

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
October 26,2010

The Oshtemo Township Board regular meeting was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Scott McCormick

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and 14 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the October 12th regular meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$29,435.57 and disbursements of \$88,965.44 were reported. Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION – OPEN BURNING SURVEY RESULTS

Trustee Borgfjord, who chaired the Open Burning Committee, advised the committee had been formed to look into open burning after the Board received complaints from some residents regarding burning of leaves, a survey was conducted through the September township wide newsletter and was also available on the Township web site. She noted the committee discussion on a total ban was for leaves and grass clippings only, burning brush, campfires, and other types of burning were not considered for a ban.

Margaret Masuzawa, 331 West Ridge Circle, commented she was not familiar with the drop off days, does the Township have a site where leaves could be dumped.

Ken Irish, 2651 South 4th street, member of the committee, commented there is no question that burning leaves and grass clippings creates toxic fumes, particulates and gases including carbon monoxide; he supports a township wide ban as piece meal restrictions would be difficult to enforce.

Mary Zwart, 6332 Rose Arbour, commented she is a twenty year resident, does not like burning in her neighborhood and would support a ban for health reasons.

Dan Thompson, 105 Echo Hills Drive, commented this is a tough issue, the survey does not necessarily reflect the majority, there is a need for education and the Board might want to consider having public hearings.

Lori Versteeg, 9850 Sunnywood Drive, member of the committee, commented she is a fourteen year resident, has health concerns related to the smoke, safety concerns with fires left unattended, supports a total ban of burning leaves and grass clippings without cost to the Township, and a ban should be in place as soon as possible.

Dan Holmes, 10848 West Main, commented he has 37 acres, still gets smoke from others burning, he supports a ban on burning leaves and grass clippings or if a ban cannot be agreed on, perhaps have certain days for burning.

Chad Hughson, 18 North Van Kal Street, commented the survey should have asked for type of residence, conducts prairie burns on his 35 acres with no complaints; he is opposed to any burning ban on natural materials, favors requiring a burning permit and enforcement.

Fire Chief Mark Barnes commented he would support a ban on burning leaves and grass clippings, continuing to allow camp fires and burning of clean natural wood. In response to questions from the Board, he advised records show 86 complaints over the last 6 years, and complaints can be made anonymously.

Trustee Borgfjord commented she supports the ban on burning leaves and grass clippings or at least establishing designated days to burn.

Trustee **Bushouse** commented he would not support a ban at this time but would like to see more details on complaints received.

Trustee James Grace commented he felt if there is a ban, it should be total ban, should not be a cost to the Township, and there are other pollution issues to be concerned about such as wood burners.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented she is has a concern with a ban without offering alternatives, a leaf pick up program would be cost prohibitive, and the burn committee needs direction.

Clerk Everett commented this is a difficult situation finding a solution for all concerned, understands the health issues but also the need for means to dispose of leaves.

Treasurer Culp commented more education is needed and more public input.

Trustee **McCormick** commented he would prefer to educate, if residents had an easy way to dispose of leaves, many would stop burning.

The burn committee was asked to compile an education piece, the Fire Chief to initiate a more detailed burn permit process and the Attorney to provide a draft ordinance with language to ban burning leaves and grass clippings for review at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS NON MOTORIZED FACILITIES SNOW PLOW CONTRACT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised one bid was received for snow removal from the non-motorized facilities in the Township from DeVisser Landscape Service in the amount of \$9,090.00. She noted this is lower than the 2010 price.

Motion by Culp, second by James Grace to accept the bid from DeVisser Landscape Service in the amount of \$9,090.00. Carried.

TOWNSHIP BUILDING OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised Building Official Bob Horton, who had been part time since his retirement in February, has resigned effective November 11, 2010. She noted Building Inspector Jerry Reitenour is currently the Deputy Building Official and recommended appointing him as Building Official upon Mr. Horton's resignation.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by James Grace to appoint Jerry Reitenour as Building Official. Carried.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT SOFTWARE PURCHASE

Treasurer Culp advised an update of the Building Department software is needed as the current program is not compatible with the BS&A accounting software.

Motion by Culp, second by Everett to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$9,000, spread over two years, for the purchase of software for the Building Department from BS&A. Carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

Fire Commissioner James Grace advised the annual testing of the SCBA equipment has resulted in necessary repairs to some of the units.

Motion by James Grace, second by Culp to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$2,700.00 for needed repairs. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee James Grace inquired if the medical marijuana issue might be on an upcoming work session agenda.

Clerk Everett reminded all to vote on Tuesday, November 2nd.

She also reminded all of the Oshtemo Rotary Halloween Party to be held on October 31st at the National Guard Armory.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COSGWELL
Supervisor