

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
October 12, 2015 Board Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board was called to order by Clerk Mosier at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mosier moved, Ross seconded, to appoint Trustee Stephen Musselman to Chair the meeting in absence of Supervisor Galardi. Motion voted and carried.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Diane Mosier, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, and Trustees Johanna Balzer and Stephen Musselman, Brian Ross and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Rick Galardi

ALSO PRESENT Manager Rodney Taylor and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 65227 – 65293 and Tax Fund Vouchers 8230 - 8241; approval of Township Board Minutes of September 28, 2015. Motion voted and carried.**

PRESENTATION None

PUBLIC HEARING Musselman called to order the Public Hearing to hear comments relating to the 2016 Proposed Township Budget at 7:02 p.m. Manager Taylor gave a brief overview of the sewer bond project and the major changes in revenues and expenditures for the 2016 budget. Some of those major items included: adding a police officer, purchasing three new police vehicles, new fire department breathing apparatus and the Community Center Parking lot extension and new entrance off of State Rd.

Greg Whitlock, 12625 BR 27, asked for the General Fund total budget amount for 2016. Manager Taylor provided the requested information.

Brad Throop, 14545 Boichot Rd, questioned: 1) the total amount of the proposed sewer bond 2)by whom and how is the sewer bond debt paid 3)how will bonding effect sewer rates.

Manager Taylor provided the following response: in previous years, sewer rates had not increased for 25 years. The Township has been looking to be more proactive in the future and we recognize that the system will be in need for repairs just due to aging, so the sewer rates have been slowly increasing in anticipation of those needed repairs. He also stated that comparatively, we are still in the bottom third for low sewer rates in the State of Michigan. He also stated that the current rates (with those scheduled minor increases) will pay for the debt on the sewer bonds.

Mosier explained that the Township has accomplished previous improvements/repairs with cash. At this time we have no debt within our plant or collection system. This bond project will keep our Sewer Fund Balance healthy, so we can pay for emergency repairs when needed.

Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm. Motion voted and carried.

Manager Taylor noted that the proposed 2016 Budget is scheduled for adoption consideration at the next meeting.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER None present

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: Activity Report; Election Filing Deadlines; Notice of Determination-Faiver & Branch Drain Meetings; Notice of Determination of Necessity-Carter & Burke & Branch Drain.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS Employee Recommendation Manager Taylor explained that the Township has been using temporary staffing in the Treasurer's Office. Paula June has been working since April of this year and has proved to be a valuable addition to the Township. We are now ready to offer her permanent part-time employment.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to hire Paula J. June as an at-will permanent part-time Administrative Assistant II, Grade 4, upon completion of the pre-employment process. Motion voted and carried.

L-4029 Millage Rate Request Manager Taylor briefly explained the L-4029 Millage Rate.

Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the millage rate as presented on form L-4029 that sets the millage rate for 2016 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT Greg Whitlock, 12625 BR 27, stated that he would like to see the \$100,000 allocated for the Beautification Project, spent in a more practical way, such as on roads. He also questioned the comment made by Manager Taylor during the budget discussion, regarding the 86% funded pension, asking if that is for a defined benefit pension plan.

Manager Taylor stated that the pension plan referred to is for police union pensions, which are the only defined benefit plans provided to Township employees.

Whitlock also commented that our current police vehicles are a dark color with dark gold lettering, and he would like to see the cars in a lighter color and more visible.

Trustee Musselman thanked Whitlock for his comments.

REPORTS

Musselman reported that DARA was contacted by a representative of Dicks Sporting Goods, and they have offered to donate \$2500 in merchandise, \$500 in cash, \$500 in gift cards and 20% off coupons to DARA and their programs.

He also stated, relating to the comments made by Mr. Whitlock, that the Beautification Project was only meant to be for the entrance to the Township along BR27 at the I-69 interchange.

Mosier stated that the Board has always taken a conservative stance when it comes to spending dollars on beautifying the Township. However, the Board has now agreed that it is time to make some investment in the esthetics of the Township. She noted that this thinking is certainly in line with the budget discussion on how to keep our community desirable to residents in future years as our housing stock ages.

Balzer reported there was no ZBA meeting. She also stated that although she did not attend the drainage meeting about the Looking Glass River, she wanted to thanked Manager Taylor for his comments at the meeting.

Manager Taylor was asked to provide those meeting minutes in the next board packets.

Manager Taylor reported the following: the Citizen Group for the dog park would like to utilize the frontage of SCCMUA, where the immediate cost would be to put up some additional fence to enclose the area, noting that this project would be a partnership with the citizens group, the City of DeWitt, and the Township; the DEQ had Fire Station 1 on their State of MI list as a possible contamination site due to underground tanks (even though the tanks have been removed) so the DEQ did an assessment of the property and found no contamination, therefore removing us from their list of possible contaminated sites; strong odors continue to come from Bath Townships Sanitary Sewer at the Wood Road location where Bath connects to the Township's sewer, so Bath Township and SCCMUA will meet to try to find a permanent solution to reduce the odor; a speed study was done on Howe Road east of Schavey, and he will continue to work with the Road Commission on this issue and report back to the Board.

Treasurer Daggy thanked the Board for the approval of hiring Paula June.

Mosier introduced Deputy Clerk Laurie Kulhanek, present to get experience taking minutes for the Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to adjourn at 7:40p.m. Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Kulhanek, Deputy Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor