

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
July 9, 2013

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 Dave Bushouse
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 7 interested people.

Public Comment – Residents of Driftwood Avenue advised they were having issues of speeding traffic and litter concerns. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she will follow up with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and the Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer.

Kalamazoo County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Julie Rogers provided an update on recent County activity.

Southwest Michigan Partnerships Dues – Discussion was held regarding payment of dues to the newly formed organization combining the Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Michigan First. Consensus was it is worthwhile to participate.

Motion by Larson, second by Carr to pay the annual dues of \$499.00. Carried.

Discussion – Police Protection – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell reviewed past Board discussion leading to consensus that more officers are needed and that all commercial and multi-family properties should pay the same rate. Options were reviewed regarding rates with Ms. Heiny-Cogswell and Treasurer Culp supporting Option #3, the rate for commercial and multi-family being 4.75 and residential 1.00, Trustees Farmer and Larson supporting Option #4, the rate for commercial and multi-family being 5.50 and residential 1.25. Clerk Everett commented she could support Option #4 subject to a more specific police protection contract. Trustee Bushouse commented he continues to support a Township wide 2.5 rate but would support Option #4. Trustee Carr commented while she supports including all commercial and multi-family in the same district, she is not in favor of increasing the residential rate and would prefer the question be on a ballot. All agreed providing information to the public will be imperative in the process.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and approximately 24 interested people.

Clerk Everett noted the June 25th meeting minutes should be corrected to reflect Treasurer Culp was absent from the meeting. Motion by Farmer, second by Larson to approve the June 25th regular meeting minutes as corrected. Carried.

Motion by Farmer, second by Culp to approve the Receipts & Disbursements report as presented. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST GRANT MATCH FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT

Fire Chief Barnes advised there are funds remaining in the FEMA grant awarded last year for upgrading department radio systems in Kalamazoo County. He advised there is an opportunity to use some of the funds to install in-vehicle repeaters in the 11 department vehicle which will further aid in radio communication. He noted the total cost is \$30,948 with a 20% match of \$6,189 from the Township; this expenditure was not budgeted, contingency funds are available.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to amend the Fire Department budget in the amount of \$6,189 for the grant match. Carried.

WESTHAVEN SITE CONDOMINIUM – LOT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Planning Director Milliken presented a request from DeLoof Builders, developer of Westhaven Site Condominium, located at Drake Road and H Avenue, to increase the frontage of units 2 through 5, eliminating unit 6, and adjust the boundary of unit 10 to add space to the rear yard by increasing the frontage of unit 11. He noted all units would continue to satisfy all requirements of the Ordinance and original approval.

Motion by Culp, second by Larson to approve the requested boundary adjustments subject to the review and approval of the Township Attorney. Carried.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AMENDMENTS

A recommendation from the Human Resources Committee to amend Sections 2.1 and 6.17 to add familial status, sexual orientation, and gender identity, to the Township's Equal Employment Opportunity and Prohibited Discriminatory Harassment Policies was before the Board.

Motion by Culp, second by Larson to adopt a resolution amending the Employee Handbook as recommended. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LGBT POLICIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

As discussed at the June 25th meeting, Attorney Porter provided a resolution supporting expansion of federal, state and local legislation to protect people from discrimination, advocate to the State Legislature that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act be amended to address the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity, further our understanding of LGBT issues and concerns, amend the Employee Handbook to include sexual orientation and gender identity as part of the non-discrimination policy, and develop a non-discrimination ordinance addressing denial of equal protection or civil rights.

Trustee Carr commented she had concerns that an ordinance would not be enforceable; and comments made previously that if the Board chose not to adopt an ordinance they would be discriminating are not fair.

Trustee Bushouse commented he felt it would be difficult to monitor or enforce discrimination complaints; it belongs at the federal and state level.

Trustee Farmer commented she felt enforcement would not be a burden, but rather, having an ordinance encourages non-discrimination.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised Attorney Porter felt comfortable with the ordinance being considered by Kalamazoo Township; the Human Resources Committee will review sample ordinances and present a draft to the Board at the August 13th meeting.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to adopt the resolution. Roll call showed Farmer-yes, Larson-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Carr-yes, Bushouse-no, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

CONSULTANT – US 131BL/131

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised work continues on the study to develop options for the US-131 Business Loop partnering with Kalamazoo Township, KATS, and the Northside Business Association. She further advised two earlier requests for proposal received no responses; however, a current proposal has been received from Prein & Newhof for a cost of \$12,000. She noted the Northside Business Association had previously raised funds for the study; those would be allocated to the proposal with the balance from the other partner entities, the Township share would not exceed \$4,000.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to amend the budget and approve an expenditure up to \$4,000 for the project. Carried.

POLICE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT EXPANSION

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell reviewed the current police special assessment districts, advising the issue of police protection has been under study for the past year and a half; through many discussions, with input from the citizen Ad-Hoc Police Committee, Township Board consensus is to expand the 2004-1 district to include commercial and multi-family properties currently part of the 2009-1 district. It was noted the process includes notifying all affected property owners of a public hearing to set the district, and if approved, another public hearing would be held to set the assessment rate.

In response to Planning Director Milliken's comments regarding vacant property in the district, consensus was to include vacant parcels in the district but exempt them from the higher assessment rate until they are developed.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to adopt a resolution to expand the 2004-1 police special assessment district to include commercial and multi-family properties currently part of the 2009-1 district. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Larson-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented updates to the Board/Committee appointment list noting Board action was needed to appoint Trustee Bushouse as alternate representative for the Public Media Network and Keith Bearup as citizen representative.

Motion by Culp, second by Farmer to appoint Trustee Bushouse as alternate representative for the Public Media Network and Keith Bearup as citizen representative. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Friends of Transit has invited the Board to ride the Metro Transit routes in the Township on Monday, July 15th.

Clerk Everett reminded all of the Oshtemo Historical Society's Farm Day in conjunction with local 4-H groups on July 20th at the Drake Homestead.

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