

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
November 25, 2013 Board Minutes

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 Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Assistant Planner Tori Niewiadomski.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 62299 – 62365 and Tax Fund Vouchers 7854 – 7869; approval of Township Board Minutes of 11/12/13; and to receive and file the Planning Commission draft minutes of 11/4/13. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

COUNTY COMM. REPORT None Present

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: price change information from Comcast; Consumers Energy Notice of 12/2/13 Hearing; membership letter from Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce; information on the Adopt a Family program for Christmas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS Assistant Planner Niewiadomski reviewed the memo from Planning Consultant Foulds and the Rezoning 13-880002 information packet the Planning Commission received to consider Rezoning 13-880002, from Fedewa applicants David and Mary Jo Fedewa, to rezone 2.74 acres on the north east corner of Howe Road and BR 27 from PO (Professional & Office Services) to CC (Community Oriented Commercial). He pointed out that the applicants, (Dave Fedewa present) have requested a conditional rezoning by limiting the use of the property to a self-serve mini-storage, with no office located on the property, in large part due to land conditions that will not support a septic system on this parcel where there are no public utilities in close proximity. He also pointed out that a Conditional Rezoning Agreement will need to be reviewed by the attorney, and executed by the Fedewas and the Township.

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve on First Reading, and based on a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission, conditional rezoning request 13-880002 from David and Mary Jo Fedewa, to rezone 2.74 acres on the northeast corner of Howe Road and BR 27, from PO (Professional & Office) to BC (Business, Community) where the applicant is offering the restriction to use the property for self serve mini-storage, based on the fact that the request is not in conflict with recommendations of the Comprehensive Development Plan and is consistent with the existing land use pattern in the immediate area and that public utilities will not be provided at this site.

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

Cemetery Rules &
Regulations

Clerk Mosier reviewed the changes to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, noting that the majority of the changes relate to cremains interments, such as the proposal to allow the interment of four cremains within a plot, instead of the current limitation of two per plot. The changes were discussed.

Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to adopt the November 25, 2013 revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations, to become effective January 1, 2014. Motion voted and carried.

2014 Fee Schedule

Manager Taylor reviewed the proposed changes to the Fee Schedule, noting changes in Schedule (Building Department), Schedule C (Miscellaneous), Schedule F (Cemetery Fees), Schedule H (Facility Rentals), Schedule I (Sanitary Sewer).

Trustee Balzer raised questions regarding sign fees, for temporary signs, and the charges made to non-profit or charitable organizations. Discussion determined that Manager Taylor will look into this issue, and the Ordinance requiring sign permits, and the possibility that the Township may want to omit the fee, or even the requirement for a permit for temporary signs erected by non-profit or charitable organizations. He will return the issue to the Board after investigation.

Mosier moved, Balzer seconded, to adopt Resolution 2013-11-71 adopting the 2014 Fee Schedule with an effective date of January 1, 2014.

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

Hiring/Dept Asst
Police Department

Chief Russell explained that the Department Assistant position has been vacant for two months and over two hundred applications were received to fill the vacancy.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the hiring of Ashley Roof as an at-will part-time employee, contingent upon the completion of the pre-employment physical and other testing as required. Motion voted and carried.

2014 Meeting Dates Clerk Mosier pointed out that the 2014 Committee and Commission meeting dates, and the
R2013-11-70 Township Offices Closing Schedule were provided for information.
& Holiday Schedule

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adopt Resolution 2013-11-70 establishing meeting dates for the Township Board for 2014.

AYES: Balzer, Ross, Daggy, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger, Musselman

NAYS: None Motion carried.

Seeger moved, Balzer seconded, to approve the Union Employees 2014 Holiday Schedule, as presented. Motion voted and carried.

Poverty Exemption Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to adopt Resolution R2013-11-69 which amends the
& Guidelines Township's Policy and Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions to include the 2014 federal
R2013-11-69 poverty guidelines and recinds Resolution R2012-11-59.

AYES: Musselman, Seeger, Galardi, Mosier, Daggy, Ross, Balzer

NAYS: None Motion carried.

Citizen Recognition/ **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to approve an Outstanding Citizen Award to Curtis Thayer
and an Outstanding Business Award to Scott and Valarie Randall. Motion voted and
carried.**

REPORTS & COMMENTS

Chief Russell reported that the number of car/deer accidents have increased over previous years.

Manager Taylor reported the following: the number that Trustee Ross requested at the previous meeting for the actual dollar increase for POLC pension contributions is \$2310 or a 1.8% increase; the S27 Design Committee will be scheduling a meeting for January; the DBR/Community News has agreed to change their service area December 15th; the State of Michigan did an audit of numerous assessing practices across the State, and the Township received one minor infraction; 504 pump station/Larry Clark

Trustee Balzer reported the following: the Gunnisonville Community Group will be decorating the school house at the Clark/Wood Road intersection for Christmas this year; Gunnisonville Meadows will also decorated; a Square Dance and Silent Auction has been scheduled for February 15th.

Trustee Ross wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Trustee Musselman commented on the Art Presentation at Sheridan and BR 27.

Clerk Mosier reported that she and Trustee Balzer attended the Media Event at Granger, where Granger announced a generous contribution to the Pennies for Power program with the Board of Water and Light.

Supervisor Galardi stated that he will be scheduling some meetings with Board members and staff to do succession planning, and that he feels this will make for a more efficient and productive move into the future.

EXTENDED None.
PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor