

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
November 18, 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 James Grace
Trustee Neil Sikora
Trustee Stan Rakowski

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

Chip Schelb from the Nulty Agency and Mark Yuhas from UNUM were present to review and answer questions regarding proposed changes in the Township's health care package.

Attorney Porter advised a motion to stay has been filed by Aggregate Industries in the litigation regarding the truck route ordinance. A hearing is scheduled for December 1st.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 5:50 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 James Grace
Trustee Neil Sikora
Trustee Stan Rakowski

Also present were James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliot, Township Engineer, and approximately 22 interested people.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the October 28th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$28,511.30 and disbursements of \$304,632.38 were reported. Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Grace Borgfjord, 9802 Sunnywood, commented she wished to express her appreciation to Trustees Rakowski and Sikora for their service to the Township.

Dan Thompson, 105 Echo Hills, expressed thanks to Trustees Rakowski and Sikora and the rest of the Board for their work.

Jim Sterenberg, 4110 Oakharbor, on behalf of C-COATS, commented they wished to publicly acknowledge Supervisor VanDyke and Trustees Rakowski and Sikora for their service and diligence.

Joe Gemmil, 3300 North 10th Street, commented the noise level has decreased due to the truck route ordinance and he appreciates having a residential sounding neighborhood. He also echoed the accolades given to the Board.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PACKAGE

Trustee Bushouse advised the Personnel Committee recommended the changes as presented at the earlier work session regarding the employee benefit package. The proposed changes to the current health plan include adding a rider to cover mammograms 100%, a 90 day prescription for 2 co-pays rider and increase emergency room co-pay to \$150.00, changing the dental insurance carrier to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, changing the disability carrier to UNUM and adding a basic long term care plan to

the benefit package which offers employees the opportunity to increase the benefit amount at a group rate. UNUM would also offer employees the opportunity to purchase additional life insurance at a group rate. It was noted the savings in premium by changing carriers would offset the premium for the long term care plan. It was also noted that while there were no proposed changes in the health care plan, the maximum employee contribution to a flexible spending account would be increased to \$5,000 and the Township's \$200.00 contribution to this account would be eliminated.

Motion by Bushouse, second by Rakowski to approve the changes in the employee benefit package as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2009 BUDGET GENERAL FUND PUBLIC HEARING

Jerry Stirton, 1082 Wickford, requested the Board indicate if the budget amounts as presented raise or lower taxes. It was clarified that all amounts are renewals of current rates.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to adopt the 2009 General Fund Budget. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes.

POLICE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to adopt the Police Protection Special Assessment Resolution for 2009. Roll call showed Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes, Bushouse-yes.

STREET LIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Jim Saur, 1050 Wickford, commented his neighborhood had already paid for their streetlights. He was advised the assessment is for ongoing expense of the electricity.

Motion by Sikora, second by Culp to adopt the Streetlight Special Assessment Resolution for 2009. Roll call showed Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes.

FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public comment.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to adopt the Fire Protection Special Assessment Resolution for 2009. Roll call showed Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes.

RESOLUTIONS - OFFICIALS SALARIES

Motion by Rakowski, second by Grace to adopt the resolution establishing the Supervisor salary at \$63,379.00 for 2009. Roll call showed Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-abstain, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Grace-yes.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to adopt the resolution establishing the Clerk salary at \$63,379.00 for 2009. Roll call showed Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-abstain, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to adopt the resolution establishing the Treasurer salary at \$63,379.00 for 2009. Roll call showed VanDyke-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-abstain, Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes.

Motion by Culp, second by Everett to adopt the resolution establishing the Trustees salary at \$2400.00 per year plus \$50.00 per meeting for 2009. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Grace-yes, Rakowski-yes, Sikora-yes, VanDyke-yes.

TOWNSHIP FUNDS INVESTMENT

Treasurer Culp requested the Board authorize Morgan Stanley as an approved depository for Township funds advising the legislation discussed at the October 28th work session which allows a local bank to invest funds in other institutions which keeps the funds protected under the FDIC has still not been approved, however, such a program is available through Morgan Stanley at no cost to the Township.

Motion by Culp, second by Grace to add Morgan Stanley to the list of approved depositories. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Clerk Everett presented a request from the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services office for an increase of \$800.00 to cover the balance of 2008 for the Household Hazardous Waste program. It was noted participation is up 16% from last year.

Motion by Everett, second by Grace to approve the additional amount for 2008. Carried.

FIRE APPARATUS REPAIRS

Trustee/Fire Commissioner Grace advised engine 521 had been disassembled by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin and a detailed list of recommended repairs submitted to Fire Chief Mark Barnes. He also advised he and Chief Barnes had reviewed the list and recommend some items be handled by Pierce and some others locally, therefore, were requesting approval to authorize an expenditure of \$57,130 for the needed repairs noting they will provide at least another 10 years of service from the engine.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to approve the expenditure as presented. Carried.

RESPONSE TO CITY OF PORTAGE LETTER

Attorney Porter advised a request for comments had been received from the City of Portage regarding the recent efforts of the South County Sewer and Water Authority to acquire an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Portage that would allow a connection for flow through to the treatment plant in the City of Kalamazoo. He provided a draft response and was given Board consensus to send it.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Grace commented since joining the Board two years ago he has been greatly influenced by the outgoing board members and appreciates their work.

Trustee Rakowski commented he wished to thank his wife Del for her support and the Township residents, department heads and staff for their cooperation and assistance. He commented he is proud to have been a part of establishing the DDA, seeing the Township Hall addition completed, the addition of the in house attorney, and hiring the new Fire Chief. He wished the new board well.

Supervisor VanDyke commented he will still be on 1st Street and can be called anytime.

Trustee Bushouse commented he has appreciated working with the outgoing board members. He also commented he found the election very interesting and doesn't feel at the township level there are Republicans and Democrats but based on straight party voting major changes have taken place on the Board. He encouraged voters to do their research at the local level.

Treasurer Culp commented she has enjoyed working with the outgoing board members.

Clerk Everett commented while the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer are full time positions, the general public is not aware of how many hours the Trustees dedicate and there are not two more dedicated than Trustees Rakowski and Sikora.

Attorney Porter and Engineer Elliott also expressed appreciation for the outgoing board members.

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