

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

Township Board Minutes

June 24, 1997

The Oshtemo Township Board held its regular meeting at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Fleckenstein, at 7 00 p m.

PRESENT:	Supervisor Ron Fleckenstein	Trustee Norman Anderson
	Clerk Elaine Branch	Trustee Marvin Block
	Treasurer Lois Brown	Trustee David Bushouse
		Trustee Fred Johnson

Also present was Richard Reed, Township Attorney and Robert Snell, Township Engineer, along with 15 interested people.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of our last meeting, June 10th, as prepared. Carried.

Income to the General Fund of \$2,520.00 and disbursements of \$64,243 70 were reported. Fire Fund income was \$2,450 00 with disbursements of \$12,092.54. Motion made by Block, seconded by Johnson to approve the report and pay the bills. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

GREYSTONE PLAT - WATER PROBLEMS

Several people were present to urge the township to help resolve the water problem that occurs due to the retention basin overflowing in the Greystone Plat. They requested a special meeting of all the people who have an interest in the problem and who can correct it. They suggested the following list.

Wilkins & Wheaton	Owner of Woodland Estates
Drain Commissioner	Township Representative
Developer of Greystone	Frank Zappa, City of Kalamazoo
Developer of Forest Creek	Property owners

The following property owners spoke, expressing their frustrations and desires for a solution:

Mike Crabill	4566 Olde Forest
Pam & John Adams	9300 Greystone
Ron Sibert	9341 Greystone
Bob Swain	9340 Greystone
Bill Hahn	9193 Greystone
Sue Crosthwaite	9247 Greystone
Lynn Martignon	4841 Olde Forest

They pointed out that they did not have water in their basements until about 9:00 p.m. Saturday (June 21st, following a record amount of rainfall) when a City Utilities Department employee came by and lifted the manhole cover. The level of water in the street was immediately lowered but it caused a pressure that sent sewage up floor drains, toilets and tubs in many homes.

It appeared, in their mind, that there were two problems. The first being the retention basin and the second problem is the procedures used by the City employees. The problem has existed for too long (3 or 4 years) and they want a real solution to it.

They asked how long it would take to determine financial responsibility and when a meeting would take place, so that people could be notified.

Engineer Snell agreed that a meeting with the people suggested would be important. He would work to get it arranged but could not give a date. He did respond that it could be within 30 days.

Supervisor Fleckenstein agreed to contact the City and see that their claims are expedited.

HISTORIC SURVEY

Pam O'Connor was present to report on the progress of the historic survey that was started last year. It was explained that rather than a windshield survey, the township property cards were being used to identify our older buildings. She stated that this portion of the project was about 3/4 completed.

It was her suggestion that we employ an intern from WMU to help complete the study. She would do site-specific documentation, in order to determine the level of historical significance of approximately 20 buildings

She would work full time for six weeks beginning the first week of July and she proposed that we pay the intern \$1,500, which is \$6.25/hour Pam would supervise the project.

In response to a question by Treasurer Brown, Ms. O'Connor explained that the research would discover any special historical significance, unusual architecture, or famous residents. This information would be used by the township to determine the level of recognition or protection we may want to set up

Trustee Bushouse was concerned that the goal was to mandate control of these buildings. He was told that at this point the Board was only interested in identifying what our historic resources were. There would be more discussion and decisions made after the information was presented to us.

Clerk Branch felt it would be helpful to have this knowledge and supported the use of an intern, which would be more economical than hiring a professional to seek out this information. A motion was then made by Branch, seconded by Johnson to approve the use of the intern to a maximum of \$1,500. Carried.

COMMUNICATION TOWER ORDINANCE

The Planning Commission had completed their work on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to regulate communications towers. They recommended adoption of the proposed text.

Trustee Block reported that currently we have not controls and there were concerns about abandoned towers or misuse of towers. This ordinance would set the rules.

Attorney Reed stated that Federal Law will not allow us to prohibit towers but we can regulate.

Clerk Branch was concerned that there was no language addressing the number of towers that could be placed on a parcel or setbacks between towers. She stated she supports the idea of regulation but it does not go far enough.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Anderson to set the ordinance for First Reading on July 8th. Carried. 6 to 1, with Branch voting no

AMERITECH EASEMENT

A request had been received from Ameritech for an easement across our property located in the 6,000 block of West KL Ave. Engineer Snell reviewed the request and concluded that the easement would not create a problem for the Township.

Ameritech would pay the Township \$675.00 for the easement rights. Motion made by Brown, seconded by Johnson to approve the easement in Sec 23 to Ameritech. Roll call showed, Brown - yes Johnson - yes Anderson - yes Bushouse - yes Branch - yes Block - yes Fleckenstein - yes

WEST PORT #13 FINAL APPROVAL

Engineer Snell reported that he had reviewed the construction plans for West Port #13 and that everything is complete. Approvals had been obtained from the various agencies and the lot staking and monuments were in place. He recommended approval subject to the approval of the attorney and payment of the fees

Attorney Reed had reviewed the mylar and title insurance and felt it was in order. The plat fees had been paid earlier that day.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Block to grant approval to Step II and Step III, Final approval of West Port #13. Carried.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT

A fireworks display permit application was received from Michael Ellsworth, 10830 West KL Ave. The Fire Chief had reviewed and approved the application, after receiving the needed information about insurance.

Motion made by Brown, seconded by Block to approve the fireworks display permit. Carried 6 to 1, with Branch voting no.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Trustee Bushouse questioned if the Township would have any responsibility for large rocks that were placed along the right-of-way on Oak Highlands. Attorney Reed stated no, that would be for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. He suggested he call them to report it.

Treasurer Brown reported that the County Treasurer advised that the tax revolving money would be late this year. One reason was the effects of Proposal A and the use of new computerized warrants

Supervisor Fleckenstein informed the Board that the Township Hall building was struck by lightning during the weekend storm. We lost our main base radio and it damaged the fax machine, one air conditioner and part of the telephone system. A claim was made to our insurance company.

He also reported that the franchise with Fruit Belt Electric would soon expire. They are asking for a vote of the people in order to renew it. He explained that there are two types of franchises; a revocable franchise and an irrevocable one. They desire the irrevocable franchise, which requires a vote of the people. They would pay for a special election. We will probably hear more from them in August.

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Elaine J. Branch

ELAINE J. BRANCH, CMC
Township Clerk

Ron Fleckenstein

Attested: **RON FLECKENSTEIN**
Supervisor