

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Regular Board Meeting
November 12, 2024
5:30 PM

The Oshtemo Township Board 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 Neil Sikora
Trustee Michael Chapman
Trustee Zak Ford

ABSENT:

Trustee Kristin Cole
Clerk Dusty Farmer- left due to illness

Also present were IT Director Jon Gibson, Township Attorney James Porter, Fire Chief Greg McComb, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Burghardt, and approximately 3 interested individuals.

Public Officials Updates

Road Commissioner Thomas Brennan, County Commissioner Dale Deleeuw, and Sgt. Juvon Johnson provided updates.

Presentation: 2025 Employee Benefits Package

Human Resources Director Sara Feister presented the proposed benefits package for 2025. The package includes new dependent care funding and an increase to the retirement contribution. The Board had a lengthy discussion.

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

Public Comment

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Consent Agenda

- a. Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024
- b. Receipts and Disbursements

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0, with two absent.

Public Hearing: Special Assessment for Fire & Safety Protection Districts No. 1 & 2

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Trustee Chapman pointed out a descriptive error and Attorney Porter agreed to correct it.

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to set the Special Assessment for Fire and Safety Protection Districts No. 1 and 2. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Public Hearing: Road Maintenance & Improvement Levy

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to set the Road Maintenance and Improvement Levy. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Public Hearing: Special Assessment for Police Protection Districts 2004-1 & 2009-1 Levy

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to set the Special Assessment for Police Protections Districts 2004-1 and 2009-1 Levy. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Public Hearing: General Fund Budget/General Tax Levy

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Buszka, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to set the General Fund Budget and General Tax Levy. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Resolution: 2025 Routine Expenditures & Purchases

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Sikora, second by Buszka to adopt a resolution authorizing 2025 Routine Expenditures and Purchases. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Consideration of 2025 Employee Benefit Package

The Board discussed the benefits to come to a consensus. The dependent care benefit will be launched as a pilot program and re-evaluated in 2025. The retirement contribution will be 4% and the match will be 6%. The switch to Pine Rest will also be evaluated to ensure there are no issues with employees accessing services.

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Bell, second by Ford to set the 2025 Employee Benefits package as discussed. Roll call. Resolution adopted 4-1, with two absent.

Resolution: 2025 Township Officers' and Trustees' Compensation

Supervisor Bell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Ford, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to set the 2025 Township Officers' and Trustee Compensation as presented. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Continued Discussion and Resolution: Oshtemo Fire Department Strategic Plan
Deputy Chief Eric Burghardt was available for questions.

Motion by Chapman, second by Sikora to adopt a resolution to adopt the Oshtemo Fire Department Strategic Plan. Roll call. Resolution adopted 5-0, with Farmer and Cole absent.

Budget Amendment: Media & Communications
Motion by Sikora, second by Ford to approve the budget amendments for media and communications. Motion carried 5-0, with two absent.

Budget Amendment: Firefighter Training
Motion by Ford, second by Buszka to approve the budget amendment for firefighter training. Motion carried 5-0, with two absent.

Public Comment
Supervisor Bell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Supervisor Bell adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:36 PM.

Prepared by: Dusty Farmer
Township Clerk

Attested: Cheri Bell
Township Supervisor