

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
April 22, 2008

The Oshtemo Township Board public comment session was held at the Township Hall. Clerk Everett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Everett, second by Grace to appoint Trustee Bushouse as acting chair. Carried.

PRESENT:
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Stan Rakowski
Trustee Neil Sikora

Also present was James Porter, Township Attorney, and Interim Fire Chief Paul Karnemaat.

Guests: Theresa Paddock, President, Kitty Gelling, Vice-President, and Jen Hippensteel, Treasurer of the Oshtemo Fire Department Significant Others Group were present along with other members to inform the Board of their purpose and advised some of the projects they have undertaken included providing over 1,000 home inventory packets and collecting care packages for department members and family members currently deployed in the military. Ms. Paddock advised they hope to expand their outreach throughout Kalamazoo County will be conducting fund raisers and look forward to partnering with the Township in their efforts. Board members offered praise for their contributions and commended them for their efforts.

Resident Communication: Clerk Everett advised a note of thanks and gift cards had been received from Vera and Jerry Stafford and Diane and Paul Vandenberg for the Building Department's assistance with their dilemma with a building issue. With their permission the gift cards will be donated as door prizes for the June 18th blood drive.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Culp to adjourn to closed session for purposes of discussing pending litigation because doing so in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Township's position. Roll call showed Sikora-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Rakowski-yes, Grace-yes.

Motion by Everett, second by Sikora to return to open session at 6:55 p.m. Carried.

Trustee Bushouse called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Stan Rakowski
Trustee Neil Sikora

Also present was James Porter, Township Attorney, Marc Elliott, Township Engineer, Associate Planner Brian VanDenBrand, Interim Fire Chief Paul Karnemaat and approximately 35 interested people.

Motion by Grace, second by Culp to approve the March 25th regular and April 1st special meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$284,650.31 and disbursements of \$430,166.95 were reported. Motion by Grace second by Rakowski to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Murphy, 2941 Redbud Trail introduced himself and advised he is running for district judge.

Margery Searl, 5459 West GH Avenue, expressed concerns regarding the conditions of the property at the corner of GH Avenue and Drake Road. She was advised the Ordinance Enforcement Officer will be working with the Township Attorney on the issue and an update would be available in 60 days.

Reta Corsi, 5497 West GH Avenue, concurred with Ms. Searl's concerns.

Beth Luppe, 6320 Torrington, thanked the Board for their actions regarding the proposed gravel pit and commented it appeared to her that excessive truck traffic on North 10th Street had ceased.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS RECOGNITION

Fire fighters Matt Carlson and Grant Gelling and Life EMS EMT Bryin Cooper were presented with the 2008 Award of Valor for their efforts in rescuing a family from their balcony during a fire at Nottingham Apartments on March 22nd. The family was present to express their gratitude.

Fire fighters Dan Connelly, Jack Della Pia, and Steve Hippensteel were presented with the 2007 Award of Valor for their efforts in rescuing former Fire Chief Ken Howe from his burning home on February 19, 2007.

All were praised for their heroic efforts.

HISTORICAL OVERLAY ZONE

Associate Planner VanDenBrand presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission to adopt text relating to the purpose, method of establishment, and regulations of the Historical Overlay District which would provide a buffer of 100 feet from any historic feature, or to the property line, whichever is less, and increased setbacks and landscaping requirements of neighboring, developing properties.

Motion by Grace, second by Sikora to accept the ordinance text for First Reading and set Second Reading for May 13th. Carried.

BIDS FOR TAX APPEAL APPRAISAL

As discussed at the March 11th work session, Attorney Porter presented a request for approval of an expenditure of up to \$3,400 to engage Genzink Appraisal Company to conduct an appraisal for the pending Meijer tax appeal.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to approve the expenditure. Carried.

ROAD POLICY

Trustee Rakowski presented a recommendation from the Road Committee to increase the amount assessed for paving projects from \$5.00 per front foot to \$11.00 per front foot due to the increasing cost of petroleum products. The current policy provides for a 200 front foot maximum assessment per parcel.

Motion by Rakowski, second by Grace to approve the road policy change. Carried.

DOCUMENT OF UNDERSTANDING – OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Trustee Sikora presented a recommendation from the Park Committee to endorse a proposed Oshtemo Township and Oshtemo Historical Society Basic Understanding Document which provides that the Township and OHS have a shared interest in the restoration of the buildings and grounds of the Drake Homestead into a community asset highlighting Oshtemo and local history, the Township seeks involvement of the OHS, the OHS accepts the role of coordinator and will work through the Park Committee, and the Township acknowledges ownership of the property and responsibility for costs associated with it. He advised a future document will provide more specific details.

Motion by Sikora, second by Rakowski to endorse the document. Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS
FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING REQUEST

Interim Chief Karnemaat advised a trench rescue training class had been arranged for in February with the quote and invoice received on April 21st in the amount of \$2,200.00 and requested approval for the expenditure. He noted the Fire Department is the only one in the area with trench rescue capabilities. Motion by Rakowski, second by Grace to approve the expenditure. Carried.

WATER EXTENSION TO TOWNSHIP PARK

Engineer Elliott advised two bids had been received for the extension of public water to the Township Park with the low bid being from M & E Excavating in the amount of \$11,282.60. He recommended the Board accept the bid and authorize the Supervisor, Engineer, and Attorney to negotiate expending up to an additional \$3,800 for cutting and replacing asphalt that was not able to be accurately included in the original bid due to snow cover at the time and to close an additional well recently discovered at the Old Township Hall on 8th Street.

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to accept the bid from M & E Excavating and authorize an expenditure of up to \$15,082.60 for the project as described. Carried with Culp voting no.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Grace commented on the letter recently received from Rep. Hoogendyk regarding revenue sharing, he advised AT&T is installing lines in the Country Club Village Plat and he would be absent from the May 13th Township Board meeting.

There was general discussed regarding a letter received from County Administrator Peter Batani concerning \$150,000 that the Township believes was originally intended for use in rehabilitating the landfill site. It was noted the Township is currently conducting a recreation plan survey and discussions on this matter should continue.

Trustee Rakowski inquired as to the status of the cleaning bids and noted the service doors on the vehicle building need to be painted.

Trustee Sikora advised he had been contacted by citizens who wished to work on a planter project for the Grange.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Sikora, second by Grace to adjourn to closed session pursuant to the resolution regarding closed session dated April 22, 2008, for purposes of discussing pending litigation. Roll call showed Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Culp-yes, Rakowski-yes, Grace-yes, Sikora-yes.

Motion by Culp, second by Sikora to return to open session at approximately 9:30 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Grace, second by Rakowski to authorize the attorneys to proceed as discussed in closed session and set a special meeting date for May 1st at 7:00 p.m. to consider among other items, an amendment to the truck route ordinance to possibly include G Avenue. Carried.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: John VanDyke
Supervisor