

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
November 9, 2011

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

PRESENT:
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, and 6 interested people.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dan Holmes, 10848 West Main, commented he had concerns regarding the proposed reductions in the police protection agreement for 2012; residents are paying county and township millage but will have less coverage. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell noted revenue from the special assessment districts has declined due to the decrease in property values and the cost per deputy from the county has increased.

KCSD ACTIVITY REPORT

Sgt. Todd Meyers was present and provided information on recent activity in the Township.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

County Commissioner Brandt Iden provided an update on recent County activities.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BROWNFIELD AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Commissioner Iden and David Artley, Director of Resource Development for Kalamazoo County presented information regarding the County's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Dale Hein, Project Manager for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, and Larry Norwood, KCTA board member presented information regarding the authority's future plans to continue to develop an integrated county wide transportation system.

DISCUSSION – FLESHER FIELD CONCESSION VENDOR

Andy James, contracted concession vendor for Flesher Field was present to provide an update. He advised activity was slow for this season due to a delayed start date and unfavorable weather. He commented he will be ready to open in the spring with a consistent schedule and plans to advertise. In response to board members questions, he commented additional signage would help and the concession stand and restrooms could use some freshening.

DISCUSSION – 2012 SEWER, WATER, WATER CONNECTION FEES

A recommendation from the Capital Improvements Committee regarding fees for 2012 was before the Board for consideration noting that although their study resulted in findings that increases to the water fees of 4% and sewer fees of 10% would reflect the true cost, the CIC is recommending that water connection fees be maintained with no increase and sewer connection fees be increased by 3% for 2012.

Dale Shugars, Executive Vice-President of the Homebuilders Association, commented builders are building where lower tax rates and costs are found but appreciates increase is low.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY, LIABILITY, VEHICLE INSURANCE PACKAGE

Geoff Lansky, representing EMC provided information for the renewal of the Township's property, liability and vehicle insurance package. This item will be on the agenda at a future meeting for action.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, and 3 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the October 25th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General, Building, Fire, and Sewer & Water Funds of \$34,173.27 and disbursements of \$194,547.97 were reported. Motion by Culp, second by Borgfjord to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell read a statement regarding the proposed ITC power line project, clarifying when the Township was contacted regarding the project and the lack of information forthcoming from ITC.

PRESENTATION – FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised due to a scheduling conflict, this item would need to be postponed until the December 13th meeting.

Motion by Larson, second by Borgfjord to table the presentation to the December 13th meeting. Carried.

2012 WATER SERVICE CONNECTION CONTRACTOR

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the 2012 contract with Scott W. Taylor Excavating for water service connections is proposed at the same rate as 2011, \$1450 per parcel.

Motion by Larson, second by Borgfjord to adopt a resolution establishing the water service connection fee for 2012 at \$1,450 and Scott W. Taylor Excavating as the contractor. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

2012 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt the Fire Protection Special Assessment Resolution for 2012 in the amount of \$1,655,692. Roll call showed Ernstes-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes

STREET LIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Culp, second by Larson to adopt the Streetlight Special Assessment Resolution for 2012 in the amount of \$142,143. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

POLICE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT 2003-1 & 2009-1 PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Everett, second by Borgfjord, to adopt the Police Protection Special Assessment 2003-1 and 2009-1 Resolution for 2012 in the amount of \$539,772. Roll call showed Ernstes-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-no, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

GENERAL FUND PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Culp, second by Larson to adopt the General Fund Budget Resolution for 2012 in the amount of \$7,158,192 and a resolution regarding routine expenditures and purchases. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

RESOLUTIONS - OFFICIALS SALARIES

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt the resolution establishing the Supervisor salary at \$63,379 for 2012. Roll call showed Ernstes-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-abstain.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Larson to adopt the resolution establishing the Clerk salary at \$63,379 for 2012. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes, Everett-abstain.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Ernstes to adopt the resolution establishing the Treasurer salary at \$63,379.00 for 2012. Roll call showed Ernstes-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes, Culp-abstain.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt the resolution establishing the Trustees salary at \$2400.00 per year plus \$50.00 per meeting for 2012. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Ernstes-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

POLICE PROTECTION AGREEMENT FOR 2012

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented the police protection agreement with Kalamazoo County for 2012 noting prior budget discussions including decreasing the contract from seven deputies and one sergeant to five deputies and one sergeant.

Trustee Bushouse commented he does not support the reduction particularly with the need in the eastern portion of the Township, the district could have been increased, and if the County also makes reductions, adequate protection will not be provided.

Trustee Ernstes commented this is a very tough situation for him, being that he works in the police profession, however, in his opinion, the contracting issue has gotten out of control, the townships should not be paying so much for a service we already pay for; at some point we have to take a stand.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented her understanding is general county deputies will be increased, the County is significantly increasing the cost for the deputies over the next three years to 100% and as previously discussed, an ad-hoc committee will be formed to study the issue and options. She also noted revenue from the special assessment districts has declined due to the decrease in property values.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Larson to approve the police protection agreement in the amount of \$562,962 for 2012. Carried with Bushouse voting no.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AGREEMENT FOR 2012

The agreement for 2012 with the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center was before the Board for consideration.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Everett to fund the program in the amount of \$12,000 for 2012. Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR 2012

The annual appointment of accounting and engineering consultants was before the Board.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Everett to retain Siegfried, Crandall P.C. as Township auditor, Prein & Newhof as primary Township Engineer and Williams & Works as secondary Township Engineer. Carried.

DEPOSITORIES FOR 2012

Treasurer Culp presented a list of depositories for Township funds for 2012.

Motion by Culp, second by Ernstes to approve the list of depositories. Carried.

TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT - MENARDS

A recommendation from Attorney Porter regarding settlement of the tax appeal by Menards was before the Board for consideration.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to approve the tax appeal settlement as recommended by the Attorney. Carried.

2012 MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR CONTRACT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented for renewal the agreement with Tom Guthrie for mechanical and electrical inspections for 2012 noting there are no changes to the current agreement which provides Mr. Guthrie receives 90% of fees and provides an hourly rate of \$45.00 for Township requested meetings or court appearances.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the contract as presented. Carried.

401(a) PLAN AMENDMENT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a proposed change to the Township's 401(a) pension plan that would decrease the Township contribution from 6% to 4% and provide a match of employee voluntary contributions up to 4%. She noted the change would be effective January 1, 2012 for employees and November 20, 2012 for the full time Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer, when the current term ends with no provision for Trustees after that date as approved earlier by the Board.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Everett to approve the plan change. Carried.

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN DEPUTY TREASURER

Treasurer Culp advised the Board that over the next few months, she will not be in the office full time due to a family medical situation. She further advised she will be able to work remotely by connecting to the Township server but will need assistance in some of the daily, time sensitive duties of the Treasurer's Office and has asked Carol DeHaan, current Treasurer of Cooper Township to assume the role of temporary Deputy Treasurer. She requested the Board approve an expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the temporary Deputy Treasurer position.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Larson to approve up to \$10,000 for the temporary deputy treasurer. Carried.

MTA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a pro-rated membership dues statement for the Township to rejoin the Michigan Townships Association. Consensus was due to the many changes occurring at the State level, membership would be a benefit for the Township.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Larson to approve the membership dues in the amount of \$2,708.50 for membership thru June, 2012. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS SPECIAL MEETING

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a special meeting would be held on November 16th at 5:00 p.m. to consider an amendment to the Township's utility ordinance and the insurance renewal discussed at the earlier work session.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

In response to an inquiry from Trustee Ernstes, Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised legislation has been proposed which would allow the dissolution of road commissions with their responsibility reverting to the County; there was discussion that road commissions are not accountable to the electors since they are an appointed board.

Trustee Ernstes commented the Oshtemo Rotary held a great Halloween party and commended Rotarian Kitty Gelling for her efforts.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor