

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
March 10, 2014 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, Brian Ross and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Steve Musselman

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Planner Tory Niewiadomski, Candidate for 65A District Court Judge Shannon Schlegel, and several citizens.

AGENDA **Balzer moved, Seeger 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 62690 - 62737 and Tax Fund Vouchers 7956 – 7979, approval of Township Board Minutes of 02/24/14; receive and place on file the minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting of 2/19/14, and to receive and file the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the 4th Quarter of 2013. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PRESENTATION Shannon Schlegel introduced herself as a candidate for the 65A District Court Judge seat. She briefly explained her experience within the court system and she noted that her law practice is located within DeWitt Township.

Supervisor Galardi thanked Schlegel for her previous service to the Township, and her current service as the Clinton County Planning Commission Chairperson.

COUNTY COMM. REPORT None present.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: the Activity Report; 40th Anniversary Open House invitation from the Tri-County Office on Aging; MI Society Sons of the American Revolution Press Release; DeWitt Township Fire Department “Burning Issues” Newsletter; Lansing Regional Chamber re: Fiscal Sustainability Training; SCCMUA re: 13615 Blackwood sewer back up; GLRC 2013 Annual Report; Abraham & Gaffney re: 2013 Audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS
Prelim Engr Report/
South Old US 27

Staff reports from both Manager Taylor and Planner Niewiadomski were reviewed and discussed relating to the South Old US-27 Technical Design Committee and their recommendation to the Planning Commission. Roger Marks, with C2AE reviewed the report and its conclusions; 1) maintain the existing lane configurations, since a boulevard or road diet would be both costly and not perceived well by the public. Some enhancements, such as mid-block crossing, would enhance safety and still allow traffic to flow smoothly. 2) a shared use path should be installed on the east side of the road and sidewalk on the west side. Because of right-of-way limitations south of State Road, a bypass of the pathway has been recommended. This bypass would take the shared use path along State Road to Brook, and then to Wieland Road and back to Old US-27. A sidewalk would still be required on Old US-27 from State to Wieland.

The unlikely possibility of removing utility poles and installing underground utility service was discussed, and Supervisor Galardi suggested that a more likely solution to the utility pole configuration on both sides of the road could be to enhance the esthetics with flags, lights, or both.

Discussion lead into New Business Item 2.

Contract for Design/
South Old US 27
Enhancements

Manager Taylor explained that the grant for the Old US-27 non-motorized path is currently being reviewed by the State of Michigan and the timeline for construction in 2014 is extremely tight. Assuming the grant is awarded, we would advertise for bids in July, start building in August, with completion in November. He noted that for these reasons, we need to be ready to move with design as soon as the grant is awarded, thus his request to approve the agreement with C2AE. The details of the installations, both the pathway and the sidewalks, were discussed. The combination of pathways and sidewalks on the east side, and sidewalk on the west, are planned because MDOT indicated that they would not support the pathway if sidewalks were not installed on the east side where the path deviates from the Old US-27 right-of-way, which would reduce the likelihood of people crossing the highway at places other than identified pedestrian crossings.

Discussion included the following: possibilities and costs for maintenance of the pathway; the budget for this project; and cost share which is MDOT at \$419,927 and Township at \$447,012.

Also discussed was the possibility of assessing a portion of the sidewalk costs to the benefitting property owners, since it is likely that their property values will increase, and some sidewalks have already been installed with 100% of the cost paid for by the property owner. Trustee Ross stated that he feels the property owner should have some "skin in the game." Clerk Mosier stated that those property owners who have already paid for sidewalk installation may not believe it fair that their tax dollars also pay for the entire cost of their neighboring businesses sidewalk installation. Manager Taylor will investigate options the Board can consider, and the pros and cons of assessing some cost for this project.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the contract with C2AE for design and bidding documents for the Old US-27 pathway and sidewalk, with the not-to-exceed amount of \$64,000, contingent upon receipt of the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant. Motion voted and carried.

Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to accept and place on file the Preliminary Engineering Report for South Old US-27. Motion voted and carried.

Res R2014-03-06
Blight Elimination
Grant Purchase

Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated March 7, 2014, which explained that when the Township received notice from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that we could proceed to incur costs for the Blight Elimination Grant, a baseline environmental assessment, a Phase I site assessment, and an asbestos containing materials survey was performed. He reviewed the finding of those assessments and the costs associated with those findings.

Manager Taylor explained that the next step for the Township is to complete the closing, and the Township's attorney has completed the proper paperwork.

Balzer moved, Daggy seconded, to adopt Resolution R2014-03-06, establishing the terms and authorizing the execution of the Purchase Agreement between the Charter Township of DeWitt and Schafer's 27, LLC, for property located at (and near) 16164 S US-27.

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

Res R2014-03-07
Employment Contract
Township Manager

Supervisor Galardi provided the proposed new Township Manager Contract, noting the following: 1)information from Municipal Consulting Services research was utilized for salary and benefit comparisons 2)Attorney Peter Cohl prepared the new contract 3)contract reflects a salary change of approximately 2.7% (\$2,521.64) 4)contract reflects an increase in the employer's contribution to the defined contribution pension plan from 10% to 11% (\$950.00) 5)the agreement automatically renews 6)the termination section has been updated.

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Employment Agreement with Township Manager Rodney H. Taylor, effective March 11, 2014. Motion voted and carried.

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to adopt R2014-03-07 amending the current 401(a) Pension Plan to add a Class 3 for the Township Manager position, with an 11% employer contribution.

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

REPORTS &
COMMENTS

Police Chief Russell reported that the hiring process continues. He also reported that Manager Taylor attended a department meeting to discuss current issues and the upcoming millage renewal.

Trustee Balzer reported that on May 17, 2014, at the City of DeWitt Cemetery, forgotten Revolutionary War Soldier William Cole will be given full military honors in a graveside ceremony. She noted that a grave stone is now in place, provided by the Veterans Administration, and the Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Lansing Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as other Veteran Groups and local officials will participate in this ceremony. She asked that the Township participate, maybe police and scouts, noted that Bob Reese will sing the Star Spangled Banner, and she requested help in locating members of the Hewitt family, descendants of William Cole. She explained that approximately 1400 Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried in Michigan, but only 345 graves have been located.

Manager Taylor reported the following: he thanked the Board for the opportunity to work at the Township, noting that this operation has great staff, and is a great community, which has provided opportunity for him and his family; Chief Koos will be on extended time off, possibly until October, to correct and recover from a medical condition; he has also met with members of the Fire Department to discuss departmental issues in the absence of the Chief, and also to discuss the millage renewal.

Manager Taylor also reported that the DeWitt District Library is facing major challenges, and the Township has assisted the Library with a survey mailing to solicit public input. He explained that renewal of the Library's operational millage will be on the August ballot, and the Library Board will use the survey information to determine what will be on the ballot. He also noted that if the Library Board needs to go back to the voters in November, there is only a five day window after the primary in which to file the language for the November ballot.

Supervisor Galardi stated that the Township wants to participate, and Manager Taylor will work to make arrangements with the local Boy Scouts.

Trustee Ross reported that the Next Michigan Development Corporation meeting will be Wednesday, March 19th at 2:20 at the airport. He reminded the Board that the joint meeting with the Planning Commission will be on March 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Mosier reported the following: both Lansing and Bath School Districts will have ballot questions on the May 6th ballot; she has petitioned the County to consolidate all Lansing and Bath School Districts to the Community Center in an attempt to save monies for the school districts.

Supervisor Galardi commented on the hiring process utilized to find and hire Manager Taylor, noting that he continues to prove himself and his value to the Township.

Clerk Mosier noted that Manager Taylor has proven himself as a valuable member of the DeWitt Community, through his community service acts of "giving back" to our community.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Mosier seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor