

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
April 14, 2015

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 Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and 5 interested people.

Update – Kalamazoo County – Sgt. Johnson from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department provided information on recent activity in the Township.

Discussion – Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) Additional Office Space – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented design information and preliminary cost estimates to provide for renovation of a portion of the current Fire Department office area to accommodate more space needed by KABA. Consensus was to move forward after more information is provided.

Update – North 10th Street Sewer Project – Engineer Elliott provided an update on the planned extension of sanitary sewer to serve North 10th Street noting due to plans for proposed non-motorized enhancements not being complete and the window of opportunity for competitive bidding has most likely passed for 2015, he requested the Board consider whether to reschedule the project for the 2016 construction season.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to postpone the project and include it in the 2016 budget. Carried 7-0.

Discussion – Police Protection RFP – Discussion was held regarding the proposal received from Kalamazoo County for police protection. Concerns included some still unknown costs not provided in the proposal, items the Township would be required to provide, and no guarantee of the staffing level requested. Further discussion will take place at the April 28th meeting with Leonard Matarese, consultant from the Center for Public Safety Management.

Discussion – Consent Agenda Item – Hawkers, Peddlers Ordinance Amendment – Discussion included need to clarify the language regarding No Solicitation signs. This item will be removed from the consent agenda to make needed changes.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

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

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 5 interested people.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Shaana Way, commented there are bee colonies on the Colony Farm Orchard, the land is geologically important to Asylum Lake and asked the Board to reconsider development of the property.

Megan Muzzell, commented the Save Colony Farm Orchard group opposes the proposed WMU development of Colony Farm Orchard, the land should be kept as public space, money would be better spent on preservation, a public forum should be held.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda were:

- a) Minutes of March 10th regular meeting
- b) Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c) Text Amendment to Life Insurance Plan Ordinance for First Reading, set Second Reading for April 28th
- d) Text Amendment to Hawkers, Peddlers Ordinance for First Reading, set Second Reading for April 28th

Per discussion at the earlier work session, Item D was removed from the consent agenda. Motion by Taylor, second by Larson to approve the consent agenda as amended. Carried 7-0.

TEXT AMENDMENT – HAWKERS, PEDDLERS ORDINANCE

Per discussion at the earlier work session, changes to the text amendment to the Hawker, Peddlers Ordinance will read “No Solicitation” signs will be respected. No one shall approach any house or building with a “No Solicitation” sign and knock or make inquiry to solicit for charitable or business purposes.”

Motion by Everett, second by Farmer to accept the text amendment for First Reading and set Second Reading for April 28th. Carried 7-0.

MNRTF GRANT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – GRANGE PLAYGROUND

A resolution to execute the agreement required to receive grant funds for the Grange Hall playground was before the Board. It was noted a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant of \$30,000 was awarded with the required \$10,000 match funded by private donations.

Motion by Larson, second by Taylor to adopt the resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the agreement for the grant. Roll call showed Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes, Larson-yes, Taylor-yes.

DDA COMMERCIAL AREA ACCESS – SPECIAL EXECEPTION APPLICATION

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented construction document pavement layout and cost estimates for the proposed Downtown Development Authority (DDA) commercial access south of the Oshtemo Community Center to Atlantic Avenue for Board review. She noted the Board approved action to work on construction documents and bid prices in June, 2014. She advised an additional step included work by a committee of staff, DDA members and consultant which identified additional Form Based Zoning Code need to consider a non-motorized element; sidewalk has been added to the plans. She also advised two property owners on South 9th Street indicate willingness to sign access agreements; the cost estimate with sidewalk now included is \$159,995; the need for sub-base will be determined before bidding through soil evaluation, the portion of the drives on private property will be paid by the property owners; the DDA has approved financial participation of \$70,000, She advised final construction bid amounts would come back to the Board for final approval and any needed Township or DDA budget amendments; the Township budget currently is approximately \$58,000 for this construction. She advised the next step would be making application to the Planning Commission for Special Exception approval.

Board member comments included reservations of moving forward with only two interested property owners, issues with traffic on South 9th Street are a concern, additional property owners could be added, the plan helps realize the vision of the Village Focus Area Plan and leads by example, the project would benefit current and future businesses.

In response to Board member questions, Planning Director Milliken advised three requests for proposals have been issued for a traffic study of the area, the plan addresses the goals/comments from the Board.

Motion by Taylor, second by Culp to make application to the Planning Commission for Special Exception approval. Carried 6-1 with Carr voting no.

TEXT AMENDMENTS

FIRE CODE & ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ORDINANCES

Amendments to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer Ordinance and Fire Code Ordinance that would provide for enforcement of the Fire Code Ordinance by Fire Department personnel, authorization that could be granted by the Fire Chief to the OEO to enforce the Fire Code, were before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to adopt the text amendments. Carried 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Farmer commented she would like to open a discussion of the transit issue and reconsideration of opting in Precincts 3 and 9. Trustee Taylor commented service will be lost if they are not opted in. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented a joint letter with Texas Township was sent to the Central County Transportation Authority for discussion of potential service agreements; she has asked for further information to bring to the Board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell reminded all of the Drake Homestead visioning session to be held on April 15th at 7:00 p.m.

She also advised the work session for the April 28th board meeting would begin at 5:00 p.m.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor