



## Capital Improvements Committee

February 18, 2014

### MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Capital Improvements Committee of Oshtemo Township was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. in the north meeting room of Oshtemo Township, 7275 West Main St., Kalamazoo, Michigan. Persons in attendance included Dave Bushouse, Nancy Culp, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Tim Mallett, James Porter, Tom Wheat, Mark Worden and Marc Elliott.

1. Meeting Summary. Upon motion of Heiny-Cogswell and support from Culp, the minutes of October 15, 2013 were approved without comment.
2. Board Discussions Update. Members were briefed on the Oshtemo Township Board's productive work session on February 11 to discuss the Sanitary Sewer Strategic Plan, and the need to finance sanitary sewer extensions into older, unserved plats. Trustees were actively engaged in the topic. The Board understands that achieving the stated sewer service goals will require a financing strategy. Two strategies that were discussed a mandated connection policy and a potential Township millage or capital projects SAD.  

Jim went on to describe for CIC members his millage research since the Board's work sessions. In general, state law is pretty clear that a single-purpose question is what is required to be presented to voters. He does not believe a generic authorization to finance "infrastructure" would meet this test. As a consequence, he believes the Board will need to seek a general millage increase. He went on to comment that Oshtemo was a year and half late in becoming a Charter Township. If Charter status had been obtained earlier, the board would have authority to asses up to five mils before seeking voter approve. Any raising of the Township's current millage (0.97) now needs voter approval.
3. Corridor Improvement Authority. It was reported to members that the Township Board is moving forward with establishing a Capital Improvements Authority (CIA) for Drake Road. An informal call has been made by the Township for interested citizens, and especially in-district residents or property owner to express their interest to the Board if they were willing to serve as a CIA member.
4. 2014 Road Maintenance Projects. Staff reported that a mailing is being prepared for distribution to residents where subdivision roads are being considered for chip sealing in 2014. Property owners will be informed of their option to circulate a petition to establish a special assessment district (SAD) to pay the additional cost of a micro seal. It was further noted that preliminary cost estimates are pending, as the snow cover is preventing KCRC from completing an assessment of the proposed work. An updated project list was distributed to members.
5. KLA Landfill Update. It was noted that the City of Kalamazoo has invoiced Oshtemo for the 2010 pressure reduction station required to service the Wickford Drive area. Oshtemo contacted the KLA Group to coordinate payment/reimbursement of this \$220,633 project cost. It is anticipated that the KLA Group will petition the County in the near future to formally establish a Groundwater Restricted Use Zone (GRUZ) for the former KL Avenue landfill.

6. US 131 Overpass Reconstruction. Staff shared that MDOT had has to change the schedule for the planned 2014 replacement of the Stadium Drive bridge over US 131. Apparently MDOT could not get grantees that the bridge steel could be fabricated within the timeframe needed for a 2014 project. As a result, the current plan is to complete the roadway improvements at Drake Road and east of the bridge, with the interchange and bridge replacement being deferred until the 2015 construction season.
7. Revised Road/Sidewalk/Shared-Use Path Assessment Policy. Members reviewed an updated road and non-motorized facility policy that was adopted at the Board's February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The policy was reviewed to facilitate CIC member discussion. Members noted that it would be appropriate to better clarify the conditions under which industrial/commercial would be assessed for non-motorized facilities along arterial roadways (i.e. locations where residential properties are exempt).
8. North Drake Road Improvements for 2014 - Update. Members were informed that an Oshtemo resident's meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> to review design plans for the proposed non-motorized facility along North Drake, from Ravine Road to Grand Prairie Road. Easement are being requested because the standard location for sidewalks is being occupied by the County for open drainage swales. Easements are also being reviewed for cases such as preservation of desirable trees by diverting the walk outside the right-of-way to avoid tree removal. A general discussion followed, which highlighted challenge Oshtemo was experiencing in getting the easements while KCRC's overall design concept remains in flux.
9. Drake Road at Maple Hill Mall (De-Accel Lane Removal). To accommodate a future sidewalk along Drake Road, the City of Kalamazoo has recommended that two Drake Road de-acceleration lanes be removed and the existing curb-line relocated to parallel the travel lane. The City has offered its roadway grant monies (if available) towards this improvement. Staff indicated that they are moving forward with this concept as a component of the overall North Drake Road planning and design which the Township Board approved for the entire segment of Drake Road from Ravine Road to West Main Street. It was commented that it was important not to delay the City in proceeding forward. One alternative would be to program the estimated \$19,000 cost out of currently appropriated roadway maintenance dollars. The City is hopeful that this cost to the Township will be limited to 20% (\$4,000), provided the City's Act 51-MDOT project funds go this far. (The City's overall project is 20% locally funded.)
10. South Drake Road Non-Motorized. A schematic of a shared-use, 10-foot wide, non-motorized path on the west side of Drake Road, from West Main to Stadium was distributed to members. The Township, with KCRC assistance and City of Kalamazoo encouragement, has initiated seeking Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant funding for this project. The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) group is excited for this opportunity, and has volunteered to help guide the grant application process. Especially promising is that KATS staff has informally given a driving tour of the area with MDOT project personnel. KATS has reported that MDOT also seemed excited about the project's prospects for receiving funds under MDOT's state-wide, competitive TA Grant process.
11. Utility Connections – Year End Update. Staff shared with members that a 2014 payment list for utility connections was developed and distributed to the City of Kalamazoo. The list captures the Oshtemo properties which paid fees in 2013 for the privilege to receive water or wastewater service from the utility operator (City of Kalamazoo). Twenty parcels paid for both water and sanitary sewer service, fifteen parcels paid for water service, and four parcels paid to receive sanitary sewer service.
12. SAW Grant - Update. Staff shared an update on the Stormwater and Wastewater (SAW) grant program for asset management planning. The total amount of grant dollars requested state-wide by municipal applicants exceeded the total dollar amount the state legislature has approved. The good news, is that all applicants will be chosen by lottery and rolled over each year there is funding. We

understand the available dollars are about 80% of the sum-total that was requested. Therefore, one could hopefully project that lottery gives Oshtemo an 80% chance of being funded.

13. Flesher Field Improvements. Members were informed that Oshtemo has been awarded grants from the State to complete both Phase I and Phase II of the proposed Flesher Field improvements. Phase I is scheduled to begin construction in early June. Phase II design and contract documents are being developed with the expectation that the work can be started in late summer or early fall.
14. Other Business/Member Comments. There were no additional comments.
15. Next Meeting. The next scheduled meeting was announced as being March 18, 2014 at 1:00 PM.