

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Minutes

June 10, 1997

The Oshtemo Township Board held its regular meeting at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Fleckenstein, at 7:00 p m.

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

Also present was Richard Reed, Township Attorney and Robert Snell, Township Engineer, along with 7 interested people.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of our last two meetings, May 20th and May 27th, as prepared. Carried.

Income to the General Fund of \$47,845.24 and disbursements of \$66,057.46 were reported. Fire Fund income was \$381.50 with disbursements of \$22,146.14. Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Block to approve the report and pay the bills. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

NONE

EASEMENT CHANGE - GREYSTONE PLAT

On lot 28 of the Greystone Plat, a portion of a garage encroached on the established 15 utility easement. In order to correct this problem, it was suggested that we move the easement line. A resolution was presented to abandon 5 feet of the easement on lot 28 and an new easement agreement was prepared that provided for 10 feet on lot 28 and 15 feet on lot 29.

It was pointed out that the building was not located over the sewer line. The utilities cleared the building by 4 feet.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Brown to approve the new easement arrangement and adopt the resolution. Roll call showed: Johnson - yes Brown - yes Bushouse - yes Anderson - yes Block - yes Branch - yes Fleckenstein - yes

FIBER OPTIC - KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) is developing an Educational Telecommunication system known as a Wide Area Network. This network will utilize fiber optic cable lines, which will be installed on existing Consumers Energy poles, by Fiber Link, Inc. KPS requested approval of a permit agreement that would allow the installation of the cable in the right of way in Oshtemo Township.

Attorney Reed was involved with the other units of government to prepare an agreement that would protect the Township's interest. Motion made by Brown, seconded by Block to approve the permit agreement for KPS & Fiber Link, Inc. as presented. Roll call showed: Brown - yes Block - yes Branch - yes Bushouse - yes Johnson - yes Anderson - yes Fleckenstein - yes

PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Treasurer Brown reported for the Park Committee on their recommendation for improvements in our two parks

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP PARK - For the safety of young children who run up and over the large grassy hill, it was recommended that two sections of split rail fence be installed on top of the hill of top-soil. The fence, along with a sign, warning "Beware of Drop-off", would cost an estimated \$54.00.

FLESHER FIELD - Bids were sought from Heystek and Caporassi for the repair and resealing of a portion of the drive at Flesher Field. The bids were: Heystek - \$4,529.00 Caporassi - \$3,877.00 The recommendation was to accept Heystek's bid because their product was better and the price included restriping the parking spaces. This expense would come from the Park Capital Improvement budget.

The committee also recommended the purchase of 4 benches at a cost of \$956.00. These benches would be like the one that is by the playground and would be located in other areas of the park This item was in the 1997 Capital Equipment budget.

Motion made by Branch, seconded by Brown to approve the Park Committee's recommendation, as presented. Carried.

FLESHER FIELD TRAILS - ROTARY CLUB PROJECT

The Park Committee had met with a committee from the Rotary Club to review their plans to enhance the trails at Flesher Field and suggested they present their plan to the full board.

Ted Pokorski, Jay Brown and Dana Slocum were present for the Oshtemo Rotary Club They explained their desire to improve the nature trails that are located in the wooded area of Flesher Field. They thought that wood chips could be used on the trails, after they clear the brush, etc.

Trustee Johnson questioned if wood chips would allow the trails to be used by wheelchairs or people with disabilities. Mr. Brown responded that they had not found that there was a requirement for paved trails. Trustee Bushouse commented that, at the camp he worked at, which was for handicapped children, they were allowed to use wood chips

There was general discussion and questions about the requirements of the Federal law called Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) It was suggested that if they were simply doing "maintenance" of existing trails, the ADA would not apply Attorney Reed disagreed, stating this is a public facility and any upgrades would have to comply with the ADA.

After much discussion, Anderson moved that the Oshtemo Rotary Club be granted approval to improve the Flesher Field trails, as shown in their proposal, provided, such improvements take in account appropriate ADA requirements. The motion was seconded by Block and carried unanimously

ROAD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - N. 3RD

The Road Committee was pleased to announce that a successful property owner petition had been received by the Road Commission requesting repaving of North 3rd Street, Big Rock Dr to West H Ave. They had been advised that the project would probably not be completed in 1997 because we did not have enough funds left

With the recent availability of additional Foundation money from Pharmacia and Upjohn and funds available due to favorable bid prices, it appeared to be possible to complete this project this year.

The project cost was estimated to be \$60,330.00. After applying the special assessment of \$14,500.00, Foundation funds, balance of KCRC Participation funds and the balance of our 1997 Road Budget, there would be a balance of approximately \$10,830.00 It was the Road Committee's recommendation to obtain this amount from the General Fund Reserve, which includes the unused balance of the 1996 Road Budget.

Motion made by Branch, seconded by Anderson to approve the Road Committee's recommendation to proceed with the repaving of North 3rd Street and authorizing the use of the General Fund reserve to cover any remaining balance. Carried.

CEMETERY RATE INCREASE

It was reported by Clerk Branch that there will be a change in regard to our grave openings/closings. For years Mark Stafford and his son Rob have worked together to provide this service. In the future, Mark will no longer be involved with this business. Rob will handle the digging, as well as the billing.

This change would be effective July 1, 1997, along with an increase in the charge for the opening/closing. There would be an increase of \$10.00 for cremations and \$20.00 for standard burials. A new rate schedule was provided to the Board with the explanation that the last increase was in 1994. Motion made by Branch, seconded by Block to approve the new cemetery rate schedule as prepared. Carried.

UTILITY VEHICLE

A request was presented for the purchase of a John Deere Gator Utility Vehicle for the Buildings and Grounds Department. A demonstration unit was available from Heslinga Lawn & Power Equipment at a cost of \$4,683.00. This price includes a discount through John Deere's State of Michigan Contract.

The vehicle would be used for the Parks and Cemeteries, as well as around the Hall. We had included \$5,000.00 in our 1997 Budget for the purchase of such a vehicle. Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Johnson to approve the purchase of the Utility Vehicle as presented. Carried.

U.S. 131 BYPASS RESOLUTION

As requested at our May 27th meeting, Attorney Reed drafted a resolution regarding the proposed U.S. 131 Bypass around the Village of Schoolcraft. The resolution requests the Michigan Department of Transportation to plan and design the construction keeping in mind the land use and infrastructure planning and zoning of local units of government impacted by the bypass. The resolution was neutral in nature.

Motion made by Brown, seconded by Block to adopt the resolution as prepared. Roll call showed: Brown - yes Block - yes Anderson - yes Johnson - yes Branch - yes Bushouse - yes Fleckenstein - yes

AMENDMENT TO SEWER MAIN CONNECTION CHARGES

The Water and Sewer Committee presented a recommendation to amend the Sewer Main Connection Charges, relating to the benefit charge for theaters. A study was completed, with the help of Engineer Snell, which showed our benefit charge of 0.04 per seat, to be high. They recommended a charge of 0.0068 per seat.

A resolution was prepared including the new rate. Motion made by Brown, seconded by Anderson to approve and adopt the resolution. Roll call showed: Brown - yes Anderson - yes Bushouse - yes Johnson - yes Branch - yes Block - yes Fleckenstein - yes

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

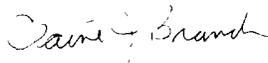
Trustee Block commented that the cost of a warning system may be high, but he suggested we could start a long range funding plan for such a system. Supervisor Fleckenstein stated some communities have not been happy with theirs and we should gather more information on the subject before budget time.

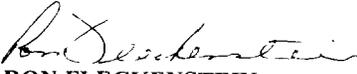
Trustee Bushouse questioned if Federal money might be available for such a warning system.

Supervisor Fleckenstein reported on an agreement with Huntington Run Mobile Home Community regarding their Sewer Connection Charges. The original understanding in 1994, was that they would pay the \$750 benefit charge per unit for all three phases. They have been paying as the units are occupied.

In February of 1997, we increased our benefit charge to \$1,000. Huntington Run is currently working on filling Phase II. It was agreed that they would totally pay off Phase II at the \$750 amount. Phase III will be charged the new rate of \$1,000 per unit.

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


ELAINE J. BRANCH, CMC
Township Clerk


Attested: RON FLECKENSTEIN
Supervisor