

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
1401 W. Herbison Road  
DeWitt, MI 48820  
January 14, 2013 Board Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board was called to order by Superv at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Diane Mosier, and Trustees Johanna Balzer, Brian Ross and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Treasurer Phyllis Daggy and Trustee Steve Musselman

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Fire Chief Fred Koos, County Commissioners Robert Showers, Jack Enderle, Eileen Heideman, and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included General Operating Fund Vouchers 60963-61082 and Tax Fund Vouchers 7658-7721; Township Board Minutes of 12/10/12, 12/10/12 Executive Session, and 12/13/12 Joint Meeting minutes; Zoning Board of Appeals 12/19/12 draft minutes. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC  
COMMENT

None.

COUNTY  
COMM. REPORT

County Commissioners Enderle and Showers spoke about the following County business:  
1)Larry Martin has retired after many years of service as a County Commissioner; the County is considering a partnership with the Humane Society, due to the fact that Mr. Swanchara is retiring and not longer wants his facility used for animal control; the County's web site continues to evolve and its use continues to increase.

Supervisor Galardi initiated a brief discussion regarding Clinton County Economic Development and a grassroots effort to increase membership, both with individuals and business owners.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: a letter from Katherine & Paul Palmiter regarding the Police Department; Activity Report; an update on the Better Buildings program; Burning Issues Fire Department Newsletter; Comcast Programming Update; 2013 Township Committee and Commission listings.

Supervisor Galardi noted that Katherine & Paul Palmiter are in the building discussing their issues outlined in their letter.

Clerk Mosier requested that any corrections that need to be made to the Committee and Commission Listing should be given to her as soon as possible. A corrected list will be distributed in February.

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

**Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to approve, on Second Reading, the Access Management Ordinance, as approved and recommended by the Planning Commission at their November 5, 2012 meeting.**

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

NEW BUSINESS  
Treasures to Grow On

Clerk Mosier explained that this request is from Treasures to Grow On, a non-profit preschool within the Township. Her memo, dated January 11, 2013, outlined the request for local approval recognizing organization's non-profit status, which is required to be submitted to the State Charitable Gaming Commission/Michigan Lottery, so that the organization may conduct certain fundraising events, such as a raffle.

Supervisor Galardi left the room.

Mary Lou Smith was present representing Treasures to Grow On.

**Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to adopt Resolution R2013-01-01, recognizing Treasures to Grow on as a non-profit organization operating within the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, and requesting approval for the same.**

**AYES: Seeger, Mosier, Ross, Balzer**  
**NAYS: None Motion carried.**

PMC & VB  
Appointments

Manager Taylor explained that the Property Maintenance Code & Violations Bureau (PMC & VB) has been on the back burner since the sub-committee's recommendation. His memo, dated January 11, 2013, requested that the Board appoint a Board sub-committee, consisting of Treasurer Daggy, and Trustees Balzer and Ross, to do the following: 1)Review the Code as modified by the ad-hoc committee 2)Make any additional recommendations for changes or enhancement to the Code to meet the needs of our community 3)Make recommendations to the full Board on if, or how, to more forward with the implementation.

Supervisor Galardi returned to the meeting.

**Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to appoint Treasurer Daggy, and Trustees Ross and Balzer as a Board Sub-Committee, to review the International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance, that modified the IPMC and Violations Bureau Ordinance and report back to the Board their findings for adoption or consideration. Motion voted and carried.**

Stormwater Mgt            Manager Taylor explained his recommendations: 1)continue membership with the Greater  
R2013-01-02 & Agmt    Lansing Regional Committee, along with 17 other communities, to guide the implementation  
w/Tri County Planning of the entire Phase II Stormwater Program within the watersheds of the Grand River, the Looking  
Glass River, and the Red Cedar River. 2)to enter into another contract with Tri-County Regional  
Planning to assist in managing the Township's permit requirements.

**Balzer moved, Ross seconded, to adopt Resolution R-2013-01-02, approving the Memorandum of Agreement with the GLRC, and authorizing Rodney Taylor as the representative to the same.**

**AYES: Balzer, Ross, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger**

**NAYS: None                    Motion carried.**

**Mosier moved, Balzer seconded, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute a contract with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 for assistance with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Stormwater Permit. Motion voted and carried.**

Public Safety Comm    Supervisor Galardi explained that he would like to appoint his son, Joe Galardi, to the Public  
Appointment            Safety Committee.

Clerk Mosier reviewed the rules outlined in the Township's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, which does not allow the hiring of relatives of Township employees. She explained the exception to this rule, and outlined the need for a waiver if the Board wants to make this appointment.

**Seeger moved, Mosier seconded, to waive Section 8.13 of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and confirm the Supervisor's appointment of Joe Galardi to the Public Safety Committee, term ending December 31, 2015, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Tom Leonard. Motion voted and carried.**

Public Art Comm        Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated January 11, 2013, noting the need for a Public Art  
Committee, to proceed with the placemaking project for the gateway sculpture to be located on  
the business corridor at Sheridan Road. A grant of \$10,000 has been awarded by LEAP for this  
project.

**Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to concur with the Supervisor's appointment of the following individuals to the Public Art Committee: Lisa Norman, Natalie Anway, Michael Muehlenbeck, Charles (Rusti) Owens, Johanna Balzer, Rich Kelly, Sara Graham. Motion voted and carried.**

Audit Contract         Manager Taylor explained that an RFP was released to seven firms for the Township's audit, with  
four responses to the request. He noted that the lowest bidder submitted an incomplete bid, not  
sufficient to meet the needs of the Township, however the other two low bidders were  
interviewed.

He noted that after comprehensive review, the Clerk, Treasurer, and Manager concur that Abraham & Gaffney should be retained for preparation of yearend financial statements and the audit.

**Seeger moved, Mosier seconded, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute an agreement with Abraham & Gaffney for yearend financial statements and audit services in an amount not to exceed \$11,700 for 2012. Motion voted and carried.**

## REPORTS

Fire Chief Koos reported that the Fire Authority (City, Riley, Olive) is currently without a Chief. Discussion determined that outreach might be appropriate, and a plan to make contact was discussed.

Police Chief Russell provided an update on Officer Stump and his ongoing recovery. He also reported that Sergeant Rawson (and canine handler) has resigned and will be moving on to a new endeavor. He provided a brief review of the plan to fill the vacant position.

Trustee Balzer questioned the Chief about the figures provided on his Activity Report, relating the number of responses reported.

Police Chief Russell and Manager Taylor provided an update on the road safety audits being conducted on the business corridor from the I69/96 interchange to Howe Road.

Trustee Ross reported that the Next Michigan Development committee will meet next week, that the Clinton County Department of Public Works will meet February 6<sup>th</sup>, and he wished Fred Koos a Happy Birthday.

Trustee Seeger reported that the Public Safety Committee will meet Tuesday, and the Clinton County Township Officers Association meeting is Wednesday.

Manager Taylor reported that the Community Showcase has been scheduled for April 11 from 4 – 7 p.m.

Clerk Mosier reported that the Election Coordinating Committees (to run school elections) for both Ingham and Clinton Counties will meet in January. She also reported that the Library is proceeding with two ballot questions to be placed before the voters of the Library District in May of this year.

## EXTENDED COMMENTS

Katherine Palmiter introduced herself and her husband as the residents who wrote the letter about the Police Department which was included in the Board's packet for this meeting. She reviewed what has happened with her family, and their displeasure with the way this has been handled by the Police Department.

Chief Russell stated that he has now met and spoken with the Palmiters, and he believes there is more that the Department can do. He noted that he will be working with the Detective and the Officers to make some progress in this case.

Trustee Ross questioned Ms. Palmiter on details of their situation.

Supervisor Galardi thanked the Palmiters for their input in this matter.

Clerk Mosier stated that the Board has adopted a Strategic Plan, with the number one priority being Public Safety, and that the Board takes the safety of its residents very seriously.

Eileen Heideman asked Supervisor Galardi what progress is being made for a new road on the north side of the Eastwood Town Center to Wood Road.

Supervisor Galardi stated that discussion with adjacent property owners has indicated that they have no interest in an assessment for this road. He indicated that we are always open to discussion regarding economic development, but no other unit of government has since approached the Township about the road.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor