

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
September 8, 2009

Township Board work session was held 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 Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee James Grace
Trustee Scott McCormick

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and 7 interested people.

Police Protection

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Troy Faulk introduced himself to the Board as he has been assigned to the Township under the agreement approved at the August 25th meeting. He advised the Board he and several deputies and reserve officers conducted a "party patrol" during the past weekend at some of the student housing apartment complexes and will do more in the coming weeks.

Emergency Management Plan

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department Lt. Paul Baker advised he had been working with Fire Chief Barnes to update the Township's emergency management plan as part of the overall County plan. Consensus was the plan should be placed on a future agenda for review and approval by the Board.

Fire Department Update – Truck Purchase

Fire Chief Barnes provided a review of the fire engine purchase process and a comparison of three trucks under consideration. He advised the choice had been narrowed to a demo model from Pierce Manufacturing with a bid of \$397,950; under the \$400,000 limit approved by the Board at the August 11th meeting. He also advised the truck is expected to be available in the next few days for inspection prior to any final decision.

Board Retreat

Discussion was held regarding holding a Board retreat to discuss long range planning. It noted was this is a method to look at the "big picture" and deliberation on specific issues is not conducted. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Fetzer Institute is willing to host this activity.

Public Comment

Tricia Kline advised she is a member of the Asylum Lake Preservation Association and Oakland Drive Winchell Neighborhood Association. She commented she is concerned about the proposed development of the Colony Farm Orchard property; it is a special place that cannot be replaced, the ecosystem will be destroyed. She commented she hoped the Township could find another property to offer WMU.

Larry Ross, President of the Oakland Drive Winchell Neighborhood Association, commented they will be working legislatively to address their concerns about the Colony Farm Orchard and would like to work with the Township also.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised three Board members met with representatives of WMU on September 4th, there was no agreement reached for mitigation or a land swap, WMU owns the Colony Farm Orchard property and has requested the State lift the development restrictions and it is now up to the legislature to act. She also advised the Township's position regarding concerns of losing the large amount of open space has been communicated to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Majority Leader.

Board Member Comments

Trustee James Grace inquired if mowing along the bike path on M-43 between 9th & 10th Streets had been explored. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she had contacted MDOT but had not had a response.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:20 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 were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliot, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Senior Planner Mary Lynn Bugge, and approximately 6 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to approve the August 25th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General and Fire Funds of \$35,825.17 and disbursements of \$102,687.72 were reported. Motion by Borgfjord, second by James Grace to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Brewer, 2550 North 5th Street, commented he was concerned about the loss of open space, specifically the proposed expansion of the BTR park on the Colony Farms Orchard property and inquired if the Township had held discussions with WMU.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised three Board members met with representatives of WMU on September 4th, there was no agreement reached for mitigation or a land swap, WMU owns the Colony Farm Orchard property and has requested the State lift the development restrictions and it is now up to the legislature to act. She also advised the Township's position regarding concerns of losing the large amount of open space has been communicated to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Majority Leader.

PLANNING COMMISSION ENABLING ORDINANCE

Due to Public Act 33 of 2008, an ordinance to reaffirm the establishment of a Planning Commission was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by James Grace, second by Culp to adopt the ordinance. Carried.

SUB DIVISION/SITE CONDOMINIUM ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Due to Public Act 33 of 2008, an ordinance to amend the Sub Division/Site Condominium Ordinance to update language regarding provisions for plan reviews by the Planning Commission, was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by James Grace, second by Borgfjord to adopt the ordinance. Carried.

WEST MAIN WATER EXTENSION – CHANGE ORDER

Engineer Elliott presented a change order in the amount of \$\$7,813.00 for additional concrete driveway repairs due to the water extension project on West Main. He further recommended final payment on the project of \$20,574.69, with a \$1,500.00 retainage until the contractor's consent of surety is received.

Trustee James Grace inquired why there are change orders for most every project. Engineer Elliott advised in this case the work was above and beyond what the project entailed, noting this particular project was initiated and funded by the KLA Group. He commented in more general terms that when building underground, unforeseen conditions can occur.

Motion by Culp, second by James Grace to approve the change order and payment as recommended. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the United Way Campaign kick off would be held on September 9th at the Arcadia Festival Site.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL

Township Clerk

Supervisor