

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
May 25, 2010

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 Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Scott McCormick

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, and 3 interested people.

KCSD Activity Report

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Troy Faulk provided information on activity in the Township for April.

Kalamazoo County Road Commission

Kalamazoo County Road Commission Members Kent McCauley, Ken Oscarson, Dennis Berkebile, Jeffrie Maddox, Daniel Moyle, Managing Director Joanna Johnson, General Superintendent Travis Bartholomew and Area Superintendent Jim Beaudoin were present. Discussion was held regarding current road projects, the upcoming traffic study for the DDA area and evaluation of Township roads to be conducted.

Township Road Policy Amendment

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a resolution to amend the Township road policy to correct language in the previously adopted policy that listed microseal as an option for local roads; it should have been indicated for plat streets only.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to adopt the resolution. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, McCormick-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

Discussion – H Avenue Sewer/Water Project

Discussion was held noting that five bids were received by the deadline on this date, with Balkema Excavating being the lowest bidder at 22% less than the original estimate for the project. There was also discussion regarding means of financing, whether to fund the project from the sewer and water funds or exercise the financing option offered by Balkema. There was concern on making a decision regarding financing at this meeting since the bids were received the same day and there was not time to prepare a comparison of the financing options; discussion then centered on awarding the bid and acting on the financing of the project at the next Board meeting. This item will be taken up for action on the regular agenda.

KCSD Contract

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a commendation from the Sheriff regarding cost of contracted services will be presented to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners at their committee of the whole meeting on June 1st; she will plan to attend.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Scott McCormick

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

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to approve the May 11th regular and May 18th joint meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$23,677.78 and disbursements of \$201,498.13 were reported. Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION – FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT GRANT

Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Lt. Chip Everett, Chaplin Matt Carlson, Firefighters Eric Burghart, Grant Gelling, Pete Nave, and Scott Kaplan presented a very informative program on the department's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment, required standards and need for replacements. A grant was to be sought, however, they have been advised by FEMA that grants for this equipment are a very low priority for this year; Chief Barnes advised a grant will be sought for extrication equipment.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE FUND POLICY

Attorney Porter advised when employee benefits were reduced, some Board members agreed to refund amounts equivalent to the reduction in benefits since under State law, board members pay and benefits could not be similarly reduced; one trustee has chosen to donate these funds in order to assist firefighters in need. The proposed policy would provide that to maintain a degree of anonymity the fund would be maintained by the Fire Chief or Attorney.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to approve the policy as presented. Carried.

AMENDMENT – PUBLIC MEDIA NETWORK URBAN COOPERATION ACT AGREEMENT

A request from Public Media Network to adopt a resolution approving a fifth amendment to the Urban Cooperation Act Agreement to add the City of Portage as a member was before the Board. Attorney Porter advised he had reviewed the documents and recommends approval.

Motion by Everett, second by James Grace to adopt the resolution. Roll call showed McCormick-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, James Grace-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

PUBLIC HEARING – WEST MAIN SIDEWALK IN FILL PROJECT – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing was held regarding the establishment of a special assessment district to complete sidewalks on West Main from US-131 to Drake Road and along the east side of Maple Hill Drive from West Main to the first driveway.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt a resolution establishing Special Assessment District 2010-1. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, McCormick-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

Motion by Culp, second by James Grace to adopt a resolution to schedule a public hearing on the assessment roll for June 22nd. Roll call showed McCormick-yes, Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, James Grace-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER – OS TROPICAL LLC

A resolution approving the transfer of a liquor license from Cheeseburger in Paradise to OS Tropical, LLC to hold the license in escrow was before the Board.

Motion by James Grace, second by Culp to adopt the resolution. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, McCormick-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

H AVENUE SEWER/WATER PROJECT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

As discussed at the earlier public comment session, five bids were received by the deadline on this date, with Balkema Excavating being the lowest bidder at 22% less than the original estimate for the project. There was also discussion regarding means of financing, whether to fund the project from the sewer and water funds or exercise the financing option offered by Balkema. There was concern on making a decision regarding financing at this meeting since the bids were received the same day and there was not time to prepare a comparison of the financing options; discussion then centered on awarding the bid and acting on the financing of the project at the next Board meeting. Consensus was the project should move forward with awarding the bid and that a final decision on how it will be funded could be determined at a later meeting.

Motion by James Grace, second by Culp to accept the bid from Balkema Excavating in the amount of \$1,386,186.05 with the method of financing to be determined at the June 8th meeting. Carried.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COSGWELL
Supervisor