

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

Work Session

June 12, 2018

6:00 PM

The Oshtemo Township Board Work Session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell

Clerk Dusty Farmer

Treasurer Nancy Culp

Trustee Dave Bushouse

Trustee Deb Everett

Trustee Zak Ford

ABSENT:

Trustee Ken Hudok

Also present were Lt. Troy Faulk, Deputy Dave Rowe, Attorney Jim Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Planning Director Julie Johnston, Public Works Technician Jamie Baker and 17 interested people.

Public Comment

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised that the sidewalks discussion will occur at 7:15 PM as scheduled.

Kalamazoo County Update

County Commissioner Julie Rogers reminded the Board that the Senior Millage will be on the August 7 ballot, and that the proposed .35 mills would be used to support Meals on Wheels and social workers for in-home assessments to help seniors continue living at home. She also updated the Board on work toward reducing the number of adolescents in jail and reducing the opioid crisis. Commissioner Rogers also informed the Board that she attended National Counties Association as a Kalamazoo representative. She also voiced her support for sidewalks in neighborhoods so that pedestrians and bicyclists are safely off the roads.

Lt. Faulk presented the May 2018 Oshtemo Township Police Report, noting that car accidents are down due to nicer weather, but that thefts from cars remain an issue.

Deputy Dave Rowe presented information regarding calls for service at local hotels and motels, noting places of concern. He discussed strategies to reduce the need for these calls for service. He advised that he is still working closely with area apartment complexes to assist in problem solving for those areas.

Annual Audit Presentation

Carol Light of Seber Tans presented the audit report for 2017. There were no significant deficiencies. The presentation can be found at the Township website or at the front desk at the Township Hall office after it is submitted to the State of Michigan.

Discussion of Handbook Amendments – Education and Professional Development

Board consensus is to continue discussion at another meeting

Discussion on Proposed Ordinances Amendments: Area Requirements and Drive Aisle Widths

First reading scheduled for June 26th.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell adjourned the work session at approximately 7:16 PM.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

Regular Meeting

June 12, 2018

7:15

The Oshtemo Township Board Regular Meeting was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:25 PM.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell

Clerk Dusty Farmer

Treasurer Nancy Culp

Trustee Dave Bushouse

Trustee Deb Everett

Trustee Zak Ford

ABSENT:

Trustee Ken Hudok

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Lt. Troy Faulk, Public Works Technician Jamie Baker, and approximately 63 interested people.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Resident requested that work be done on his neighborhood roads in Skyridge because the sides of the roads have deteriorated badly. Another resident requested curbing similar to that on Wickford Ave.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes – May 15 (Regular) and May 22nd, 2018 (Special) Meetings
- b. Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c. Revenue/Expenditure Report
- d. Handbook Amendments – Gratuities
- e. Consideration of Zoning Ordinance Addition Section 61 Residential Condominium Standards – 2nd Reading
- f. Update on 2018 MTA Conference Education Sessions
- g. Public Works Budget Amendments
 - i. Restoration Carryover
 - ii. Developer Utility Extension Agreement

Motion by Ford, second by Everett to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0, with one absence.

Update on WMU BTR 2.0

Bob Miller of Western Michigan University presented the final design of the Business, Technology, and Research park in Oshtemo Township on Drake Rd.

A resident asked which type of businesses would eventually be at this location. Mr. Miller responded that WMU will search for technological and research companies.

Discussion on Sidewalks with Sewers Projects

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell introduced Public Works Technician Jamie Baker and Matt Johnson of Fleis and Vandenbrink. Jamie Baker addressed an informational sheet that has recently circulated through the Skyridge neighborhood by one of the residents, clarifying misinformation to better inform residents.

In 2019, the Township will commence Phase I of the USDA loan sewer extension project. The Public Works Department identified the sewer project as a possible opportunity to build sidewalks in select neighborhoods because of the cost savings in completing concurrent sewer and sidewalk work and improve safety. The Board directed the Public Works Department to conduct public information sessions with each neighborhood. Those results are included in the meeting packet.

The Public Works Department recommends that the Board determine funding for sidewalks before hosting any more meetings with residents. At this time, there is no recommendation for sidewalks in the Beech neighborhood, nor the Sunset/Meridian neighborhood. A recommendation remains to build sidewalks on Croyden Ave, Maple Hill Drive, both sides of the busiest streets in the Skyridge neighborhood, Green Meadow, Whitegate Farms, Oshtemo Woods, Fairlane, and the cycle track on West Main St.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened up public comment.

15 residents from the Skyridge neighborhood spoke. 13 spoke against neighborhood sidewalks, and two spoke in favor of neighborhood sidewalks. 4 residents from the Whitegate Farms neighborhood spoke. All 4 spoke against sidewalks in the neighborhood. In addition to the comments collected by the Public Works Department, residents requested that the Township explore other options, including “Kent Count Curbs”, speedbumps, and strategies to reduce speeding on Driftwood and Skyridge. In addition, multiple residents mentioned that the traffic light on Driftwood is malfunctioning and causes traffic to be diverted so that the light can be avoided.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell delivered an update on the USDA grant and how that might affect sewer and sidewalk projects. The Township has not been notified that any grant or loan dollars have been awarded, but the Township has been notified that there is a possibility that the entire three phase plan could be funded all at once. This would push back sewers and sidewalk projects to 2020.

In response to a question as to whether or not USDA funds can be used for sidewalks, Public Works Technician Baker informed the Board that they could not be used for that purpose.

Attorney Porter clarified that neighborhoods are only able to block a Board decision to install sidewalks if the Board decides to use a Special Assessment to fund the project.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell summarized past Board discussion that consensus is to not use a special assessment, but rather use an additional charter levy to fund projects Township-wide. Consensus was to move forward with exploring this option during the 2019 budget process. Consensus was to continue discussing sidewalks with the sewer projects, understanding that a decision should be made by August 2018.

The Board agreed to discuss the two neighborhoods that were represented at the meeting and discuss the other neighborhoods at a later date. No decision was reached regarding which streets should have sidewalks.

Consideration of Kalamazoo Hotel Group, LLC/Holiday Inn/Delta Marriott Liquor License

Motion by Ford, second by Farmer to approve the liquor license application for the Kalamazoo Hotel Group, LLC Holiday Inn/Delta Marriott Convention Center. Roll call. Resolution was adopted 6-0, with Hudok absent.

Consideration of AV in the North Conference Room

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Everett to approve the expenditure and allow Culp and Ford to determine the exact television that will be purchased. Motion carried 6-0, with one absence.

Other Township Business

None.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Board Member Comments

Trustee Bushouse commented that he didn't understand why so much discussion was necessary.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell adjourned the Regular meeting at approximately 11:07 PM.

Prepared by: Dusty Farmer
Township Clerk