

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 13, 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, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, Trustees: Max Calder, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross, and David Seeger.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Assessor Laura Tafelsky, Dawn Pysarchik, representatives from Granger, and several citizens.

AGENDA **Mosier moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the Agenda, adding Salary Compensation Commission Appointments under New Business. Motion voted and carried.**

MINUTES None.

PRESENTATION
Dawn Pysarchik/Japanese Garden
Trustee Musselman introduced Dawn Pysarchik, Associate Dean for International Studies from Michigan State University, and member of the committee proposing and planning the Japanese Garden in DeWitt.

Ms. Pysarchik provided a power point presentation on the proposed Japanese Garden project, a project previously receiving support from both the Township and the City of DeWitt. She also provided information regarding in-kind and cash financial support for the project. She requested that the Township assist this effort by increasing awareness of the project and helping to identify companies and organizations that can assist with community outreach and cash support. She noted that the silent fundraising portion of the project continues until approximately one half of the monies are raised, and then proceeds to the public funding raising.

Supervisor Galardi stated that from an economic development standpoint, there is no question that this project can benefit the region. He thanked Dawn Pysarchik for her involvement and the presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING
Granger Electric
Company Request for
IFT District
Supervisor Galardi called to order a Public Hearing to hear comments relative to the Granger Electric Company request to establish an Industrial Facilities District.

Clerk Mosier noted that the appropriate taxing entities have been notified and the appropriate notices published. Manager Taylor noted that he received notice of support for the Granger request from Clinton County.

There was no public comment.

Musselman moved, Daggy seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

Mosier moved, Ross seconded, to concur with the Tax Abatement Review Committee recommendation to approve the establishment of an Industrial Facilities District for Granger Electric Company. Motion voted and carried.

Tonia Olson, Granger Corporation, introduced Jim Grant, Construction Project Manager for this project and all Granger developing projects.

Jim Grant stated that both the Granger operation and the entire area are uniquely positioned to springboard into something that offers an international marketplace. He provided an overview of this unique and environmentally conscious project to utilize renewable energy from the landfill. He pointed out that this is actually an expansion to the existing electric generation plant, driven by market pressures for green energy at a time when we already have an example of a renewable energy source right here in our back yard. He provided an overview of the construction project and their proposed timetable.

Discussion determined the following: the Board of Water and Light will be the purchaser of energy generated by this plant expansion; the existing energy plant will continue to provide energy to Consumers Energy; the future may present possibilities for partnering; the timing now appears right to pursue legislation that will allow yard waste to return to landfills, accelerating the natural process which now can become green energy.

IFT Tax Abatement
Policy Revisions

Supervisor Galardi explained the process the Tax Abatement Review Committee exercised which now brings forward additional amendments proposed to the Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement Policy for Item #6 and Item #7.

Trustee Calder explained his rationale for recommending the proposed changes, stating that he believes that additional consideration should be given in areas where our environment will be protected for the future.

Supervisor Galardi stated that this policy is relatively new and will continue to evolve into a valuable tool that will assist in evaluating future abatement requests.

Clerk Mosier asked if the committee considered adding a category for the "green factor," since it could be possible to have a high rating for technology separate from the environmental issues. Supervisor Galardi stated that the committee will address this issue at a subsequent meeting. Committee member Spinrad asked that the policy remain flexible, offering the committee options when considering an application.

The committee's recommendation, dated October 30, 2007, was reviewed and discussed.

Mosier moved, Calder seconded, to concur with the Tax Abatement Review Committee's recommendation to adopt the proposed revisions to Appendix A (Evaluation Scale) of the Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement Policy. Motion voted and carried.

Clerk Mosier passed along to the Granger representatives the many positive comments that were received from residents about the Granger Park at the recent South Central Area Plan visioning session. Supervisor Galardi stated that he heard these comments both about the park and the annual event in Granger Meadows Park.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included the following: programming updates and rate changes from Comcast; a letter from Robert Schaffer (resident) regarding police services; Burning Issues Fire Department Newsletter; information from MTA regarding House Bill 4780; Standard & Poor's information regarding our Bond rating; October Activity Report.

Clerk Mosier stated that both she and Police Chief Russell have attempted to identify the resident "Robert Schaffer." She indicated that without identification, it is impossible to respond to the correspondence. Chief Russell indicated that the City of DeWitt also received a copy of the letter.

Supervisor Galardi suggested that he is always willing to explore options that would benefit the community. He stated that he will contact the Mayor to determine if there is any interest in again opening up the topic of combined police services. He also requested that the Manager contact the County Sheriff to get some very preliminary numbers relative to contract service options.

Manager Taylor clarified that the A+ Standard and Poor's bond rating is a good rating shared by most neighboring communities, however, it is not the highest rating. He noted that the Township may not be able to improve on this rating, short of the community having its "own economy" which is not currently the case.

REPORTS & COMMENTS

Supervisor Galardi stated that discussions continue with the City of Lansing, Airport representatives, Emergent representatives, local military affairs staff, and parties interested in homeland security, relative to areas in close proximity to the Airport, Sheridan Road, and even expanding now as far east as Turner Road. He will keep the Board informed about these discussions.

Clerk Mosier provided information regarding the January 15th Presidential Primary discussions, noting that Clerks continue to wait on court decisions. She noted that if absentee ballots are to be available by December 1st a decision must be made immediately.

Treasurer Daggy reported that all of the millage rates are in for winter tax levy, her records balance with the Assessor and the County Treasurer. She noted that although the deadline to mail the bills is December 31st, they will be mailed on December 1st.

Trustee Seeger reported on the November 7th Clinton County Township Officer's Association meeting. The road rating system was discussed and he provided the Board with the rating chart the Road Commission has developed to date, noting that this project is ongoing. It was noted that when sufficient progress is made, the Road Commission will make a presentation to the Board.

Trustee Ross reported that he chairs the Clinton County DPW, and he is happy to report that the 30 year SCCMUA Bond has been paid off.

Trustee Ross reported that he has submitted his resignation to the City of Lansing effective the first of the new year. He noted that he will remain within the community operating his own business.

Manager Taylor reported the following: the trees have been planted at Granger Meadows Park, Gunnisonville Cemetery, Hurd Cemetery, and Valley Farms Park; Heritage Glenn Sidewalks are being installed; the Community Center remodel is scheduled to begin November 19th and end in mid December; he attended the local Kiwanis meeting giving a report on local projects within the community; the inline roller rink vandalized with spray painted; the Schavey Road shopping center owner has agreed to pay connection charges which have been the subject of recent discussion; the Township Hall has historically experienced some drainage issues, and is working with maintenance staff to address these issues; he continues to work with the Township's insurance carrier to address roofing damage at the Township Hall and Fire Station; the maintenance department has voted to form a union, and the issue regarding the Supervisor's ability to be a union member is yet to be resolved; department heads have participated in discussion regarding the possibility of keeping all departments open during the lunch hour, and offices that are now closed will remain open from 8 am until 5 pm beginning January 1st; a citizen has communicated his desire to open up Township Parks to leashed pets, and he will likely be addressing the Board in the near future; the County Administrator will be reducing inspector staff and an arrangement has been proposed to provide "back up" if a need arises, he will be returning with a proposed contract; and provided a workshop notice available to Board members regarding Healthy & Sustainable Communities.

COMMITTEE &
COMMISSIONS
Board of Appeals

Trustee Seeger reviewed the minutes of the Board of Appeals meeting of October 17, 2007.

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

VOUCHERS

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 52759 – 52900, and Tax Fund Vouchers 6773 – 6779. Motion voted and carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Grievance Committee

Treasurer Daggy reviewed the minutes of the Grievance Committee.

Musselman moved, Calder seconded, to concur with the Grievance Committee recommendation to deny the non-supervisory grievance on seniority, based on the fact that the committee feels there was no violation to the Non-Supervisory Contract. Motion voted and carried.

Bath/DeWitt
Intergovernmental
Agreement

Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated November 9, 2007, regarding the proposed DeWitt/Bath Intergovernmental Sewer Agreement and explained the details of the same. The agreement was discussed. The Board thanked Manager Taylor for his concentrated effort to reach an agreement with Bath Township.

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the agreement between Bath Charter Township and DeWitt Charter Township for joint sanitary sewer, and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.

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Supervisor Galardi explained that it appears the Fire Apparatus Master Plan may need to be updated.

Fire Apparatus
Committee

Calder moved, Daggy seconded, to concur with the Supervisor's recommendation to appoint John Lance, Ron Beaton, Diane Mosier, Rod Taylor, Fred Koos, David Seeger, and Dave Fedewa, to the Fire Apparatus Committee. Motion voted and carried.

Resolution 071154
Schedule of Fees

Manager Taylor presented the revised Schedule of Fees, made changes to the Cemetery Fees within the schedule, and pointed out the sewer usage fee increases which were discussed during the budget process.

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adopt Resolution 071154, adopting the new Schedule of Fees.

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

Salary Compensation
Commission
Appointments

Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to concur with the Supervisor's recommendation to appoint Bill Bupp and Scott Hummel to the Salary Compensation Commission to fill the two existing vacancies on the Commission. Motion voted and carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC &
BOARD COMMENTS

Fire Chief Koos reported that the MSU Capital Regional Area Fire Study will meet tomorrow to finalize their report. He also reported the he and Chief Russell have been working with Cadgewith Farms, where some interest has been expressed in starting an Emergency Response Team.

Treasurer Daggy confirmed that Manager Taylor will respond to Officer Steve Smith regarding the Grievance Committee action.

Supervisor Galardi reported that at a recent meeting with Lansing Township, they have asked if there is any future in having discussion with DeWitt Township about our potential to help with their sewer issues. He noted that they will investigate this issue with the Township engineer.

Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor