

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Rick Galardi, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, and Trustees Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross and David Seeger

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Clerk Diane Mosier

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, County Commissioner Eileen Heideman, and Deputy Clerk Judy Martiny

Supervisor Galardi stated that he is not feeling well and has asked that Trustee Musselman chair the meeting on his behalf. He further stated that he anticipates that he will be leaving after the presentations have been made.

**AGENDA**                    **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the Agenda, as amended adding Item 4 under New Business regarding Heritage Glen Homeowners Association request. Motion voted and carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**   **Seeger moved, Balzer seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 62124 - 62205 and Tax Fund Vouchers 7825 – 7844. Motion voted and carried.**

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT**            None.

**COUNTY COMM. REPORT**            Commissioner Heideman reported that the County Commissioners have decided not to participate in the Corridor Improvement Authority proposed tax capture. The Commissioners reviewed the County's Proposed 2014 Budget and feel the County is in fairly good economic shape and will not have to make any serious cuts at this time. The County Board of Canvassers have been appointed for the upcoming 2014 elections.

**PRESENTATION**  
Outstanding Citizen Award/Max Calder            Supervisor Galardi read Resolution 2013-06-11 honoring former Trustee Max Calder as an Outstanding Citizen. Galardi presented Max Calder with the document and congratulated him on his outstanding service to the Township and the Community.

Max Calder thanked the Township Board for this recognition and also thanked his family and the voters of the community for allowing him to serve.

Supervisor Galardi went home ill and Trustee Musselman called for a five (5) minute recess at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:25 p.m. by Trustee Musselman.

Looking Glass River  
Restoration Project

Gloria Miller, President of the Friends of the Looking Glass Watershed, Inc. since 1990, and also the current Vice President of MGROW (Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds) stated that they are working with the Clinton County Conservation District, funding organizations, Freshwater Climate Change Grant and MGROW and are trying to establish a reforestation program for the Looking Glass Watershed which would help to re-establish a healthy riparian buffer and corridor for the Looking Glass River.

Miller asked that the Township join them in this project by supporting and promoting the project through the Township's website, social media and newsletter. They will have flyers available and she asked that the Township allow said flyers to be made available to residents in the main lobby of the Township Hall, to consider the purchase of discounted trees for planting on municipal property and to help by providing a list of riparian landowners for their use.

Erin Campbell, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, stated that the Friends of the Looking Glass and the Looking Glass Garden Club have been working on, and have coordinated, this program over the last two years and have planted several hundred trees along the corridor in different areas of the watershed already. She advised that what makes this year a little different is that a \$5,000 grant has been received through MGROW which will provide monies to help reduce the impacts of climate change in DeWitt Township. She concluded that the purpose for this presentation is to make the Board aware of what is currently taking place by the Friends of the Looking Glass Watershed organization and to also seek the Township's support during this process.

Manager Taylor stated that the Township has already provided this organization with a list of riparian landowners and we are willing to help them in any way we can.

PUBLIC HEARING

2014 Proposed Budget **Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to open the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.**

Manager Taylor stated that tonight's public hearing is to allow the Board to hear any objections and/or issues with the Proposed 2014 Budget. Should the Board concur with the Proposed 2014 Budget as presented, it would actually be approved at the October 28, 2013 meeting. Taylor further stated that the 2014 Budget is a little more aggressive than the most recent budgets where the focus was managing losses and revenues, through focusing on reorganization, benefit changes, delayed capital purchases, grants, etc. In 2014, for the first time in a number of years, the Township is actually seeing an increase in taxable value. While that increase is only ¼%, or equal to about \$6,000 in revenue, it does indicate that in 2008 we were at the bottom of our economy and it is now working its way back upwards. He concluded by reviewing specific funds such as the Sewer and General Operating Funds.

Deputy Clerk Martiny noted that the appropriate publications and mailings were completed and the Clerk's Office received no verbal or written responses, negative or otherwise, prior to tonight's meeting.

Trustee Musselman called for public comment. There were no public comments.

**Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

CDBG – Blight  
Elimination Grant

Open Public Hearing: **Seeger moved, seconded by Daggy, to open the Public Hearing on the CDBG – Blight Elimination Grant at 7:40 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Manager Taylor reviewed his memorandum, dated October 11, 2013, advising the Board that as part of the process for receiving the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant for Blight Elimination for acquisition of the property located at 16164 Old US-27, the Township is required to hold a Public Hearing on the grant application. He also reviewed the Community Development Block Grant Part 1 and Part 2 Applications for acquisition of said property.

Deputy Clerk Martiny advised the Board that the proper publications, postings and notifications required for tonight's Public Hearing were done in a timely manner and no responses, negative or otherwise, were received prior to tonight's hearing. She also advised that copies of said Community Development Block Grant Part 1 and Part 2 Applications were available this evening for review.

Public Comments: Trustee Musselman called for public comments. There were no public comments.

Discussion: Brief discussion on the proposed resolution and the application process.

Close Public Hearing: **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:48 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Resolution 2013-10-63

**Seeger moved, seconded by Balzer, to approve Resolution 2013-10-63 that authorizes the submission of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation CDBG Blight Elimination Grant.**

**AYES: Balzer, Daggy, Musselman, Ross, Seeger NAYS: 0 ABSENT: Mosier, Galardi**

**Motion voted and carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: Letter from David Steward regarding Webb Road and Old U.S. 27 Intersection; Letter from Attorney Patricia McAvoy regarding Stoll Road Mining Operation; Legislative Update from Representative Tom Leonard; Township Activity Report.

UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS

**Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve Amendment to Codified Ordinance O2013-9-5 (42.2) Miscellaneous Changes to Zoning Ordinance on Second Reading.**

O2013-9-5 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**AYES: Ross, Daggy, Seeger, Balzer, Musselman**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: Mosier, Galardi**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Standards – Revision 8 Manager Taylor did a brief overview of the memorandum submitted to the Township by SCCMUA Director of Operations, Glenn Chinavare, relative to Municipal Construction Standards recently approved by the SCCMUA Board of Commissioners. It was noted that the initial standards were adopted in 1990 with various revisions through the years. The last revision was approved in 2009; and, in this latest revision, No. 8, most of the revisions reflect language editing for clarification purposes with no other major changes in the actual Standards as written. The Standards recently approved by SCCMUA were presented to the Township Board at the September 23, 2013 meeting and are now before the Board for concurrence with their approval.

**Balzer moved, Ross seconded, to concur with the Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Commissioners approval of Revision No. 8 of the Municipal Construction. Motion voted and carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### L-4029 Millage Rate Request

Manager Taylor briefly reviewed his memorandum, dated October 11, 2013, advising that the L-4029 Millage Rate Request Report is a document which transmits the millage levy for the Township to Clinton County. He advised that there is no proposed millage rate increase for the Township this year and also, no “Headlee rollback”. Therefore, the Township millage presented on Form L-4029 for 2014 would remain the same as past years at 3.9736, plus one mill each for police and fire.

**Ross moved, Balzer seconded, that the Township Board approve the 2014 millage rate as presented on Form L-4029 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

##### Schavey Rd. Transportation Enhancements

Manager Taylor reviewed his memorandum, dated October 11, 2013, relative to proposed enhancements to Schavey Road between Herbison Road and Clark Road. He advised that this road is currently ranked a #2 on the pacer scale, with #10 being a new road; Schavey Road is a critical road within the Township with heavy single and multiple family residential users, commercial users and institutional users; Ongoing discussion have been taking place with the Clinton County Road Commission for the past 2 years regarding this section of Schavey Road due to its condition and uses. During these discussions with CCRC on repaving this specific area of Schavey Road, there has been discussion as to whether the repaving of the road also offers an opportunity to address other longer term traffic issues in this area such as proposed reconfiguration of the area relative to sidewalks, curb and gutter, a turn lane at the school, etc., The total cost of a project such as this would exceed a million dollars. Taylor concluded by stating that needless to say, the question now becomes how can we pay for a project such as this that will enhance the long term transportation future of our jurisdiction. One of the answers to this would be to change the status of the road from local to primary. If the road were to be a primary road, the CCRC would have access to State and Federal grant money which would help pay for a large portion of the project. However, the Road Commission is not going to accept the road in its current condition because once the road becomes primary they are 100% responsible for repair and maintenance. The CCRC currently has their future monies allocated for other primary roads and would not be able to even repave the road for many years. They have, however, been in discussion with the Township and it is felt that by working together we would greatly enhance this transportation network and take advantage of other funding sources. A

proposed process has been submitted to the Township by the CCRC and to move forward the CCRC is asking that the Township make a commitment to this proposed process which would mean funding the initial design of the road in 2014 and funding the project in 2015. The cost of the engineering design is yet to be determined; however, the total engineering for the project is estimated at \$150,000 which may mean additional allocation to road funding in 2014 and 2015.

Discussion followed regarding what the process would be for the Township to convert Schavey Road from a local to a primary road. When would the Township be expected to do that, and what would be the monetary obligation?

Manager Taylor advised that grant monies do not pay for engineering; therefore, sometime between now and next year the Township would need to fund an engineered plan at an estimated cost of approximately \$100,000.

**Balzer moved, Seeger seconded, to authorize the Township Manager to work with the Clinton County Road Commission to convert Schavey Road from a local to primary road with the intent of applying for State and Federal funding to upgrade the transportation assets along this corridor and that the Township will provide the matching funds. Motion voted and carried.**

Budget Adjustments      The Board reviewed Manager Taylor's requests for budget adjustments.

**Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the following Budget Adjustments to the 2013 Budget:**

**\$5,500 to 101-263-977-000 (Community Center-Capital) from 101-000-390-000 (General Fund Balance)**

**\$26,000 to 101-265-977-000 (Township Hall – Capital) from 101-000-390-000 (General Fund Balance)**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Heritage Glen/  
Township Hall  
Usage

Manager Taylor gave a brief background of the existing recognized rental spaces available which are owned by the Township and advised that the fees for rentals of these properties are addressed in the Schedule of Fees, Schedule H, Facility Fee Schedule. He further stated that the current schedule does not address the availability and/or a fee for the usage of the Township Hall.

Discussion on the usage of the Township Hall for activities outside of government based use followed.

**Musselman moved, Ross seconded, that the Board approve the request from the Heritage Glen Homeowners Association, dated October 14, 2013, to rent the Township Hall Board Room in the Township Hall at 1401 W. Herbison Road for this specific request only, at fees similar to the Community Center rooms for community groups. Motion voted and carried.**

REPORTS &  
EXTENDED  
PUBLIC COMMENT

Police Chief Russell advised the Board of the recent purchase and posting of the new speed display sign, which appears to have been very well received, is much easier to place and relocate, and much less expensive to operate than the previous speed trailer that was utilized; he is in the process of replacing all of the Neighborhood Watch signs located within the Township as the current signs are looking pretty bad and some even have obsolete information on them.

Trustee Balzer stated that she has really enjoyed being appointed to the Building Stronger Communities Council and gave a report on the most recent activities and programs.

Manager Taylor reported: The Lansing 425 revenue for 2013 was projected to be \$31,000 and in the first year the Township actually received \$59,000; the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code became effective on September 3, 2013 and since that time the Township has received 23 complaints and all 23 have been resolved without any additional action other than the initial first step follow up of the complaint; the installation of the art piece on the corner of Sheridan Road and U.S. 27 (BR) is moving a little behind schedule, and right now we are shooting for November 4<sup>th</sup> as a primary Grand Opening, or November 11<sup>th</sup> as a secondary date; we have received a recommendation from C2AE for site lighting, which would be a primary site improvement and that would require more funds than what was originally anticipated, therefore, he may be coming back to the Board for a budget adjustment.

Trustee Musselman reported that he spoke with the Township resident, as requested by the Board, who had some questions about the Special Use Permit process and extensions and/or the ability to request extensions thereof. He advised that after speaking with her at length he feels she now understands the process.

Marilyn Pogoncheff, 1793 W. Stoll Road, inquired about an item under Correspondence regarding the Stoll Road Pit, where it was located, and asked if there was going to be any action on this item.

Trustee Musselman advised Ms. Pogoncheff that the location of the Stoll Road Pit which was referred to in the correspondence is located just east of U.S. 27 (BR), west of Boichot Road and immediately north of Stoll Road, in Section 23 and also advised that no action was required at the Board level on that Correspondence item at this time.

Ms. Pogoncheff stated she was inquiring because she lives on West Stoll Road and had concerns if this project was located near her residence. She thanked Trustee Musselman for his clarification.

ADJOURNMENT      **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,