

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
October 28, 2014

The Oshtemo Township Board public comment session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and 5 interested people.

Public Comment – Jim Lefler, 8644 Hathaway Road, reiterated points made at the presentation by officials of the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) at the October 21st meeting regarding police protection for the Township.

Discussion – 2015 Police Budget – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell provided an initial recommendation for discussion purposes; address level of service by using the criteria list from the recent study by the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM), the 2013 community survey and the ad-hoc committee study; hold work sessions as needed with the Police Committee. The recommendation also included initially maintaining a status quo contract with KCSO for 2015 but address as many CPSM points as possible, and in the meantime generate an RFP to include the CPSM recommendations and distribute to area law enforcement agencies with a due date of early 2015, reduce the special assessment district (SAD) rates to 2013 levels, fund 2015 contract through SAD revenue and savings from 2014 in the police fund. She noted when the assessment was increased last year; the Board stated if a contract was not obtained responsive to the requests at that time, the SAD could be adjusted downward. She also recommended not budgeting additional monies for directed “dedicated” patrol as this service should be included in the benefit overhead the Township already pays.

Board member comments and questions included a preference to retain the traffic officer, will there be sufficient funds to change the contract in 2015 should the goals be met, more information is available now to compile a more complete RFP, and the special assessment rates should not be reduced.

Board consensus was to reduce the special assessment rates to the 2013 levels of 2.5 for SAD 2003 and .5 for SAD 2009. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell indicated the draft 2015 budget will be adjusted to reflect the discussion; public hearing for the 2015 Township budget will be at the November 18th meeting.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, and 8 interested people.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jim Lefler commented on the closed session item on the October 21st agenda indicating the Board should review the Open Meetings Act, a vocal opinion by legal counsel is not allowed. Attorney Porter advised it was a written opinion.

Steve Kinney, representing Oshtemo Rotary, presented a \$10,000 check toward their pledge of \$20,000 for replacement of the roof on the Rotary Pavilion at Flesher Field and commented they look forward to continuing to work with the Township. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell thanked Oshtemo Rotary for their many contributions to the Township.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) October 13th special, October 14th regular, October 21st special meeting minutes.
- b) Receipts & Disbursements Report

Motion by Culp, second by Carr to approve the consent agenda. Carried 7-0.

LIQUOR LICENSE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

A recommendation to amend the Liquor License Ordinance to provide that any remodeling or new construction for the use of a general license must commence within three months of Board approval, and an agreement restricting transfer of the license outside or within the Township less than five years after issuance, or if the business fails, the license would revert back to the Township. New language regarding Limited Licenses addresses properties located within a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) or Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) and would grant such licenses for a temporary basis not to exceed five years providing the application meets the requirements of PA 270 of 2014.

Motion by Everett, second by Farmer to adopt the ordinance amendments and agreement language. Carried 7-0.

REAFFIRM RESOLUTION – FEED THE WORLD CAFÉ LIQUOR LICENSE

Attorney Porter recommended the Board reaffirm the license issued to Feed the World Café under the amended ordinance and agreement.

Motion by Culp, second by Farmer to reaffirm the resolution granting a 5 year license to Feed the World Café. Carried 7-0.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Culp advised the Salvation Army Coat Drive will run through October 31st, a donation bin is available in the Township Office lobby.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the County Brownfield Authority has approved the Corners @Drake Brownfield Plan as amended by the Township Board; it will be before the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners on November 18th.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell invited interested citizens to submit a board appointment application for consideration of upcoming various board openings.

Clerk Everett reminded everyone to vote November 4th.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL
Township Supervisor