

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
August 11, 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, Planner Tory Niewiadomski, Police Chief Brian Russell, and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Balzer moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 63372– 63456; approval of Township Board Minutes of July 28, 2014. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PUBLIC HEARING Supervisor Galardi called to order the Public Hearing to hear comments relative to the proposed special assessment for the Old US27 Sidewalk/Pathway Project at 7:04 p.m.

Old US27 Sidewalk/Pathway Project/Assessment Roll Clerk Mosier reported that the appropriate publications and mailings were done, and one written comment was received relating to the frontage of a property.

Manager Taylor provided a slightly revised assessment roll, showing the same numbers provided in the Board's packet, but in a different format. He explained that only slight changes have been made to the assessment roll since the previous public hearing. He explained that the Public Hearing this evening is to hear comments on the assessment roll for the project, not on the actual project itself, as engineering for the project is just beginning. He outlined where the process will go from here, and what residents should do if they object to the assessment. He also explained that there will likely be a public meeting about the project itself, as the process continues with construction anticipated to begin in early 2015.

Supervisor Galardi called for public comment.

Shelby Hall, 1040 E. Wieland Road, stated that he is opposed to the south side sidewalk since he believes there is no reason for a sidewalk on the south side which will connect to nowhere and might interfere with emergency vehicles. He stated that he is also opposed because this sidewalk will go so far into his front yard that people walking will be able to see directly into his house. He stated that he believes he was lied to at a former meeting about the installation of a sidewalk.

Supervisor Galardi and Trustee Musselman clarified that the meeting Mr. Hall speaks of was at the Planning Commission where discussion was taking place about the Overlay District, not this sidewalk/pathway project. They also explained to Mr. Hall that his protest to the assessment will appear on the official record for this Public Hearing to ensure that he can go to the next step to protest the special assessment.

Manager Taylor noted that both he and Planner Niewiadomski met with Mr. Hall on his property to discuss the details of the project.

Eleanor Spalding, 15485 S US 27, (in front of the Mega Mall) asked questions about the project, its timeline, and when the engineering for the project will be complete. She stated that her biggest concern is about snow removal in the winter.

Manager Taylor explained that the Township will be revising the Sidewalk Ordinance, and one of the issues yet to be determined is regulating and requiring snow removal. Those decisions have not yet been made, but public input will be sought before the regulations are officially changed.

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

Musselman moved, Mosier seconded, to approve Resolution 2014-08-18 that confirms the special assessment district as the “2014 Pathway and Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment District Special Assessment Roll” in the final amount of \$44,701.11.

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

COUNTY

COMM. REPORT None present.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: an invitation to the Japanese Goodwill Luncheon; Activity Report; RJ Scheffel Toy Project Open House; invitation to the Plant Professionals 35 Year Anniversary Pig Roast; Fire Department Burning Issues Newsletter; CCDC regarding the Downer Drain fence repair; Unofficial Election Results from the August 5th Primary Election.

Brief discussion determined who will be attending upcoming functions.

UNFINISHED
BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PA116 Release of Part Of an Agmt-Bauerle Planner Niewiadomski reviewed his memo, dated August 5, 2014, explaining the process required relating to the Bauerle request to release a parcel of more than two acres, and less than five acres with at least one structure that was present prior to the start date of the Agreement for parcel 050-001-300-005-00.

Russel and Connie Bauerle were present to answer any questions from the Board.

Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to approve Resolution 2014-08-16 for releasing a parcel more than two acres but less than five acres with at least one structure that was present prior to the start date of the Agreement regarding Farmland Agreement 19-0523-123123 for parcel 050-001-300-005-00 to create a 2.49 acre parcel and leave the remaining 157.51 acres in the existing agreement for property located at 11665 Krepps Road and owned by Russel and Connie Bauerle based on a finding that the request meets Township Ordinance and Public Act 116 requirements.

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

Sidewalk Deferment
DeWitt Self Storage

Planner Niewiadomski reviewed Planner Wittenberg's memo, dated August 5, 2014, which outlined the Planning Commission's rationale and recommendation on the requested sidewalk deferment.

Ross moved, Musselman seconded, to adopt Resolution 2014-08-17, approving a three year deferment, as recommended by the Planning Commission, for sidewalks/pathway installation for property located at the NE Corner of Old U.S. 27 and Howe Road identified as parcel 050-003-300-031-00 as a requirement of the approved Site Plan 14-150002, in the southwest ¼ of Section 3 of DeWitt Charter Township.

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

Utility Agmt
Ridge Rock Sub Ph II

Mosier moved, Balzer seconded, to approve the Utility Agreement with Signature Land Development on behalf of Ridgerock Land Investments, LLC for the Ridge Rock Subdivision Phase II project and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.

Senior Living Market
Analysis/Plante Moran
Cresa, LLC

Manager Taylor and Planner Niewiadomski reviewed Planner Wittenberg's memo, dated August 5, 2014, which explained the recommended action to enter into an agreement with Plante Moran Cresa, LLC., to conduct a senior living market feasibility analysis and ordinance review. It was noted that the goal is to incentivize or attract senior living options to DeWitt Township. Also discussed was the proposal to partner with Eyde Company (Clark Corners), since both the Township and Eyde Company have an interest in redevelopment of Clark Corners (70 acres total), and that both entities, DeWitt Township and Eyde Company will pay a portion of the study costs.

Trustee Balzer expressed concern with this partnership proposal, and questioned whether DeWitt Township will have access to that portion of the study proposed to be paid for by Eyde Company. She also stated that she believes that Clark Corners may have more benefit to the Township as a retail site.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute the agreement with Plante Moran Cresa, LLC in an amount not-to-exceed \$14,000 to conduct a Senior Living Market Feasibility Analysis.

Trustee Balzer request a roll call vote on the motion.

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

NAYS: Balzer Motion carried.

Public Hearing
Annual Streetlighting
Assessments

Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comments relative to the annual assessment of streetlighting costs for Monday, September 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI and authorize the Township Clerk to take care of the appropriate public notices and mailings. Motion voted and carried.

Appointment/Public
Safety

Balzer moved, Seeger seconded, to concur with the Supervisor's recommendation to appoint Mary Buzzie to the Public Safety Committee to fill the balance of Sam Vosovic's term, ending December 31, 2015. Motion voted and carried.

Airport's Plans for
Development of
State Road

Manager Taylor and Supervisor Galardi reviewed the memo, dated August 8, 2014, regarding the Airport's plans for the development of State Road. Also provided to the Board was a copy of minutes (meeting summaries) for approximately eighteen meetings that airport authorities held on this topic with government units, developers, planning and economic development organizations, and businesses and/or business owners.

Three option maps were also provided, outlining various options for airport access.

Manager Taylor provided an overview of his contact (initiated by the Township) with airport officials. He noted that although the Memorandum of Understanding requires the Township, the City of Lansing, and the Airport Authority to work together on a development plan, the airport has forged ahead with their own process, although he has reminded them of the commitments of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The issue was discussed at length. Board members expressed concern that Township residents have had no input or information from the airport, and many come to Township officials and staff for information regarding the airport's future plans.

Supervisor Galardi stated that this is not about the three options proposed, since all seem to have some merit. He stated that this is about the airport creating a circle of influence with those entities listed on the document titled "Meeting Minutes," and excluding Township residents in their processes.

Trustee Musselman stated that this is, again, much about the Township's unwillingness to pay a millage to support the airport.

Trustee Ross stated that his property backs up to the airport, and this is just the most recent effort by the airport to exclude those impacted by airport operations from being informed about the airport's future plans for expansion/change.

Manager Taylor will continue to work with the involved parties and keep the Board informed on this issue.

REPORTS &
COMMENTS

Police Chief Brian Russell reported that he and his wife have their home for sale and are looking for something smaller.

Planner Niewiadomski reported that a new business (beauty shop/spa services) has located in the southern tier.

Manager Taylor reported the following: Riley Township contacted Trustee Seeger about the possibility of joint fire services; the grant project for the canoe launch on the Looking Glass River, both in the City and the Township, is underway with some delays being experienced; he has communicated with MDOT about the possibility of changes to the Old US27/I-69 interchange.

Trustee Musselman questioned what is being done on BR 27 and Webb Road. Manager Taylor explained that this is the next phase in the MDOT project relating to the signal installation and the resurfacing project.

Trustee Musselman reported that the US 27 tour will be in DeWitt on August 20th, and have moved their gathering place to downtown DeWitt this year.

Trustee Balzer initiated brief discussion regarding the DeWitt Bath Review circulation. The issue was discussed with Sue Lounds, reporter, who was present.

Treasurer Daggy reminded the Board that the Open House for Clay Summers will be held in the Township Hall tomorrow at 5 p.m.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT Shelby Hall, 1040 E. Wieland Road, stated that he does not believe that the Board listens to residents. He pointed out that he works nights, when most meetings are held. He also stated that he did not understand the mailings that he received.

Supervisor Galardi explained the process regarding public meetings, assessment districts, and public input solicitation.

Russel Bauerle, 1165 Krepps Road, stated that he is on the Clinton County Road Commission, and they have also been left out of the loop about the airport's future development/expansion.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor