

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Minutes**

**December 14, 1999**

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  
 Clerk Deb Everett  
 Treasurer Lois Brown  
 Trustee Norm Anderson  
 Trustee Marvin Block  
 Trustee David Bushouse  
 Trustee Fred Johnson

Also present was Richard Reed, Township Attorney and Fire Chief Ken Howe, along with 6 interested people

Motion made by Brown, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the November 23, 1999 meeting as prepared. Carried

Income to the General Fund of \$21,563.91 and disbursements of \$72,348.89 were reported. Income to the Fire Fund of \$66.24 and disbursements of \$43,292.92 were reported. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Block to acknowledge the receipts and pay the bills. Carried.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Bill Jameson, 1715 Old Deer Run, expressed concerns regarding a conceptual plan review of a proposed multiple family planned unit development at the corner of West Main and North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, on the Planning Commission agenda for December 16<sup>th</sup>. His concerns included no notice was sent to area residents, no fee had been paid by the applicant, he had difficulty in obtaining information regarding the project from the Township Office, and was told no public comment would be heard at the Planning Commission meeting. He also commented he felt the article in the Township newsletter regarding the Westport Swim Club and flyers at the Township Office are inappropriate since it is not a Township sponsored activity

**REQUEST FOR OUTLOT EASEMENT-COUNTRY CLUB VILLAGE**

Ken Bertolissi presented a proposal to split approximately 13 acres located on the north side of Country Club Village adjacent to Outlot E into three 4± acre parcels with a dedicated road 300 to 350 feet in length. He requested an amendment to an agreement between the Township and the original developers of Country Club Village which states that the outlots may not be used for roads unless they connect to West Main, KL Avenue or South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. He reminded the Board that a variance had been granted in 1980 to Outlot G for access to property south of the plat.

Attorney Reed advised the easement agreement was between the Township and Edgar and Fern Minckler and is binding upon the heirs of the original parties. The agreement is dated September 13, 1965 and provides that Outlot E is owned by Mincklers, their heirs and assigns, and will not be conveyed to the Road Commission or the Township for public use until a connection is made to South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, or M-43. He further advised the Township has no jurisdiction, the only thing that could be done to accomplish the request is to amend the agreement which would require consent of the heirs of the Mincklers, the Township and Road Commission. He also commented he would need to review the documents related to the variance granted in 1980.

Motion made by Brown, seconded by Bushouse to direct the attorney to investigate and review information pertaining to the request and report back to the Board at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bill Jameson felt input should be sought from the residents of Country Club Village and inquired how many outlots would be left if this request is granted.

Elaine Branch, 7654 West Main, commented that Outlot G was used only as access for a private drive, not a public road

Clerk Everett commented since there is only one access road to the plat any development would impact the neighborhood and felt that the residents of the area should be noticed.

Upon the vote, the motion carried.

**LEGAL, ENGINEERING AND ACCOUNTING/AUDITING FIRMS FOR 2000**

The following firms were recommended to represent the Township in 2000:

Legal counsel - Reed, Stover & O'Connor

Engineering - Prein & Newhof

Accounting/Auditing - Siegfried, Crandall, Vos & Lewis

Trustee Bushouse inquired if a study has been done to determine if some of these activities could be done in house. Supervisor Fleckenstein advised he reviews it annually, however, with the level of increased activity, especially in the Planning Department, he feels it is more economical to retain the services currently in place.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Anderson to appoint the firms recommended for 2000. Carried.

**TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2000**

A list of dates was provided for Board approval, with meeting dates remaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month with quarterly joint meetings with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in February, May, August and November. It was noted that the meeting dates in February and August would be adjusted due to elections.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Anderson to approve the meeting date schedule as presented. Carried.

**DEPOSITORIES FOR 2000**

Treasurer Brown presented a list of banks and financial institutions she recommended for use as depositories for Township funds for 2000

Trustee Anderson inquired if we participate with the program the County participates in and how it compares to the others. Mrs. Brown advised we do and the program is doing well.

Motion made by Everett, seconded by Johnson to approve the list of depositories as recommended. Carried.

**POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES FOR 2000**

Supervisor Fleckenstein advised each year the Township is required to update the guidelines for the Poverty Exemption Threshold, used by the Board of Review when receiving a request for an exemption from property taxes due to low income. A resolution with the revised income levels was presented for action.

It was noted the levels have been adjusted for inflation and we currently have no exemptions based on this criteria.

Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Block to adopt the resolution. Roll call vote showed: Bushouse-yes, Johnson-yes, Block-yes, Anderson-yes, Brown-yes, Everett-yes, Fleckenstein-yes.

**1999 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Adjustments to the 1999 budget were presented as prepared by Clerk Everett and Township Accountant Mike Crandall.

Trustee Bushouse commented the amount for lawn maintenance seemed excessive. It was noted it includes all work in the cemeteries, parks and other township properties.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Anderson to approve the adjustments to the 1999 budget. Roll call vote showed: Block-yes, Anderson-yes, Bushouse-yes, Johnson-yes, Everett-yes, Brown-yes, Fleckenstein-yes.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF PASS DEVICES**

Fire Chief Ken Howe presented a request for the purchase of 48 alarm devices for air packs.

In response to questions from Trustee Bushouse, Chief Howe advised this will equip all air packs with an alarm, will complete the upgrade of the air packs, and the six larger air packs previously approved would be used for rescue situations.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Anderson to approve the purchase of 48 Pass alarm devices at a cost not to exceed \$38,000. Carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF VEHICLE**

Chief Howe presented a request for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the current car 504 which is used by the Fire Inspector during the day and by Ordinance Enforcement Officers evenings and weekends

He advised he had investigated purchasing through a state bid process but found that it would limit options available, would result in a savings of \$660 00 and felt it would be prudent to deal with DeNooyers, a local dealer.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Johnson to approve the purchase of a vehicle for a total cost of \$21,394. Carried

**OTHER TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

Treasurer Brown presented a recommendation from the Board Appointment Committee to appoint Planning Director Jodi Stefforia to the EDC Board

Motion made by Block, seconded by Anderson to approve the appointment. Carried.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Johnson wished all Happy Holidays!

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Trustee Bushouse recommended to Chief Howe that an hour meter be put on the new fire department car. He also inquired if the hit and run driver from the accident involving the Township vehicle had been found. Supervisor Fleckenstein advised they had not.

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Clerk Everett wished all Happy Holidays!

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Treasurer Brown provided the Board with information from the meeting she attended regarding the Gypsy Moth problem in the County.

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Trustee Block commented this had been a good year for the Township and the Board, although Board members don't always agree we all have the same goal in mind, the best for Oshtemo Township. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and joyous new year

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Trustee Anderson wished all Happy Holidays!

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Supervisor Fleckenstein commented this has been a good year with many challenges, a lot of growth and development taking place with input from the community, members of the staff and boards. He wished everyone Happy Holidays!

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

*Deborah L. Everett*

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

*Ron Fleckenstein*

**Attested: RON FLECKENSTEIN**  
Supervisor