the bid from Balkema Excavating for the projects as described. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

Ordinance Enforcement Officer Scott Paddock advised the Board of the actions taken at a house in the 8000 block of KL Avenue regarding removal of neglected and dead dogs found there.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Rakowski expressed concerns regarding the condition of the driveway at the Marathon station at West Main and US-131.

Trustee Rakowski also expressed disappointment that new driveway cuts and the new road on the east side of Drake Road were not planned by the City of Kalamazoo with current Township streets in mind.

Trustee Grace encouraged residents to stop in and meet new Fire Chief Mark Barnes.

Trustee Sikora advised he has been involved in discussions regarding a letter received from County Administrator Peter Batani concerning \$150,000 that the Township believes was originally intended for use in rehabilitating the landfill site. He advised it appears an endowment will be established through the Kalamazoo Community Foundation; he will be attending the Kalamazoo County Commission meeting on July 15th.

Trustee Bushouse advised he had discussion with Kalamazoo County Road Commission staff regarding South 8th Street north of Stadium Drive and the need for improved shoulders. It was noted the Township has requested a traffic study for the intersection.

Treasurer Culp advised she and Clerk Everett would be “going to jail” on Wednesday, June 25th for the Muscular Dystrophy Association fund raiser.

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