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Oshtemo Launches “Community Conversations” Series

Oshtemo Charter Township, Mich – Oshtemo Township is launching a new monthly series, Community Conversations, to give residents more opportunities for informal, two-way dialogue with their elected officials. The first session will be held Thursday, May 7 from 5 to 6 p.m. and will focus on Public Act 233 and battery energy storage.

Residents have expressed a strong interest in broadening opportunities for public input, moving beyond the traditional one-way public comment model at formal meetings. Many residents are seeking a more conversational setting where they can talk with board members without a four-minute time limit, ask follow-up questions, and engage in a relaxed discussion about local issues.

The Township already provides a range of ways to get involved, including open office hours with the Supervisor twice per month, with an online submission form for residents who cannot attend in person, and at least two opportunities for public comment at every Township Board meeting and Planning Commission meeting.

Community Conversations will add another way for residents and elected officials to connect. These sessions will take place on the first Thursday of each month, with up to three Township Board members present. Each meeting is designed for open, two-way dialogue where questions and concerns can be discussed.

“We’ve heard clearly that our residents want more time and more chances to talk with us in a genuine conversation,” said Township Supervisor Cheri Bell. “Community Conversations is meant to be welcoming, unhurried, and focused on listening. We want people to feel comfortable asking questions, sharing ideas, and helping shape Oshtemo’s future.”

As part of their ongoing work related to Public Act 233 and battery energy storage, Township officials have been actively reviewing options and best practices. The first Community Conversations session on May 7 will invite resident input, questions, and discussion with a focus on safety, best practices, and local priorities.

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About Oshtemo Charter Township:

Established in 1839, Oshtemo exists to advance the quality of life of all residents through a commitment to responsible growth and value-driven municipal services that promote the relationships among economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

Editor’s Note: Three images are attached for your use, including:

- Township Hall Sign Image.
- PA 233 and BESS Header Image.
- Oshtemo Logo Color.