

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 29, 2010**

The Oshtemo Township Board held a special meeting at the Oshtemo 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

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, Associate Planner Chris West, and approximately 20 interested people.

Motion by James Grace, second by Heiny-Cogswell to approve the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Margaret Masuzawa, 331 West Ridge Circle, thanked the Supervisor and Clerk for their timely response to information she had requested. She also commented that a neighbor on Scenic Way was appreciative of the Board's efforts to address the noise complaints regarding Copper Beech Apartments and that conditions are improved.

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Public hearings were held on grant applications to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to acquire property at 927 North Drake Road, 1931 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and 6520 Stadium Drive.

**927 NORTH DRAKE ROAD**

Associate Planner Chris West reviewed the grant application noting the historical significance of the current property owned by the Township and how acquiring the adjacent 10 acres could be utilized as open, passive park land for the eastern side of the Township as well as compliment the existing Drake Homestead being restored by the Oshtemo Historical Society.

**Public Comment**

Neil Sikora, President of the Oshtemo Historical Society, presented a letter of support outlining the work and vision of the group and noting how the acquisition of the adjacent parcel would insure retention of the historical tree line driveway that leads to the Drake Homestead, provide additional areas for public use, and also pledged \$1,000 toward the grant match. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the amount of the grant sought would be \$231,500 with the Township match of \$61,500 plus estimated incidental costs of \$9,986 funded by the Park Fund, \$1,000 towards the required match from the Oshtemo Historical Society, and \$12,500 of the required match funded by Kalamazoo College.

Pam Larson, 405 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, commented she would prefer to see passive recreation for the potential new park land in the area.

Lee Larson, 405 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, commented he would encourage the Township to acquire any natural areas possible.

Motion by James Grace, second by Everett to adopt a resolution to approve a grant application for the purchase of additional land adjacent to the Drake House through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Roll call showed James Grace-yes, Borgfjord-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Bushouse-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

**1931 NORTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the discussion with the current owner of the property had resulted in not having a willing seller at this time, therefore, a grant application would not be pursued at this time.

**Public Comment**

Pam Larson, 405 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, commented she supports the Township's desire to protect this property; it would be supreme open space to preserve. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell noted a letter of support had been received from the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

### **6520 STADIUM DRIVE**

Associate Planner Chris West reviewed the grant application noting that acquiring this parcel which is currently a gas station, would greatly advance the goals of the Downtown Development Authority to revitalize the “village core” and would be used as a small park plaza to create a public pedestrian gathering place within a developed commercial area. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the amount of the grant sought would be \$201,500 with the Township match of \$62,500 from the DDA Fund, plus estimated incidental costs of \$10,645 shared by the DDA and Park Fund.

### **Public Comment**

Terry Schley, DDA Chairman, commented the DDA unanimously supports the grant application, will fund the needed match, and stressed the importance of the parcel to implement the proposed streetscape vision for the “village core”.

Lee Larson, 405 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, commented he would urge the Township to pursue acquiring this property to assist in the redevelopment of the village area.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to adopt a resolution to approve a grant application for the purchase of additional land in the Village of Oshtemo through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Roll call showed Bushouse-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Borgfjord-yes, James Grace-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

### **PRIORITY RANKING OF GRANT REQUESTS**

Associate Planner West advised the grants must be ranked in order of priority by the Township. Board members commented this would be a difficult choice.

Pam Larson, 405 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, commented while green space would be lovely where the gas station currently exists, she would prioritize the Drake Road property due to the historical nature of the site.

Kathleen Garland-Rike, 6180 Ashwood Court, commented both are needed, but she would prioritize the Drake Road property first but encourage the Township to pursue other grants to acquire the Stadium Drive parcel.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented she is optimistic both have an equal chance of being awarded.

Trustee James Grace commented that while he understands the historical significance of the Drake Road property, enhancing the village area would aid in the redevelopment of the area.

Clerk Everett commented while a hard choice to make, she emphasized the need to preserve the Township’s history.

Trustee Bushouse commented everyone should be aware the needed funding could change depending on the final appraisals and that he would support naming the Drake Road property as first priority.

Trustee Borgfjord commented there has been significant support and commitment from the community for the restoration efforts of the Drake Homestead and she feels it should be ranked first.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Borgfjord to rank the Drake Road property as first priority for the grant applications. Carried.

### **WEST MAIN SIDEWALK IN FILL PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Park Committee had reviewed the proposed contract for the West Main sidewalk in fill project as discussed at the July 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The committee recommends including the bus shelter concrete slab, sidewalk ends signs at the west end of the project, and adding ADA detectable warning “domes” and striping at as many crosswalks as possible within the budget. It was noted the project cost will be under the original estimate, therefore, the special assessments will be adjusted accordingly and property owners notified when the project is completed.

Heiny-Cogswell, second by Borgfjord to approve the unit cost contract with Cripps Fontaine for construction of the West Main sidewalk in fill project not to exceed \$151,850. Carried.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE REPAIRS**

Fire Commissioner James Grace advised Unit 532 had recently needed repairs totaling \$9,475.78 to replace the radiator, brakes, and power steering.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to approve the expenditure. Carried.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she had been asked to announce that an agenda item for the August 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting would be Trustee benefits.

Trustee Borgfjord reminded all of the Oshtemo Sunburst 5K on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL  
SUPERVISOR**