

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Minutes
Special Meeting
September 22, 2015

The Oshtemo Township Board held a special meeting at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Zak Ford
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Parks Director Karen High, and 1 interested person.

2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The latest draft of the 2016 budget and Capital Improvement Plan were reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the proposed CIP Plan and funding including millage or special assessments. Trustee Taylor proposed having road millage and park millage questions on the November, 2016 ballot. There was also discussion of funding for sewer/water projects by requiring mandatory connections; further discussion will take place when the updated strategic sewer plan is received.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised per Board approval at the July 14th meeting, a lieutenant has been selected from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and will begin work in October. There was discussion regarding the 2016 police protection contract, consensus being to leave staffing levels at the current number until the lieutenant has been in place for a few months and then re-evaluate.

As discussed at the September 8th budget workshop, consensus was to build the assessing administration fee back into the budget with .5% each on the summer and winter tax bills for funding of the necessary appraisals that will be needed for the increased number of commercial tax appeals and assessing department operations, with the general fund revenue that would otherwise be used for these appropriations reallocated to road projects. This amount is 50% of what State statute permits for the fee to fund assessing operations.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Deborah L. Everett
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Attested: Elizabeth Heiny-Cogswell
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR