

**DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**January 22, 2007**

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Treasurer Phyllis Daggy

Also Present: Interim Manager/Planning Director Jeffrey Gray, Fire Chief Frederick Koos, Police Chief Brian Russell, State Representative Paul Opsommer, County Commissioners Robert Showers and Eileen Heideman, and several citizens.

AGENDA	<b>Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Motion voted and carried.</b>
MINUTES	<b>Seeger moved, Calder seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2007 Regular meeting and Executive Session. Motion voted and carried.</b>
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
PRESENTATIONS Clinton County Veterans Memorial Association	Dennis Scott, representing the Clinton County Veterans Memorial Association, provided an overview of the efforts for fundraising and in constructing the Clinton County Veterans Memorial in St. Johns. He explained that approximately \$210,000 has been raised toward the needed \$250,000 to pay for the memorial. Pictures were viewed. An explanation from the Michigan Townships Association regarding allowed contributions to this type of memorial was discussed. A chart revealed that 511 Clinton County Veterans are honored on the memorial, 37 from DeWitt. It was also noted that Veterans organizations will be caring for and maintaining the memorial.  Supervisor Galardi thanked Dennis Scott and the Veterans who worked so hard to complete this successful memorial to honor Clinton County Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.  <b>Mosier moved, Musselman seconded, to approve a \$2,500 Platinum Level contribution to the Clinton County Veterans Memorial located in St. Johns. Motion voted and carried.</b>
Clinton Conservation District Annual Update	Kristine Foight, Executive Director of the Clinton County Conservation District provided an overview of their past year's projects and programs. She also provided information on their upcoming Spring Tree Sale Fundraiser in April.
State Representative Paul Opsommer	State Representative Paul Opsommer reported that he will be attending the MTA dinner in Detroit this week. He explained that there is a small

movement to do away with the Township form of government, and he is on record as opposing any such effort.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included the following: letter from City of Lansing Board of Ethics regarding Brian Ross; Legislative Update from Senator Carl Levin; Consumers Energy Winter Newsletter; information about the Priess wreath donation; December statistics from the Clinton County Sheriff; and the Office Recycling report from Granger.

#### REPORTS & COMMENTS

Commissioner Showers reported the following: the Commissioners have moved their monthly Commission meeting for the first six months of the year to 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday; they are making progress on their plans for a new park at DeWitt Road and near Colony Road (Searles property) and with the help of a grant, walking trails, fishing, picnicking are planned for the park; he was elected Vice Chair and Martin has been re-elected as Chair; the Commissioners have made a decision to make an annual contribution of \$50,000 for three years to help establish an economic development effort within Clinton County.

Commissioner Showers noted that, according to the Economic Development Task Force study, an additional \$120,000 will need to be raised annually for three years.

Clerk Mosier reported the following: coordinating committee meetings for Consolidated Election Commissions are underway with DeWitt Schools, Bath Schools, East Lansing Schools, and RESA choosing the odd year annual election date for May, and Lansing Schools, Ingham Intermediate and LCC choosing odd year annual November elections; Sandy with Hiring Solutions has advised that five additional applications have been received for the Manager position, bringing the total candidates to 48, with 15 currently being assessed; she reminded the Board of the February 15<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting to interview candidates for the Manager position; she reported participating on a panel in Bingham Township with Charter vs General Law as the topic; the Library Board has completed the Needs Assessment Study with Bretton Group, and has now entered into a contract for Feasibility Study with David Milling & Associates/Architects, a phase which will focus on public input from the community; a local land owner has proposed a donation of property to the Library conditioned on its use to locate a new library facility; she received an invitation letter from the DeWitt School District regarding their plan to place a sinking fund millage question on the May ballot; she received an invitation from the Clinton County Economic Development Task Force for their organizational meeting, however, she does not feel she is the best person to be involved in this effort.

Supervisor Galardi indicated that Interim Director Gray will be having a meeting with Dave Ivan, MSU Extension, and leader in the Economic Development Task Force effort, to share information about what is currently being done within the Township and how we can coordinate our efforts with the County effort. He briefly reviewed what the Township is formulating.

Clerk Mosier stated that she would like to coordinate an effort where the Township, the City, and the Library can request that cash donations resulting from the new Meijer Grand Opening could be directed to the DeWitt Public Library. She noted that at this time their budget is uncertain, however, she would like to see the requests submitted in the event that contributions are made.

Trustee Musselman stated that he is concerned that the Board would request contributions be made to Library, since that could be seen as favoring the Library over other organizations who would like to receive contributions.

Trustee Seeger reported on the most recent meeting of the Clinton County Township Officers Association, noting that high speed broad band services were discussed. He pointed out that the Township may host an upcoming meeting.

Trustee Musselman and Supervisor Galardi provided an update on the efforts to work with the Airport and the City of Lansing to promote development at the Airport.

Interim Manager Gray reported the following: Clinton County Road Commission has scheduled our annual meeting for Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and Board members are welcome to attend; he and Chief Russell recently attended "Safe Routes to School" presentation, a Federal Grant Program run within Michigan by the Michigan Department of Transportation that brings dollars to projects that would make safe routes to school safer, 70% of the funds are dedicated to infrastructure improvements; another meeting has been held with Auto Owners and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation exploring State programs that may be available to offset some of the infrastructure costs associated with the Auto Owners project.

COMMITTEES &  
COMMISSIONS  
Board of Appeals

**Seeger moved, Calder seconded, to receive and place on file the minutes of the Board of Appeals meeting of January 17, 2007. Motion voted and carried.**

VOUCHERS

**Calder moved, Seeger seconded, to approve General Fund Operating Vouchers 51307 – 51370 and Tax Fund Vouchers 6614 – 6634. Motion voted and carried.**

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS  
Resolution 010107  
Old US27 Historic  
Designation

**Calder moved, Seeger seconded, to approve Resolution 010107 supporting historic designation of Old US-27 in the Township.**

Interim Manager Gray introduced Craig Parrish, who has initiated this project to obtain a historic road designation for Old US-27 from Florida to Michigan, by obtaining a federal Scenic Byway designation for the corridor.

Craig Parrish explained that he has hopes that this designation would create a similar effect that the Route 66 has experienced with additional tourism, recreation and economic development along the corridor. He explained that he has completed gathering support in five states and is almost done with Michigan, and he has traveled 31,000 miles in the past twelve months working on this effort. He stated that to date he has unanimous support from communities.

Parrish noted that he organizes Crusin' the Gut tours and a Motor Tour has been scheduled for Michigan on August 21 – 26, with travel through Lansing/DeWitt scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Roll call vote on Resolution 010107.**

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

Employment  
Agreements/Assessor

Gray stated that the contracts being considered this evening are a newly drafted format provided by the Township's labor attorney. He pointed out that a newly drafted job description for the Assessor's position was also provided.

**Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the employment agreement with Laura L. Tafelsky and authorize the Township supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

Planning Director

Supervisor Galardi stated that he began negotiations with Planning Director Gray. Clerk Mosier has since provided comparables determined from MTA and MML salary statistics. He stated that the proposed adjustment to the first year of the contract brings Gray in line with comparable positions, both locally and state wide, but remains below the average. He also noted that the third year on both contracts recognizes the possibility that the Township may be facing financial challenges based on state projections for reduced revenue sharing and slowed growth.

**Ross moved, Calder seconded, to approve the employment agreement with Jeffrey M. Gray and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

COMMENTS

Fire Chief Koos stated that an announcement was made today that Gunnisonville School will close after this school year.

Chief Koos initiated conversation regarding emergency communication and the need for antenna to improve the radio communication.

Trustee Seeger reported that the Friends of the Looking Glass will meet on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Bengal Wildlife Center.

It was discussed that Board members will attempt to alternate attending the Clinton County Commissioners meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

**Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor