

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
August 12, 2008

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

PRESENT:

Supervisor John VanDyke
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Neil Sikora
Trustee Stan Rakowski

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

Guest – Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner Patrick Krause was present and reviewed for the Board activities of the Drain Office.

Closed Session – Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to adjourn to closed session pursuant to a resolution regarding closed session dated August 12, 2008 for purpose of discussing pending litigation. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to return to open session at approximately 6:50 p.m.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:50 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 Neil Sikora
Trustee Stan Rakowski

Also present were James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliot, Township Engineer, Fire Chief Mark Barnes and 3 interested people.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to approve the July 8th regular and July 18th special meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$271,692.26 and disbursements of \$358,224.34 were reported. Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Janssen, 8670 Almena Drive, commented he was sorry to hear Supervisor VanDyke was retiring and thanked him for the good job he has done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – VARIOUS REQUESTS
CONTRACT WITH KALAMAZOO COUNTY FOR
STORAGE & USE OF HAZ MAT TRUCK & TRAILER

Chief Barnes advised a vehicle belonging to Kalamazoo County for Haz Mat responses has been stored at Fire House No. 2 for some time without a formal agreement in place. The agreement allows the department occasional use of the vehicle. Attorney Porter advised he has reviewed the agreement and found it acceptable.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Kalamazoo County for use and storage of the Haz Mat truck and trailer. Carried.

FIRE PUMP REPAIR – UNIT 541

Chief Barnes advised repairs were needed on various valves and the fire pump on Unit 541. He advised only one bid was received from vendors contacted. He recommended awarding the bid to Emergency Vehicle Products and requested approval of an expenditure not to exceed \$6,784.84.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to approve the expenditure as requested. Carried.

REPLACEMENT TIRES – UNITS 521, 532, 541

Chief Barnes advised replacement tires are needed on Units 521, 532, and 541. He advised two bids were received and recommended awarding the bid to Wingfoot, LLC the local Goodyear dealer and requested approval of an expenditure not to exceed \$8,321.94 for replacement and installation of 20 tires on the three vehicles.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to approve the expenditure as requested. Carried.

PUMP INLET VALVE – UNIT 511

Chief Barnes advised the pump inlet valve on Unit 511 is in need of replacement as it has developed leaks which are not repairable. He recommended the work be performed by Moses Fire Equipment and requested approval of an expenditure not to exceed \$3,000.00

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to approve the expenditure as requested. Carried.

FRAME PROBLEM – UNIT 521

Chief Barnes reviewed the frame rail rust issue on Unit 521 and provided the Board with a visual inspection of the problem at the work session. He advised the vehicle was purchased from Pierce Manufacturing and they have agreed to inspect and advise on necessary repairs to the vehicle.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to authorize Chief Barnes to send Unit 521 to the manufacturer with the understanding the Township's initial share for the repairs is \$12,000 plus transportation costs with any other work found necessary brought back to the Board with cost estimates. Carried.

VEHICLE PROBLEM – UNIT 532

Chief Barnes advised Unit 532 has been pulled from service due to an unknown mechanical problem; he has heard from the manufacturer, American LaFrance of similar problems and requested approval to send the truck to the manufacturer for inspection.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Culp to approve transportation costs to authorize the Chief to send the truck to the manufacturer. Carried.

LIGHT FIXTURES – UNIT 501

Chief Barnes advised the light fixtures on unit 501 are in need of replacement and requested approval for an expenditure not to exceed \$2,216.80 for 16 fixtures.

Motion by Sikora, second by Bushouse to approve the expenditure as requested. Carried.

Board members complimented Chief Barnes on the monthly report he provided, finding it very informative.

BUILDING INSPECTOR OFFICE ENCLOSURE

A proposal from Building Official Bob Horton to enclose the inspector area of the Building Department was before the Board. Discussion revealed the proposal had not been reviewed by the Building & Grounds Committee.

Motion by Culp, second by Rakowski to refer the matter to the Building & Grounds Committee for a recommendation. Carried.

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL WATER & WASTEWATER COMMISSION DUES

Dues for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 for the Kalamazoo Regional Water & Wastewater Commission was before the Board for consideration. Attorney Porter advised good progress has been made toward a new water agreement with the City of Kalamazoo but at significant cost with the hiring of a facilitator and rate consultant. It was noted the commission had collected no dues for the past couple of years.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to pay the dues in the amount of \$4,895.00. Carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Park Committee to establish an endowment fund in the amount of \$150,000 at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. He advised the funds result from an initial contribution by the Upjohn Company to foster intergovernmental cooperation and the remaining funds were designated for road repairs around the KL Landfill site and since this was not needed, discussions directed the money be made available for Oshtemo parks, recreation and open space goals. He noted the assistance of County Administrator Peter Battani, Wes Freeland of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and vocal support from our County Commissioners, John Nieuwenhuis and Brian Johnson were instrumental on our behalf.

Board members complimented Trustee Sikora for his commitment to bringing this project to fruition.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to establish the Oshtemo Charter Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS DRAKE HOMESTEAD DRIVEWAY

Trustee Sikora provided a brief history of the Drake Homestead property relating that while the Township has acquired the actual homestead, a portion of the historical original driveway was described in an adjacent parcel and left to Kalamazoo College through the former owner's will. He also advised discussion has been on going for the past two and a half years with Kalamazoo College to attempt to obtain 1.12 acres of property to provide the original driveway to the Drake Homestead remain in tact. He noted this is crucial to the application to place the homestead on the National Register of Historic Places. He advised K-College remains adamant the entire 10 acres be purchased at a cost of \$790,000.

Attorney Porter advised an appraisal of the needed 1.12 acres and been done and a fair market value offered.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski that after much discussion about the lack of progress, the lengthy time spent of good faith efforts by the Township, the intransigence of the College and unlikelihood of resolution, to approve the Park Committee recommendation that the Board authorize the attorney to begin condemnation proceedings for the needed property. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Rakowski commented on a meeting held on July 23rd at the Township Hall that was supposed to be about neighborhood watch but turned into a political forum for a county commission candidate. He felt the facility should not be used for one person's political agenda.

Clerk Everett reminded everyone of Oshtemo Fun Day to be held Saturday, August 16th at Flesher Field.

Treasurer Culp reminded the Trustees they are scheduled to provide cookies and juice for the Red Cross Blood Drive to be held at the Township Hall on August 20th.

Trustee Sikora reminded everyone the World Disc Golf Tournament is being held in the area this week and using the course at the Township Park.

Trustee Bushouse advised he has been reappointed to the State Electrical Board for another four year term.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: JOHN VANDYKE
Supervisor