



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
February 27, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board observed a moment of silence for all of those affected by recent events at Michigan State University.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Adam Cramton, Treasurer Sandy Stump, and Trustees David Seeger, Brian Ross, David Fedewa, and Steven Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None.

**ALSO PRESENT** Manager Andrew Dymczyk, Police Chief Matt Merony, Fire Chief Dave DeKorte, and several citizens.

**AGENDA** **Seeger moved, Galardi seconded, to approve the agenda as amended to include New Business item number 5.**

**AYES: Smith, Cramton, Stump, Seeger, Fedewa, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA** **Ross moved, Fedewa seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Board of Trustees regular meeting draft minutes, February 13, 2023; Planning Commission regular meeting draft minutes, February 6, 2023; and General Vouchers 75272-75321.**

**AYES: Cramton, Ross, Smith, Stump, Seeger, Fedewa, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**PRESENTATION** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING** None.

**COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER  
REPORT** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included the following: DeWitt Township Police Department January 2023 Activity Report; DeWitt Township Fire Department January 2023 Activity Report; Thank You from Cheryl and Bill Bupp; Thank You from AARP Tax Aide Program; and Clinton County Board of Commissioners January 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS** None.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Use Permit 22-990005 – McKearney Holdings, LLC  
The applicant, McKearney Holdings, LLC, is requesting a Special Use Permit that would allow the outdoor storage of materials (open air business) for the existing construction contracting business. The storage of materials (asphalt millings, 21aa crushed concrete, future salt bin) shall be enclosed by concrete blocks on three sides.

The property is located in the BC (Business, Community) District. Construction contracting businesses are permitted by right and open air storage is permitted as a Special Use under Section 3.18 of the Zoning Ordinance.

At the February 6, 2023 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission had general questions regarding the operation of the facility. Based on the results of the public hearing and with the findings and analysis described in the staff report; the review of the reviewing agencies; and the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance for special use permits, the Planning Commission acted to recommend unanimous approval of the request based on the conditions included in the staff report and Special Use Permit.

**Cramton moved, Fedewa seconded, based on the recommendation from the Planning Commission, to approve Special Use Permit 22-990005 from McKearney Holdings, LLC to develop and operate an open air business for the storage materials associated with the construction contracting business as described and defined in the application materials, on the property identified as parcel #050-034-300-005-60 with the conditions listed in the permit. Approval is subject to the following conditions:**

- 1. The applicant shall satisfy the requirements of the Clinton County Drain Commission’s Office regarding storm water management prior to installation of any improvements.**
- 2. The applicant shall satisfy the requirements of all other reviewing agencies.**
- 3. That the applicant complies with any other Federal, State, County, or Township regulations.**

**AYES: Seeger, Cramton, Stump, Fedewa, Smith, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

Paid On Call  
Firefighters – New  
Hire

Manager Dymczyk, Assistant Fire Chief North, and Fire Chief DeKorte conducted interviews for Paid-On-Call Firefighters on February 15, 2023. The interview committee interviewed Mr. Ronald Patterson III, Mr. Andrew Fore, and Ms. Hamil Tran. The committee recommends the hiring of all three as Paid-On-Call Firefighters.

**Fedewa moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the hiring of Mr. Ronald Patterson III, Mr. Andrew Fore, and Ms. Hamil Tran as Paid-On-Call Firefighters upon the successful completion of their physical/ability evaluations.**

**AYES: Ross, Seeger, Smith, Fedewa, Cramton, Stump, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

Municipal Building  
South (MBS) Bond  
Counsel

At the January 9th Board meeting, the Board established an ad-hoc committee to explore financing considerations associated with the Municipal Building South. The initial step of this process evaluated the value engineering estimates from the Architect vendor and cost estimator. Treasurer Stump, Clerk Cramton and Manager Dymczyk then solicited firms for Bond Counsel.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Thrun Law Firm, P.C.	\$29,500
Dickinson Wright, PLC	\$29,500
Miller Canfield	\$48,500

The committee recommends executing an agreement with Thrun Law Firm, P.C. at a cost not to exceed \$29,500.

**Galardi moved, Smith seconded, to confirm the recommendations of the MBS sub-committee and authorize the Manager’s Office to execute an agreement with Thrun Law Firm, P.C. at a cost not to exceed \$29,500.**

**AYES: Fedewa, Ross, Smith, Seeger, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

Step 3 Grievance,  
Establish Hearing

The Board has received a request for a Step 3 Grievance hearing per Article 7, Section 2 of the current agreement between DeWitt Charter Township and the Police Officers Labor Council “the agreement”. The Step 3 Grievance was received in the Clerk’s Office on February 20, 2023. Per the agreement, the Board has the option to conduct the hearing as a meeting of the entire body, or to designate a sub-committee. By way of a reminder, the Board currently has a standing personnel sub-committee in place. The aggrieved has requested that the hearing be conducted in closed-session. A hearing of a sub-committee would accomplish this request by design; a hearing of the entire Board would be convened as a public meeting and moved into a closed-session for the hearing. Per the agreement, the participants of said meeting shall be no more than two (2) Union representatives and their legal counsel, the Chief of Police, Manager/Supervisor or designee, the Township Board or committee, and the Township attorney.

**Smith moved, Seeger seconded, to convene a special meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees Personnel sub-committee to hear a Step 3 Grievance, and to authorize Manager Dymczyk to coordinate a meeting date and time for all participants.**

**AYES: Seeger, Cramton, Fedewa, Stump, Ross, Smith, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

AMENDED - Police  
Department Hire

The Administrative Assistant II in the Police Department transitioned from the Township in January of this year. Chief Merony and Manager Dymczyk conducted interviews on February 24<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup>. They recommend the hiring of Ms. Rachel Perrien for the position of Administrative Assistant II in the Police Department.

**Seeger moved, Smith seconded, to approve the hiring of Rachel Perrien at Grade 4, Step 3 of the Classification and Wage Scale, for the position of Administrative Assistant II in the Police Department contingent upon the successful completion of the pre-employment physical.**

**AYES: Seeger, Fedewa, Stump, Smith, Cramton, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**EXTENDED PUBLIC,  
STAFF, & BOARD  
COMMENTS**

Fire Chief Dave DeKorte presented that the Fire Department has continued to be busy. He highlighted a mutual aid call in the City of DeWitt, as well as coordinating cleanup and traffic safety for a jackknifed semi-truck.

Police Chief Matt Merony offered the Board an update on the Police Department's involvement in the recent tragic events at Michigan State University. The Department has also confiscated a large quantity of drugs and associated illicit funds.

Manager Dymczyk offered updates on the following:

- Meeting with the new Director of the DeWitt District Library
- 5 responses received for the wage study RFP
- Interviews for Paid On Call Firefighter
- MBS Bond Counsel proposals
- Interviews for Police Department Administrative Assistant
- Rotunda Trailer Park Memorandum of Understanding
- Letter from resident for Personal Injury Accident billing
- Resident concern about broadband availability

Trustee Smith inquired if illegal resident activities in Rotunda are still ongoing. Chief Merony responded that we have a signed no-trespass agreement with the property owner and the property is much quieter now. Manager Dymczyk presented that the Township has met with the property owner and cleanup of the site is under way.

Trustee Ross informed the Board that he will be unable to attend the rescheduled SCCMUA Board meeting later this week.

Treasurer Stump informed the Board that the last tax collection day is tomorrow and she looks forward to a clean transmittal to the County. Treasurer Stump also reminded the Board, in light of recent tragic events, that the Township provides an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for all staff and Board members should medical or mental assistance be needed.

Clerk Cramton provided a brief update on the status of the AARP TaxAide program as well as the records digitization project in the Clerk's Office.

**CLOSED SESSION  
Negotiation Sessions**

A closed session of the Board of Trustees is permissible under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(c) for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

**Cramton moved, Stump seconded, to enter into closed session at 7:28 PM.**

**AYES: Cramton, Ross, Smith, Fedewa, Stump, Seeger, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**Cramton moved, Stump seconded, to return to open session at 8:47 PM.**

**AYES: Seeger, Stump, Cramton, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**Cramton moved, Ross seconded, to direct the Manager's Office and legal counsel to immediately begin contract negotiations with the Police Officers Labor Counsel Supervisory and Non-Supervisory divisions.**

**AYES: Fedewa, Seeger, Cramton, Stump, Smith, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The Board took a ten-minute recess. Trustee Fedewa left for the remainder of the meeting.

Attorney  
Correspondence

A closed session of the Board of Trustees is permissible under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h) to consider and receive Attorney correspondence.

**Cramton moved, Seeger seconded, to enter into closed session at 9:01 PM.**

**AYES: Smith, Cramton, Ross, Seeger, Stump, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

**Cramton moved, Stump seconded, to return to open session at 10:26 PM.**

**AYES: Seeger, Ross, Cramton, Stump, Smith, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

**Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn 10:26 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Cramton, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor