

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Minutes**

January 14, 1997

The Oshtemo Township Board held its regular meeting at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Clerk Branch at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Clerk Elaine Branch Trustee Marvin Block
Treasurer Lois Brown Trustee David Bushouse
Trustee Norman Anderson Trustee Fred Johnson

ABSENT: Supervisor Ron Fleckenstein

Also present was Pat Mason, Township Attorney and Robert Snell, Township Engineer, along with 8 interested people.

In the absense of Supervisor Fleckenstein, who was in court, Trustee Block agreed to chair the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of our last meeting, December 17, 1996, as prepared. Carried.

Income to the General Fund of \$92,998.76 and disbursements of \$83,723.18 were reported. Fire Fund income was \$5,129.81 with disbursements of \$43,734.91. Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Johnson to approve the report and pay the bills. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

TEXT AMENDMENT - TWO FAMILY DWELLING

An ordinance amending Section 11.270 of the Township Zoning Ordinance was presented for Second Reading. The amendment would read as followings:

Section 11.270 - Definitions (Two-Family Dwelling)

A building containing two separate dwelling units for residential use.

Motion made by Branch, seconded by Anderson to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and adopt the ordinance amendment. Roll call showed all Board Members voting "aye".

GENESSEE PRAIRIE FOCUS AREA

Wilfred Dennie, chairman of the Planning Commission, was present to respond to questions about their recommendation for the Genessee Prairie Focus Area. This area was the final area identified in the Master Land Use Plan for special study.

Trustee Bushouse asked if a school would be compatible with the plan for that area. He understood there are plans for a private middle or high school to be built on 11th Street and was concerned about additional traffic, in a residential area. In response, Mr. Dennie stated that schools are currently allowed in AG/Residential and that use would be compatible.

The term "Prime Agricultural Soil" was a concern for Treasurer Brown. She had been a member of this Focus Area Committee and remembered Maury Kaercher, from MSU, stating that it is not prime agricultural soil in Michigan. It could be farmed, however. She agreed with Mr. Kaercher.

Mrs. Brown asked Mr. Dennie for an interpretation of "AG-Rural District and possible amendments thereto", under the Implementation section. It was explained by Mr. Dennie that the Planning Commission intends to look at the AG-Rural zone because it currently includes more uses than farming. They want to see if there is interest in restricting it to AG uses only.

When asked for the Planning Commission's definition of AG, Mrs. Brown was told, the growing of plants or crops but probably not raising animals. Mr. Dennie did, however say that they have not fully discussed the issue.

Treasurer Brown pointed out that in their September 12 minutes, it was suggested that the Planning Commission meet with the members of the Focus Area Committee in order to discuss the changes that were made to the Plan. This never happened and she felt that was most disrespectful to the people on the committee who volunteered their time.

In response, Mr. Dennie stated that each Focus Area Committee member was sent a personal letter dated November 5, inviting them to the public hearing for the Plan, on November 21.

Mr. Bushouse then asked for clarification under Transportation, Goal 2: Improve intersection designs at Parkview/Stadium Drive and Parkview/Atlantic Avenue.

Before a motion was made on this plan, Mrs. Brown stated that the Plan had many good aspects to it and she recognizes the need to plan ahead, but because of her concept of some of the interpretations, she could not support it.

A motion was then made by Anderson, seconded by Branch to adopt the resolution for the Genessee Prairie Focus Area. There was no further discussion and a roll call vote was taken.

Anderson - yes	Branch - yes	Johnson - yes	
Brown - no	Bushouse - no	Block - yes	Adopted 4 to 2

1996 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Clerk Branch explained it was necessary to make some budget adjustments at the last minute, in order to avoid a deficient Fund Balance in the Police Fund. She had received a verbal approval from all Board Members on December 31 and now requested Board action to reaffirm this approval.

Motion made by Brown, seconded by Johnson to reaffirm the verbal approval to make the needed adjustments to the 1996 Budget. Roll call vote showed the following:

Brown - yes	Johnson - yes	Anderson - yes
Branch - yes	Block - yes	Bushouse - yes

(Copy filed in "Supplements to the Minutes")

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Trustee Anderson invited the Board to visit the Fire Department Day Room because the improvements have been completed and the area looks really good.

Treasurer Brown provided the Board with a copy of a list of the local businesses that were included in a list of the top 100 employers in southwest Michigan. Meijers, Inc. was number one.

Clerk Branch suggested that our meeting dates for 1997 be amended because we approved a meeting on November 11, which is Veterans Day and is observed as a holiday by the Township. She suggested we meet on November 4, instead. Motion made by Brown, seconded by Anderson to change the November 11 meeting date to November 4. Carried.

A copy of comments made by Kalamazoo City Manager Marc Ott regarding the refranchising process with Cablevision of Michigan, was distributed by Clerk Branch. The City Manager expressed his dissatisfaction with Cablevision's response to the request for proposal and recommended to the City Commission that they suspend any further negotiations.

In response to a request for comments, Treasurer Brown stated she felt we should continue talking until we have exhausted efforts to reach an agreement. Trustee Block was concerned about how negotiations would begin again, once terminated. He felt we should keep the door open.

Clerk Branch, who represents Oshtemo on the Local Cable Advisory Committee, stated they will hold a special meeting the next morning to discuss the issue.

Trustee Bushouse advised the Board that he circulated a successful petition to block the repaving of North 7th Street. The property owners would feel different if they would get a guarantee that the paving will last and they want the speed controlled. He further stated that the "bad" place seems to be a basic maintenance problem.

Mr. Bushouse also inquired about the contract with Mall City, which will be up for renewal. He wondered how Mall City was chosen and what procedure will be used for renewal.

He then asked if any streetlight outages had been reported and stated that picnic tables for the park were ready.

Trustee Block commented that in his opinion, the County Road Commission did a good job during the recent snow storm.

There was no further business. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Elaine J. Branch
ELAINE J. BRANCH, CMC
Township Clerk

Ron Fleckenstein
Attested: **RON FLECKENSTEIN**
Supervisor