

**DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**January 25, 2010**

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 Mosier, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, Trustees Brian Ross, Max Calder, and David Seeger.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Musselman

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Community Development Director (CDD) Richard Trent, Planning Consultant Jim Foulds, Deputy Clerk Judy Martiny, County Commissioner Eileen Heideman, Clinton County Road Commission Director Joe Pulver, DeWitt City Manager Chris Olson and Michael Trebesh.

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

MINUTES                 **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

PRESENTATION         Clinton County Road Commission Director Joe Pulver stated that his purpose for being at tonight's meeting was to provide the Board with the current financial status of the County Road Commission and to answer any questions that the Board might have. He advised the Board that a bill is being introduced by Representative Ball and Representative Burns from Ann Arbor to raise the gas tax to address revenue for roads. He encouraged the Board to call our State and Federal Legislators in support of road funding. The Road Commission budgets \$750,000 a year for winter road maintenance and they are currently at 40%. The major concern is going to be when the primary roads need resurfacing and the costs have continued to skyrocket. He concluded by advising the Board that the Road Commission is looking into putting together a proposal to take to the County Commissioners suggesting an additional mill for roads to be placed on an upcoming ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT       Michael Trebesh, Candidate for the 33<sup>rd</sup> District State Senate seat, stated that his campaign is going very well and he is encouraged by all the support that he is receiving.

Chris Olson, City of DeWitt Manager, stated that he came to hear Mr. Pulver's presentation and encouraged the Township's support of Mr. Pulver and the Road Commission's efforts to maintain the County roads. He also updated the Board on the current status of the City of DeWitt.

Supervisor Galardi suggested that the Township and the City of DeWitt have a joint meeting at least twice a year to help keep open communication between the two jurisdictions.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
REPORT

County Commissioner Heideman provided an update on County business.

Trustee Ross reminded the Board of the Clinton County Department of Public Works meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The Bingham Township Supervisor will be present at that meeting to answer any questions regarding sewer bonds for the Bingham Township system.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: December Activity Report; DeWitt Public Library 2010 Meeting Dates and 1/14/10 Draft Minutes; CASE Cares 1/13/10 Meeting Report and 12/31/09 Financial Report; Letter from Comcast regarding Programming Update.

COMM & COMM  
REPORTS  
Planning Commission

Trustee Calder reviewed the minutes of the January 4, 2010 Planning Commission meeting.

**Calder moved, Ross seconded, to receive and place on file the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of January 4, 2010. Motion voted and carried.**

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS  
Ord. Amendment  
225.6 Sidewalk Ord.  
First Reading

Planning Consultant Jim Foulds reviewed his memorandum, dated January 20, 2010, relative to deferring sidewalk construction up to a maximum time period of three (3) years for commercial and industrial zoned property conditioned on the filing of a restrictive covenant with the Clinton County Register of Deeds affirming the sidewalk construction.

Lengthy discussion followed. It was noted that there are issues with sidewalks in the southern tier of the Township and clarification of the current "Definitions" within Ordinance 225.5 has been needed for some time. The option for a variance to defer sidewalk construction for a specific period of time, and what appears to be an omission of the previous provision for the Township's ability to assess for sidewalks at a later date, was also discussed.

**Ross moved, Calder seconded, to table New Business, Item I, Ordinance Amendment 225.6, Sidewalk Ordinance, to allow the Planning Consultant time to look further into providing some flexibility in the 3 year time frame for deferment and to seek an opinion from the Township Attorney relative to the previous provision for the Township's ability to assess for sidewalks at a later date. Motion voted and carried.**

Ord. Amendment  
60.73 Sign Regulations

Planning Consultant Jim Foulds reviewed his memorandum, dated January 20, 2010, relative to amending the Sign Ordinance, Section 11.3.1 Item 4) On-Premise – Institutional uses to allow commercial advertising to be displayed on fences and wall surfaces at public parks, public ball fields, and public/private educational institutions based on certain dimensional requirements.

Manager Taylor stated that this item was initially brought up by D.A.R.A. and was later decided that this would be a revenue utilized by the Township to maintain the ball fields and help to offset the cost of the same; the Policy for this use is yet to be established, however, it would address what is allowed, how the revenue from this use would be used.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of allowing off premise signage on fencing in our Township parks; how the Planning Commission sub-committee happened to acquire this issue; who has jurisdiction over signage within the perimeter of the various schools; who will be developing and enforcing the policy regulating what size, color, font, content of signage allowed and the establishment of fees for this type of use; the possible depreciation of our parks and the unforeseen repercussions allowing this type of signage could have on the Township.

**Ross moved, Calder seconded, to postpone action and refer Ordinance Amendment 60.73 back to the Planning Commission for further study of allowable signage within the Township for off premise advertising. Motion voted and carried.**

Judy Martiny, acting as recording secretary, asked to speak under public comment regarding this motion.

She was granted permission.

Judy Martiny, 1780 Sunnymede Lane, DeWitt Township resident, stated that she and her children have been involved in the different sports programs at Valley Farms Park for over 33 years and there has never been the desire and/or need for signage around the ball diamonds. She realizes that times have changed and some areas of the Township may be losing some of its rural atmosphere. If signage around the ball fields is going to be allowed she would ask that the Township Board, when establishing the policy for signage, consider wholeheartedly disallowing any signage reflecting the advertisement of alcohol and its consumption. She feels that the ball fields, for the most part, are used by children and allowing alcohol related signage could encourage its consumption. She concluded by stating that she is opposed to allowing any signage being placed on the fencing around the ball field, or inline rink, at Granger Meadows Park as she feels it will be taking away from Granger's original intent for a rural atmosphere for that park.

Comprehensive  
Development Plan  
Review/Update  
Procedures

Planning Consultant Foulds reviewed his memorandum, dated January 21, 2010, and advised the Board that The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008) requires that governmental jurisdictions that have adopted a Master Plan (Comprehensive Plan) to review that document every five (5) years to determine if changes need to be made. The most recent Master Plan was adopted in 2005 and the Planning Commission will be reviewing that document during 2010; a timeline for that review will be submitted to the Board of Trustees. Foulds encouraged the Board members input during the review process of the current Master Plan and requested that they provide any concerns and/or

recommendations to the Planning Commission.

Books & More  
Event Agreement

Manager Taylor reviewed his memorandum, dated January 22, 2010, and advised the Board that Clinton County Waste Management would like to utilize the Township Hall parking lot on March 25, 2010 as a drop off point, to recycle books, magazines and other reusable household items. This event has been held at the Township Hall location for a number of years and two (2) years ago a formal agreement was established to ensure the relationship is defined and that the Township has no liability for the event. The proposed Agreement was provided to the Board.

**Seeger moved, Calder seconded, that the Township Board authorize the Township Clerk to sign the agreement, as presented, for Clinton County to use the Township Hall parking lot for their Books and More Event. Motion voted and carried.**

Strategic Plan

Manager Taylor, provided an update of the Strategic Plan, and reviewed the report he submitted, pointing out that he would like input from the Board on any of the objectives reported that are no longer warranting staff's efforts and should be considered for removal, or if there were any additional efforts that need to be incorporated into the Plan.

Discussion followed. No action taken.

VOUCHERS

**Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 56575 thru 56619. Motion voted and carried.**

REPORTS

Chief Russell stated that today marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gary Priess' passing in the line of duty.

Supervisor Galardi called for a moment of silence in memory of Officer Priess.

CDD Trent stated that he attended the special meeting held by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and at that meeting they officially adopted the Regional 2035 Transportation Plan, which is available electronically or hardcopy. He also advised that Jon Coleman was awarded the Grant for the upcoming Imagery Program, which will allow jurisdictions to get a topographic model which is beneficial for adding layers for GIS use.

Manager Taylor stated that he just completed the individual department head 2009 - 2010 reviews, along with staff performance appraisals; foreclosures for 2009 were at 36 as compared to 43 in 2008, which is about a 16% reduction and we are hoping that this is showing some stabilization in a negative impact on the State Equalized Value; the Granger Meadows Celebration Committee met today for the first time this year and they talked about a number of options for increasing revenue and/or reducing the expenses for that event; CASE Cares is having a fund raising event on Superbowl Sunday and they have identified some other

fundraising options; the DNR has released two grants which he will be applying for, one of which is applying for funding which we could utilize for the construction of bathrooms and concessions at Valley Farms Park in conjunction with the CASE Cares ballfield; the second project would be for the Waters Edge Park which is located at Round Lake and Wood Roads and would be for the construction of a fishing pier, canoe launch and possibly involve the installation of a parking lot, a green restroom and three or four other options; he asked the Board if they had any direction they would like to give on which project they would like to zero in on.

Trustee Ross stated that it is a well known fact that the restrooms at Valley Farms Park are in dire need of repair and he would vote to have Manager Taylor proceed with applying for a grant for that project.

It was the consensus of the Board that Manager Taylor proceed with applying for the grant for the Valley Farms Park restroom and concession project.

Trustee Ross commended Manager Taylor and staff on their contribution in getting a lot of items on the Strategic Plan accomplished in 2009.

Treasurer Daggy stated that even though it is very early in the new year there has been a lot of interest and reservations being made to reserve the pavilions at both Granger Meadows and Valley Farms Park; the Treasurer's Office is making some big headway in collecting the delinquent personal property taxes.

Clerk Mosier stated that she is glad to be back, even though it is only part-time for a while; she has been working on various strategies towards getting the Police and Fire Milleage renewal passed this year; she commended her staff Judy and Laurie, Manager Taylor and Julie for what a great job they have done in her absence.

Trustee Seeger advised that the Public Safety Committee met last week and the committee is onboard with getting the Police and Fire milleage renewed.

Supervisor Galardi stated that he feels the Economic Development Committee is too small and needs more versatile array of representatives and he will be bringing an announcement of some changes to the committee in the near future; he stated that the accomplishments shown in the Strategic Plan submitted by the Township Manager at tonight's meeting is proof of Manager Taylor's accomplishments and abilities in his leadership role as Township Manager.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Calder seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Martiny, Deputy Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor