

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Regular Board Meeting
July 11, 2023
5:30 PM

The Oshtemo Township Public Meeting was held in person at the Township Hall. Residents were able to give public comments during the meeting. Supervisor Bell called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Cheri Bell
Treasurer Clare Buszka
Trustee Zak Ford
Trustee Kristin Cole- remote Oshtemo Township
Trustee Kizzy Bradford
Trustee Neil Sikora

ABSENT:

Clerk Dusty Farmer

Also present were Public Works Director Anna Horner, Attorney James Porter, and 3 interested people.

Discover Kalamazoo Presentation

Jane Gosh with Discover Kalamazoo presented information about what they do, how they support Oshtemo, strategies for growth, and geolocation data to see where people choose to spend dollars in the County and Township.

Public Works Staff Update

Public Works Director Anna Horner presented a staffing update to the Board.

Discussion of Uniforms

Supervisor Bell presented the idea to have clothing with logos for public facing employees. Human Resources requested that the Board discuss this as a budget item. One suggestion was to include this as either a policy or amendment to the employee handbook. Another suggestion was to look into a uniform service for the Maintenance Department.

Music in the Park Update

Supervisor Bell reported that there were 579 in attendance at the concert at Flesher Field on July 9. The next concert is August 6 at 6 PM.

Other Updates and Business

Supervisor Bell informed the Board that staff is steadily working on their respective budgets. By August 1 it is expected to have a solid timeline for presenting the sections of the budget by either fund or department.

Attorney Porter provided a litigation update. The Township prevailed in the most recent case regarding the Writ of Mandamus for the petition signatures that were rejected by Clerk Farmer.

The litigation involving Kellison Woods Association had been in limbo without a final order from the court. The association filed a motion to move forward, and those arguments were heard by a judge in Calhoun County. The judge signed an order to return control of the property to the association.

There are also property condemnations that are pending for the installation of a nonmotorized path on Parkview Ave.

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Discussion on June 27, 2023 Meeting

Attorney Porter informed the Board that at the last meeting a statement was made under Board Member Comments regarding a housing development in the Township that was more private than public and should be clarified.

Supervisor Bell provided a statement recognizing that Board Member comments from June 27 were not authorized or informed of the statements prior to the meeting. She also apologized for allowing such comments in the public record.

Trustee Kizzy Bradford provided a statement apologizing for her comments during the June 27 meeting. She retracted her statement that she was being targeted because she is a Trustee and member of the County Housing Commission.

Supervisor Bell asked if anyone present wanted to remove any item from the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting June 27, 2023
- b. Receipts and Disbursements
- c. Second Reading: Ordinance to Establish Emergency Service Fees
- d. Second Reading: Airport Zoning Ordinance
- e. RFP for Media and Communications
- f. Contractor Approval of Western Woods Sidewalk – Remington Construction

Motion by Ford, second by Buszka to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0, with three absent.

Budget Amendments

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to approve the budget amendments. Motion carried 4-0, with three absent.

Public Comment

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Supervisor Bell adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 PM.

Prepared by: Dusty Farmer
Township Clerk

Attested: Cheri Bell
Township Supervisor