

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Minutes
Special Meeting
December 17, 2009

The Oshtemo Township Board held a special meeting at the Oshtemo Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.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, Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge, and 3 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the December 8th Regular Meeting minutes. Carried.

PENSION PLAN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

An amendment to the Township Pension Plan Ordinance to permit a change in the contribution amount to be established by resolution was before the Board for Second Reading.

Dan Holmes, 10848 West Main, commented non-private benefits outweigh private sector benefits and inquired why the contribution amount is not being decreased comparatively.

John Nieuwenhuis, 3235 South 6th Street, commented he applauded the Board for their efforts.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a committee will be established to perform a comprehensive review of all benefits.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to adopt the ordinance amendment. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Bushouse-yes, McCormick-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

Motion by James Grace, second by Everett to adopt the resolution establishing pension contribution amounts for 2010. Roll call showed McCormick-yes, Bushouse-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, James Grace-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING INSTALLATION

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the information for this item had not been received; bids are being sought and due for the January 12th meeting.

2010 POLICE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she and Trustee Bushouse met with County Finance Director Tracie Moored, Sheriff Rick Fuller, and Capt. William Timmerman regarding the Township's request for actual costs for the contracted deputies and some figures were provided. She also commented the County has advised an audit is due after the first quarter of 2010 which could then be used by the County to update costs.

Discussion included disappointment that the information had been requested multiple times over three years with little result and with the County's rejection of a month to month agreement and implied threat to withhold protection under the agreement unless the Township agrees to the 2010 proposed agreement as presented. Board members felt a six month agreement would be a good compromise, and expect the audit figures and itemized police costs will be available as indicated for discussion and negotiation for any additional mid-year deputy added to the contract and for the 2011 agreement. Board members reiterated that the Township is very pleased with the road deputy service from the Sheriff's Department.

John Nieuwenhuis, County Commissioner for the Township advised he was unaware of the situation until he saw the last Township Board meeting and the comments of the County Administrator at the County Commission meeting on December 14th. He commented the information had been requested by former Supervisor VanDyke as well. Mr. Nieuwenhuis offered to become a participant in the discussions with the County.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to approve a six month police protection agreement at the 2010 rates, expect audit information with a detailed, itemized cost to allow for review of the contract by May 1st, 2010 and request County officials meet with the Township Police Committee for discussion. Carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS 2010

As discussed at the December 8th meeting, an error was made in the record of Planning Commissioner Terry Schley and he is eligible to serve another year.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to reappoint Terry Schley to a one year term expiring December 31, 2010. Carried.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a recommendation from the Board Appointment Committee for the positions on the newly formed Personnel Sub-Committee to perform a comprehensive review of benefits for all employees and board members:

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell, Chair, James Grace, Trustee
James Porter and Chris West, Township employees
Gene Dillenbeck, citizen at large
Ann Conn, HR Professional

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the sub committee members as presented. Carried.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised notice had been received from Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge that she will be retiring effective February 28th. The Board thanked her for her many contributions during her 10 years with the Township.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL
SUPERVISOR