

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 9, 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, Brian Ross, David Seeger.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Steve Musselman

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Fire Chief Frederick Koos, and several citizens.

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

MINUTES **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting, and the March 26, 2007 Regular meeting and Executive Session, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: March Activity Report; March statistics from the Clinton County Sheriff; meeting notice for the Clinton County Health Summit to be held 5/7/07; letter from Detective/Sergeant Speary of the Michigan State Police regarding excellent response from our Police Department and Chief Russell; Fire Department Burning Issues Newsletter; Comcast information regarding programming; revenue sharing information from Michigan Township Association; 2007 Board of Review information from Assessor Tafelsky; 2006 Fire Department Annual Report; and a letter from Thomas Lippincott regarding Granger Meadows Park.

Several Board members commented positively on the Fire Department Annual Report.

REPORTS & COMMENTS Supervisor Galardi provided some history on the Township's acquisition of the MDOT property along the Looking Glass River near Wood Road. He explained that, with the freeway access at Wood and Round Lake Road, he does not believe anyone anticipated the change in traffic patterns and the impact it would have on the entire rural area. He stated that in an effort to offset this impact and not contribute to the further commercialization of the area, the Township purchased the riverfront property, with help from a grant, and would like to define passive uses beneficial to Township residents. He reported that he has met with the Friends of the Looking Glass, and he continues dialog with residents of the Township, to discuss possibilities for the future of the property. He stated that he is committed to maintaining the environment of the area while still creating a passive use for residents.

It was discussed that this issue would fit in with the update of the Parks

Master Plan. Manager Taylor will follow up to determine when that update will be done. Trustee Seeger suggested that Riley Township might have some involvement of interest in this park. It was also suggested that the Road Commission should know that we might be interested in using millings from primary roads in the area for an impervious parking surface.

Clerk Mosier reported contact from Larry King, President of the Residents Association of Cadgewith Farms, regarding their need for an emergency warning siren. It was determined that Fire Chief Koos and Police Chief Russell will be working with Mr. King to develop an emergency plan for Cadgewith Farms and they will report back at a later date. Discussion included the following: the negotiated settlement with King Arthur's Court which would require a future siren installation; current use of television and radio for storm alerts; the possibility of a local ordinance to require the installation of emergency sirens by developers; how and when the sirens are activated.

Manager Taylor indicated that Mr. King has also recently inquired about the installation of sidewalks along State Road into the Granger Meadows Park entrance. He noted that he and Planning Director Gray have agreed to develop a process yet this year for creating a sidewalk plan in 2008.

Trustee Calder stated that he agrees there should be a comprehensive plan for future sidewalk installation within the Township. He pointed out that the Board has previously discussed the need for sidewalks along the business corridor in the southern tier of the Township, and he believes this need continues to exist and should be addressed.

Trustee Ross initiated a conversation regarding cuts for funding of grants. It was determined that the only Township grant project in process is a Federal grant for the Mobile Fire Training Unit, which will not be affected by State cuts.

Manager Taylor reported the following: Valley Farms Park restrooms were budgeted (\$75,000) for upgrade in 2006 with an assumption that the existing structure could be used and improved, that project did not happen, and the latest evaluation estimates the project to cost \$235,000, largely due to the decision that the existing structure cannot be used; since a large number of 2006 and 2007 projects are not yet underway, he will be bringing forth a summary to re-evaluate projects and their estimated costs, which will open discussion with the Board to establish new priorities for those projects prior establishing the 2008 budget; he is currently investigating planned improvements at the Community Center kitchen, storage, maintenance, and Library, with only the Library portion currently moving forward; the closing was completed for sale of the DeWitt Road parcel to the Airport; the Meadows Celebration Budget is defined and projected slightly under what was included within the Township's 2007 Budget; the fire protection system has been repaired, with the project quoted at \$18,000, actual cost for repair was \$4,939; the Mobile Fire Training Unit contract has been enhanced and executed, with the vendor agreeing to all the changes made by the Township and delivery scheduled for August 7th; Meijers is scheduled to open April 17th; Clark Corners/Eyde have provided the water bills as required by a Sewer Board of

Appeals decision approximately 1 year ago, and the calculations substantiate the lower REU classification as agreed upon; a staff meeting has been scheduled for Friday to talk about health care and a proposed new technologies policy; Springbrook Hills and Howe Road road projects are on schedule with letters going to the residents soon; Clark Road from Meyers to BR27, Clark and Airport intersection upgrades and signal installation, Chandler from Coleman to State Road, Chandler from Lake Lansing to Coleman are Federal aid projects scheduled for this year; he has discussed evaluation of the Township roads with the Road Commission, and a long term road maintenance plan is being formulated; he met with citizen Matt Williams, who is requesting that his local soccer association be involved in soccer field upgrades, and discussions will continue; and he met with Kevin Coveart, Willow Creek Farms Homeowners Association, regarding their streetlight issue, which will now be discussed by their association.

VOUCHERS

Calder moved, Seeger seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 51655 – 51713. Motion voted and carried.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adopt, as recommended by the Planning Commission, Ordinance Amendment 60.70, addressing financial guarantees, on First Reading.

Ord Amd 60.70
Second Reading

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

NEW BUSINESS
Resolution 070406
Hayes/Scheffler
Drainage Issue

The Board reviewed the staff report from Manager Taylor, dated April 2, 2007, which outlined the Drain Commissioner's proposed solution to the Hayes/Scheffler drainage issue. The Drain Commissioner's proposal, dated April 4, 2007, would not assess any residents for the improvements, and would require a petition requesting the drain improvements from the Township Board. It was noted that the Hayes and Schefflers have also received the information being considered by the Board this evening.

Rod and Vicky Hayes were present and expressed their gratitude that a resolution seems to have been formulated to resolve a long standing problem affecting two property owners. They thanked the Board.

Clerk Mosier stated that she believes the Drain Commissioner has struggled to find a resolution here, and she thanked him for his willingness to step up to the plate and take the lead in resolving this issue.

Mosier moved, Ross seconded, to approve Resolution 070406 petitioning the Drain Commissioner to resolve the Hayes/Scheffler drainage issue.

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

Employment/Fire
Department

Calder moved, Daggy seconded, to hire Brian Delano as an at-will Paid-On-Call Fire Fighter pending completion of a physical exam. Motion voted and carried.

Budget Adjustment

Manager Taylor explained that this budget adjustment will cover the oversizing of the sanitary sewer installed by Meijer, Inc., as agreed to and requested by the Township in the Utility Agreement previously executed.

Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 2007 Township budget, \$18,146 to 590-537-977-000 (Sewer Capital Expenditures) from 590-000-390-000 (Sewer Fund Balance). Motion voted and carried.

Water Tower Inspection

Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to table the Water Tower Inspection issue until the next meeting. Motion voted and carried.

Resolution 070405
Election Receiving Bd

Ross moved, Calder seconded, to adopt Resolution 070405 re-establishing an Election Receiving Board for DeWitt Charter Township.

AYES: Mosier, Daggy, Calder, Ross, Seeger, Galardi

NAYS: None

Purchasing Policy
Discussion

Manager Taylor initiated discussion regarding work he has initiated to update the Township's Purchasing Policy.

He indicated that the new purchasing policy should be complete by the end of the summer. He also noted that it is his opinion that the Board should approve all Township policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Loretta Spinrad, 14271 DeWitt Road, provided an update on progress of the Clinton County Economic Development initiative.

Fred Koos, 14271 DeWitt Road, spoke as a resident and questioned whether there will be a designated construction route for work at the Auto Owners site. An update on an approximate timetable for work to begin on the site was provided by Supervisor Galardi, who noted that when information is received, he is committed to keeping the community informed.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Calder reported attending the County Commission meeting.

Trustee Ross congratulated SCCMA on their recent award as the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year by the Michigan Rural Water Association.

Board members signed a letter to be sent congratulating the Bath Bees Basketball Team on their State Championship.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeger moved, Calder seconded, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor