

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Diane Mosier, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, and Trustees Max Calder, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross, and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Assessor Laura Tafelsky, Police Chief Brian Russell, Officers Jones & Rockford, Tonia Olson with Granger, and several citizens.

AGENDA **Musselman moved, Calder seconded, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

MINUTES **Musselman moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS Henry Wieferich, 14250 Myers Road, DeWitt, spoke to an experience his wife recently encountered at a local business where he feels an obstruction on the property is not sufficiently marked, which then caused his wife to hit a cement structure and do extensive damage to their vehicle. He stated that he has spoken to the business owner and the owner would not agree to remedy the situation, so he fears that this same type of occurrence will happen to someone else. He explained that this will now cause his family to experience higher insurance rates.

Supervisor Galardi explained that although this may not be a Township issue, Manager Taylor will follow up on the matter.

PUBLIC HEARING Supervisor Galardi called to order the Public Hearing for the annual assessment of Annual Streetlight Assessments streetlighting costs. Clerk Mosier noted that only a handful of calls, and one letter were received in response to the publication and over two thousand first class mailings. She stated that the contacts were largely questions about the process. Assessor Tafelsky answered questions from the Board. No public comment was received.

Motion by Seeger, second by Musselman, to adjourn the Public Hearing. Motion voted and carried.

Mosier moved, Calder seconded, to adopt Resolutions 110912 – 110955 authorizing the annual special assessments for streetlighting costs.

AYES: Musselman, Seeger, Galardi, Mosier, Daggy, Calder, Ross
NAYS: None Motion carried.

PRESENTATION Tonia Olson with Granger provided a power point presentation detailing this years Meadows Celebration. There was much discussion regarding the success of the event and the increased dollars provided by sponsors, which reduced the

Township's monetary contribution significantly for the second consecutive year.

The Board thanked Granger for their dedication to the park and continued contribution to the Meadows Celebration event. Supervisor Galardi thanked Olson for her presentation and personal involvement in the event.

COUNTY None present.
COMMISSIONER RPT

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: Fire Department Burning Issues Newsletter; August Activity Report; MTA re: Workers Compensation Self Insurance Fund; Where Development Begins Benchmark 3 Report; notice of Apportionments from the Clinton County Drain Commissioner; Notice of 9/12/11 Hearing from Consumers Energy; a drain maintenance notice from the Clinton County Drain Commissioner; DeWitt District Library 7/14/11 minutes and data; Draft of the Township's 2012 Budget; request to be heard from Michigan Flyer.

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS Trustee Calder reviewed the minutes of the Board of Appeals meeting of August 17, 2011.
Board of Appeals

Calder moved, Seeger seconded, to receive and place on file the draft minutes of the Board of Appeals meeting of August 17, 2011. Motion voted and carried.

UNFINISHED None.
BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS Manager Taylor reviewed the major points/changes of the SCCMUA Budget.
2012 SCCMUA Budget Discussion centered around the need to "hold the line" on expenditures; meeting Township's needs for maintenance and televising of sewer main; plant flow, how the flow is calculated or averaged; what is being done to assure that flow metering is correct.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to adopt the 2012 SCCMUA Operating Budget, as proposed. Motion voted and carried.

Set Public Hearing Calder moved, Daggy seconded, to set a Public Hearing for 7:00 p.m. on
Biking Area/Padgett September 26, 2011 on the proposed biking area at Padgett Park. Motion voted and carried..

Executive Session/ Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.
Union Negotiations/ to discuss Police Supervisor and Non Supervisory contract negotiations and
Contract Renewals contract renewals.

**AYES: Ross, Calder, Daggy, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger, Musselman
NAYS: None Motion carried.**

Supervisor Galardi reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Supervisor Galardi stated that negotiated contract settlement, as proposed by Manager Taylor and the police unions, has sparked much discussion by the Board, noting that the proposed salary increases are outside the direction given by the Board to Manager Taylor.

The following points were made by the Board members, to those union representatives present, regarding the proposed contract settlement: 1)the past and proposed raises are more than the Board has been able to give to non-union employees and given the current climate where revenues continue to decline, giving raises concerns the Board 2)the Board recognizes the value of its workforce, however, keeping the current personnel on the job and providing services to the residents and taxpayers seems more important than providing increased salaries or benefits 3)it seems that the non-union employees have agreed to significant sacrifices, while the impact to the union employees seems to be nonexistent; 4)although the Manager has prepared a balanced budget, the Township continues to be unable to provide adequate monies to Township roads and other infrastructure, therefore making the proposal for raises a very difficult decision; 5)the Board supports Manager Taylor's efforts and his good faith negotiations; 6)the non-supervisory union has been hesitant to work with the Board while revenues have been declining, and the Board has some hesitancy to believe that if the current downturn continues, the non-supervisory union will work with administration in the future; 7)there was concern expressed regarding the commitment of a four year contract, and the pros and cons were discussed at length; 8)the impact that Senate Bill 7 will have on the Township, as it relates to unions and health care, was also discussed;; 9)the implication of giving these raises is that the Board will not be in a position to request additional millage from the taxpayers if the economy continues to take a decline; 10)it is not the unions who will have to defend this decision, but the Board.

It was determined that with the September 15th deadline identified by SB 7, the Board needs to act now.

Mosier moved, Calder seconded, to authorize the Township Manager and the Township Clerk to execute the proposed contract with the Police Officer Labor Council for the Non-Supervisory Division and the contract with the Police Officer Labor Council for the Supervisory Division.

Trustee Seeger requested a roll call vote on the motion.

AYES: Ross, Calder, Daggy, Mosier, Galardi, Musselman
NAYS: Seeger

Supervisor Galardi thanked the negotiators, Manager Taylor and Officers Jones and Rockford, for their efforts in negotiating this contract.

VOUCHERS

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 58933-59005-and Tax Fund Voucher 7410 - 7433. Motion voted and carried.

REPORTS &
COMMENTS

Trustee Ross commented on the success of the Employee Appreciation event and provided some information on upcoming Clinton County Department of Public

Works business.

Trustee Calder questioned whether some dead trees will be removed from the Granger Meadows/Valley Farms Parks. He also requested that staff find someone to clean up some junk dumped on DeWitt Road

Manager Taylor reported the following: it has been verified that the Board has already taken this action some years ago to give the Manager the Authority to execute specific Water District Agreements; Phase II representatives will be conducting an audit at the Township next Monday; the pending litigation with Compassionate Caregivers has been put on hold since the business is currently closed; he reviewed some pending Tax Tribunal cases; he reminded the Board that the 2012 Budget will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Clerk Mosier reported that a previous long term employee, Maynard Lambert, recently passed away.

Supervisor Galardi reported the following: he has had some recent discussion with residents about the Auto Owners property; he provided some information on the current negotiations relative to the Airport; he will be absent at the next meeting.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor