

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
August 25, 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, and Trustees, Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross, and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Planners Tory Niewiadomski and Brett Whittenberg, Police Chief Brian Russell, County Commissioner Eileen Heideman, and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Mosier moved, Balzer seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 63372– 63456; approval of Township Board Minutes of August 11, 2014, with corrections to the Bauerle parcel number under New Business and correcting three typographical errors; and to receive and file the Planning Commission Draft minutes of August 4, 2014. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

COUNTY COMM. REPORT Commissioner Heideman reported on current Clinton County Commission business.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: two Public Service Commission meeting notices from Consumers Energy; a membership letter from the Clinton County Economic Alliance; and the SCCMUA Director's Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated August 22, 2014, explaining the proposal to remove the asphalt in the median at the I-69/Old US 27 overpass and replace it with something more esthetically pleasing, such as landscaping, lighting, or art installation. He pointed out that improvements to the gateways of the Township is outlined in the Board's Strategic Plan.

Trustee Musselman stated that he is surprised that there are no grant dollars for this type of project. Manager Taylor stated that he continues to explore grant opportunities, however, he does not believe any currently exist for this type of project. He assured the Board that he will continue to communicate with MDOT on that possibility.

Supervisor Galardi stated that he feels the current configuration of the overpass is visually confusing to drivers who are leaving the freeway and turning onto the business corridor.

Manager Taylor suggested that using 425 dollars would fit into the Board's philosophy which dictates that 425 dollars be used only for capital projects that benefit the community as a whole.

Clerk Mosier stated that she would like to see the Township partner with MDOT in some way for this project. She also stated that it seems appropriate to use these dollars for this improvement which is not in the southern tier, where the Township has spent the majority of its capital dollars in the past 10 to 15 years.

Faye Hagy, 1745 E. Clark Road, stated that she is not interested in scenery when she drives, she is interested in the road. She asked if this money might be better spent on repairing local roads.

Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to authorize the Township Manager to work with MDOT and Spicer Engineering to come up with a design for the median on Old US-27 just north and south of I-69, at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. Motion voted and carried.

Complete the

Planners Niewiadomski and Wittenberg explained that in May of this year, the Board and Planning

Streets Ord Update
Discussion

Commission gave staff direction on the process to develop the Complete the Streets Ordinance. A draft has now been discussed by the Planning Commission, with some areas needing more direction from the Board regarding issues such as responsibility and funding for snow removal, maintenance & repair, and construction of shared use pathways.

The Board discussed each section of the draft with staff, to clarify the desired intent of the Ordinance language. Staff will continue work on the ordinance, and define a process for public input. Supervisor Galardi pointed out other areas of the state where pathways are extensive, and staff will communicate with additional communities to determine what has worked and what has not, relating to their sidewalks/pathways systems. The term "linear parks" was suggested as a way to clarify thinking on how the system is utilized and maintained.

Trustee Seeger stated that he is glad to see the addition of the extended time period for a deferment. Treasurer Daggy stated that she believes this issue has become very complicated, and she does not understand why the rules are not just black and white.

With the current feedback from the Planning Commission and the Township Board, staff will continue their work on this project.

REPORTS &
COMMENTS

Manager Taylor reported the following: he has been contacted by residents in the north east quadrant of the Township regarding their need for internet access, and although he is not optimistic he has received some information from Connect America; he is working with Clinton County and Habitat for Humanity in their attempt to acquire some lots in Clinton Village; there has been a review of the 425 monies received due to the 425 Agreement with the City of Lansing

for the airport area, and it appears they have made an overpayment to us and some adjustments will need to be made; a Facebook post may have assisted in apprehending a person who did some damage to Granger Meadows Park.

Trustee Musselman reported that the Japanese exchange luncheon will be here at the Township Hall tomorrow.

Trustee Balzer reported the following: 1)she has heard comments that residents are noticing the changes and improvements on the business corridor 2)United Methodist Ministries Center Open House will be September 7th from 3 to 5 3)Gunnisonville Day will be September 21st 4)she and Rod attended the Scheffel Toy open house.

Manager Taylor also reported that the plaques on the art piece have been installed and landscaping has been completed.

Supervisor Galardi reported on the recent situation with the DARA Board and that since the DARA Board has been unable to reach a decision on a new director, DARA is now functioning with the Program Coordinator at the lead. Supervisor Galardi initiated discussion regarding the issues surrounding the current situation. It was determined that if Board action is required, a Special Meeting will be scheduled, and proper notice will be given to Board members.

Trustee Seeger left the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Supervisor Galardi and Manager Taylor reported on what communication has transpired with the airport since the last meeting.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT **Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor