

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

Board Meeting (Virtual)

May 25, 2021

6:00 PM

The Oshtemo Township Public Meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform. Residents were able to join the meeting through both the Zoom application and by phone. Residents were able to give public comment through email, the Zoom platform, and by phone during the meeting. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell- Oshtemo Township
Clerk Dusty Farmer- Oshtemo Township
Treasurer Clare Buszka- Oshtemo Township
Trustee Zak Ford- Oshtemo Township
Trustee Cheri Bell- Oshtemo Township
Trustee Kizzy Bradford- City of Kalamazoo

ABSENT:

Trustee Kristen Cole – Oshtemo Township, arrived approximately 7:00 PM.

Also present were Township Attorney Jim Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Deputy Public Works Director Anna Horner, and approximately 3 interested people.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment on non-regular session items. No public comment.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

Continued Discussion on Sewer Survey Results

The Township Board discussed the sewer survey results with Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

REGULAR SESSION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes – May 11, 2021
- b. Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c. Budget Amendment - State IFT
- d. Lexipol Fire Policies (Continued)

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell asked if anyone present wished to remove anything from the consent agenda. Trustee Bell requested to remove item c.

Motion by Ford, second by Bell to approve items a, b, and d, moving item c to item 10 on the agenda. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

Consideration of Atlantic/Parkview Parcel Purchase

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented information regarding a possible purchase of property by the Township at the corner of Atlantic and Parkview Ave. Although it is not a buildable piece of property on its own, it would be if combined with another property. The purpose of the purchase by the Township would be to eventually reconfigure Atlantic Ave to become a T shape at the Parkview intersection.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Motion by Ford, second by Farmer to approve the purchase and amend the budget for \$4500. Roll call. Motion carried 6-1, with Bell voting No.

Discussion on Capital Infrastructure Project Funding (Continued)

Deputy Public Works Director Anna Horner presented information regarding capital project funding, and the \$500,000 gap between available funding and necessary infrastructure improvements. The main question to the Board is whether or not dedicated funding for road maintenance and construction should be pursued to fill the gap. The Township currently has a General Operations Millage of about .96. A road millage to fill the infrastructure gap at \$750,000 would be about .8, and \$1,000,000 would be about 1.07.

Board consensus was that additional road funding is necessary and a road millage would be the preferred method, and a slight majority would like to see a millage for \$1,000,000. There was no consensus for priorities for other capital projects. The Board requested that Public Works bring back different scenarios for non-road capital projects, and the cost to property owners for sewer connections that could be affected by additional General Fund dollars. Trustee Cole had to leave the meeting to return to work, but sent her opinion in a message which was read aloud at the meeting.

Other Business

Item C from the consent agenda:

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Ford, second by Farmer to amend the budget and authorize the IFT payments. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0, with Cole absent.

Public Comment

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. No public comment.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:28 PM.

Prepared by: Dusty Farmer
Township Clerk

Attested: Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Township Supervisor