

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
Board Meeting (Virtual)  
February 9, 2021  
6:00 PM

The Oshtemo Township Public Meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform. Residents were able to join the meeting through both the Zoom application and by phone. Residents were able to give public comment through email, the Zoom platform, and by phone during the meeting. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell- Oshtemo Township  
Clerk Dusty Farmer- Oshtemo Township  
Treasurer Clare Buszka- Oshtemo Township  
Trustee Kizzy Bradford- Oshtemo Township  
Trustee Kristen Cole- Oshtemo Township  
Trustee Zak Ford- Oshtemo Township  
Trustee Cheri Bell- Oshtemo Township

Also present were Township Attorney Jim Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Rick Suwarsky, and approximately 8 interested people.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. Two people spoke.

**WORK SESSION ITEMS**

**Discussion with Legal & Ordinance Enforcement Depts on Non-discharge Areas**

Attorney Porter presented the possibility of expanding the non-discharge area in the Township, to include bow arms and to expand the boundaries, by making a request to the DNR. He mentioned the complaints in the past, including a stray bullet that entered a home in a residential neighborhood a few years ago. Ordinance Enforcement Officer Rick Suwarsky shared concerns from the community regarding densely populated areas and the danger of arms use in those areas. The original boundaries were created before the rapid development of many residential neighborhoods in the Township. Attorney Porter offered that he does not believe there would be any difference between shooting for target practice or for hunting.

Board consensus was to have staff prepare a request to the DNR to expand the non-discharge area to include bow arms.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. No public comment.

**REGULAR SESSION ITEMS**

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Minutes – January 26, 2021

- b. Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c. Board/Committee Appointments
- d. Paid on Call Compensation Policy
- e. Fire Alarm Ordinance Amendments – Second Reading
- f. Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Second Reading
  - i. Pools on corner Lots (Front Yard Setback)
  - ii. Child and Adult Care Centers
- g. Fire Department Lexipol Policies
- h. Elections Budget Amendment

Clerk Farmer requested to remove item a.

Motion by Ford, second by Buszka to approve the consent agenda with items b-h. Roll call.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**Consideration of City of Kalamazoo Water Agreement with Final Version of Appendices**  
Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell explained that the agreement and appendices were recently completed and are ready for Board discussion.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. No public comment.

Motion by Ford, second by Bell to adopt a resolution to approve the City of Kalamazoo Water Agreement with Final Version of Appendices. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

**Discussion/Consideration of Poverty Exemptions per Recent Changes in State Law**  
Attorney Porter and Assessor Kristine Biddle presented the proposed guidelines from the State of Michigan. The Board discussed the benefit to those in need, but also the challenge of following the guidelines without direction from the State.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Motion by Ford, second by Farmer to approve the proposed Poverty Exemption Guidelines. Roll call. Motion carried 4-3 with Bell, Buszka, and Heiny-Cogswell voting No.

### **Other Township Business & Question Updates**

Clerk Farmer requested two amendments to the previous Board minutes to better reflect the proceedings. One amendment would be to clarify that the Township Board did not decide to move forward with single waste hauler, but rather to collect more information. The second amendment was to remove the mention of a specific consultant from Other Business since that decision had not been made yet.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Ford to approve the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Roll call. Motion carried 7-0.

**Public Comment**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. No public comment.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 PM.

Prepared by: Dusty Farmer  
Township Clerk

Attested: Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Township Supervisor