

DeWitt Charter Township

Public Safety Committee

1401 W. Herbison Road

DeWitt, MI 48820

January 20, 2009 minutes

Thomas Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: David Seeger, Bonnie Oetman, Thomas Hendrickson, Thomas Leonard, Sava Vosovic

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Chief Russell - PD
Chief Koos - FD

AGENDA

Addition of the Police Department and Fire Department 2010 millage to the agenda.

Seeger moved; Oetman seconded the approval of the agenda with the addition. Motion voted and carried.

MINUTES

Seeger moved; Oetman seconded the approval of the January 15, 2008 minutes. Motion voted and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department Explorer Program. This Program, between DeWitt Township, City of DeWitt, St. Johns and Bath, began with 43 students and now has 12 students as many have graduated high school and have moved on. The program continues to be successful.

Fire Department Apparatus Committee. Chief Koos passed out the Fire Department's Vehicle Replacement Plan. Adjustments have been made to the plan in terms of the timing of apparatus purchases. The Plan remains fluid as the Board will review the Plan from time to time to make any adjustments necessary.

At this time, a Pumper/Tanker is the next piece of apparatus to be purchased. This will replace the deteriorating tanker and an engine. This purchase is scheduled for 2010. A discussion of the condition of the fire department fleet was held.

The funding of apparatus purchases was held. Chief Koos indicated that the last payment will be made on Truck 52 this year. The Township does put monies away in a Transportation Fund each year for the purchase of township vehicles, not just fire department vehicles. Trustee Seeger expanded on Transportation Fund and its use. Chief Russell stated that the police department orders two cars each year. The life of a police car is three years

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers. Current PSC Chairperson is Thomas Hendrickson. Current PSC Secretary is Bonnie Oetman. **Trustee Seeger moved; Oetman seconded to reinstate the present officers for the following year. Motion voted and carried.**

1. *Automatic Aid Agreement.* Chief Koos discussed the recently signed Automatic Aid Agreements with Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority, DeWitt Area Emergency Services and Bath Township. The boundaries for coverage with each department was detailed by Chief Koos. This Agreement will assist all agencies with additional manpower and apparatus on structure fires. The first apparatus on scene assumes command of the scene until the governing agency arrives on scene at which time command is turned over to the governing agency. The Agreement is to be in place around the first of February as Central Dispatch has computer functionality to update.
2. *2010 Fire and Police Millage.* Trustee Seeger stated that the Township Board does not have money to spend to promote the millage renewal. The PSC is asked to help out with the renewal campaign. The millage will be on the August 2009 ballot and is a renewal for police and fire for 4yrs. A discussion followed on the economic downturn and its affect on the budget. A discussion was held about the idea of senior volunteers and citizens police programs, and the viability of these types of programs. A Senior Emergency Response Team (SERT) has been formed by Cadgewith Farms residents for disaster emergency response within their community.

Chief Russell gave the committee an update on the recovery of Officer Darnell, and the PD Canine program and the use of these police dogs in the County.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Seeger added that the Township is in “very good” shape fiscally but we remain “cautious”. Discussed the development of the south end of the Township. With the economic downturn projects are slowed. Auto Owners is still giving indications that they will build in the Township at some point. Discussed the Board’s hiring of a consultant to look at the viability of Fire Station 1 on Wieland Rd.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS and OTHERS COMMENTS

Mr. Vasovic asked that the PSC meet more than once a year. A discussion was held about the necessity of additional meeting times throughout the year.

Vasovic moved; Oetman seconded that PSC meet twice a year. Motion voted and carried.

Chief Koos brought about the issue of the burning of leaves in the Township and whether the PSC would like to research the issue. No commitment was made at this time.

Hendrickson moved; Oetman seconded the adjournment of the meeting. Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Oetman,
Secretary

Lori Fox,
Fire Department Secretary