

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
October 9, 2017 Board Minutes

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Diane Mosier, and Trustees: Dave Fedewa, Steve Musselman, Dave Seeger and Brian Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: Treasurer Phyllis Daggy

ALSO PRESENT Manager Rodney Taylor , Police Chief Brian Russell, Interim Fire Chief Dave DeKorte, and the Zeeb family.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following: approval of the Township Board Minutes of September 25, 2017; approval of General Fund Vouchers 68025-68088 and Tax Fund Vouchers 8578-8602. Motion voted and carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT Residents of Northdale Farms subdivision, (Sheridan Road/Northdale Road area) spoke to their issue involving a property in their neighborhood located at 600 West Sheridan Road. Their correspondence and petitions were sent to the Board under Correspondence.

Tom Christenson, 16883 Northdale, and Kathy & Pete Cairns, 16963 Northdale, raised issues involving the subject property, pointing out the following issues which they feel have negatively impacted the quality of life in their neighborhood: 1) a small lot with no less than 8 cars parked there on a regular basis; the unfinished pole structure which could house some of the cars; they believe that the owner of the subject property is operating some type of automotive repair at the address; parking on the street at the intersection creates a hazard since the number of cars on the property does not allow room for visitors to park off the road; the constant stream of traffic in and out of their road visiting the site; noise from loud cars leaving this site and being driven up and down their road, sometimes spewing burning oil. They pointed out that the current residents moved into this property in December of last year and now their neighborhood is left with this problem.

The Board reviewed a report from Township Code Enforcement Officer Gary Cypher, which was provided in response to the Board's receipt of the petitions. The report detailed the number of times and dates he has visited this site and communicated with the property owner.

Manager Taylor explained that the Cypher has extended the building permit through December in an attempt to gain compliance with the completion of the pole structure. He also noted that Cypher reports that the vehicles on site are all licensed and plated to the property owner.

Clerk Mosier stated that she understands that Cypher is doing what he can to make progress at the site, and that he can only enforce what regulations allow him to enforce. She also stated that she does not believe anyone here in this room would want to live next door to this property.

Supervisor Galardi told those residents present that we will do what we can, but that may not mean that they will be happy with the results, since we have limited policing powers on private property. He noted that when the Property Maintenance Code is next addressed, that this issue will be reviewed.

Residents were encouraged to complain when appropriate, for excessive noise or traffic hazards, and Chief Russell encouraged the residents to call 911 for those types of complaints.

Supervisor Galardi and Manager Taylor thanked the residents for taking the time to try to improve conditions within their neighborhood in such a civilized and organized manner.

PRESENTATION

Supervisor Galardi moved the Zeeb Presentation up on the Agenda from New Business.

Supervisor Galardi explained that the Distinguished Service Award was created to honor those who serve our community differently than a citizen, and sometimes even as an elected official. He stated that Bob and Ginny Zeeb leave a legacy of fiscal conservancy and championed for the protection of property owner's rights. He read aloud the following award:

“Presented to Robert and Virginia Zeeb, on October 9, 2017, for their valuable contributions to local government and to DeWitt Charter Township, Clinton County Michigan, the Distinguished Service Award. To Bob and Ginny, a testimony of sincere appreciation for your leadership and service to the citizens of DeWitt Charter Township and beyond. By directive of the DeWitt Charter

Township Board, this plaque shall hereafter be prominently displayed in the Board Room of the DeWitt Charter Township Hall.”

COUNTY None Present
COMMISSIONER
REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING 2018 Proposed Budget Supervisor Galardi called to order the Public Hearing on the 2018 DeWitt Charter Township Proposed Budget.

Manager Taylor noted that the 2018 Proposed Budget has been addressed by the Board several times, and the Public Hearing is part of the required process.

Clerk Mosier noted that the appropriate publication was done, and no calls were received on the issue. She noted that one resident came in to get a copy of the document.

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: petition and letter from residents in the area of 600 W. Sheridan Road, Northdale Farms Subdivision; comments from John Many and Bill Bupp regarding Herbison Road; information from the DeWitt Chamber about upcoming events; Activity Report; Statement of Money to be Raised by Tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS **Mosier moved, Fedewa seconded, to adopt Ordinance 2017-09-02, Fire Prevention & Protection/Burning on Second Reading.**

**AYES: Fedewa, Ross, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger, Musselman
NAYS: None Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS Lease/Meadowlawn Property Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated October 6, 2017, regarding the Meadowlawn Avenue property, which pointed out that since the Township does not have plans for the immediate use of this property, the lease reduces maintenance expenses for the Township.

Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute a lease agreement with Deon Parker of 16916 Old US27 for the vacant parcels 050-110-000-031-00 and 050-111-000-037-00 in the amount of \$50 per year for an initial term of five (5) years. Motion voted and carried.

L-4029 Millage Rate Request **Motion by Seeger, second by Musselman, to approve the millage rate as presented on form L-4029 that sets the millage rate for 2018 at 3.9736 mills for operating and .9968 mills for police and .9968 mills for fire and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

REPORTS/
COMMENTS Interim Fire Chief DeKorte reported on recent incidents, including the gas leak that initiated a recent community alert. He also reminded the Board of the Fire Open House tomorrow evening.

Police Chief Russell thanked the Board for all the support and kind words he received on the death of his father.

Trustee Fedewa commented positively on the Herbison Road Project. He questioned how we address when the flag should be lowered. Manager Taylor noted that they are working on a new process.

Manager Taylor reported the following: he will be absent at the next meeting; the 501/102 Project, Phase II (interceptor) engineering services is being bid, and will be on the agenda of the next meeting, with SCCMUA Director Gurski present to answer any questions from the Board.

Clerk Mosier thanked Supervisor Galardi for his work on the Zeeb presentation, noting that she appreciated how he handled the award.

Supervisor Galardi reminded the Board that he would like to have another joint meeting with the Board the first week of February.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor