

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
January 10, 2012

Township Board work session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Jodi Stefforia, and 1 interested person

DISCUSSION – OSHTEMO SUNBURST

Discussion was held regarding the Oshtemo Sunburst 5K. Ron Martin, representing the Sunburst Committee and Consumers Credit Union was also present. Trustee Borgfjord provided the history of the two year event advising the net profit was approximately \$10,500 for both years. Ms. Borgfjord and Mr. Martin also advised the Sunburst Committee had met with the Friends of the Parks to discuss working under their umbrella to have a connection to a 501(c)3 organization, Consumers Credit Union as the major sponsor supports the event growing, would like to build a website for it and would like to commit their 2012 donation for that purpose. Ms. Borgfjord advised the Sunburst Committee would like to fund some programming events for the Township Park, and will need funding for the 2012 run, therefore they were requesting the Sunburst funds being held by the Township be transferred to the Friends of the Parks. Consensus was the event is a great benefit to the Township parks and it makes sense for the event to work through the Friends of the Park organization and would approve transferring the funds subject to review of the park grant application and consultation with the Township auditor. It was noted any events the Committee or Friends of the Parks would like to conduct will follow the required approval process through the Park Committee and/or Township Board.

DISCUSSION – FIRE COMMISSIONER

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell noted the Fire Commissioner position had been vacant since form Trustee James Grace's resignation in August, 2011. Discussion was held regarding whether the position needed to be filled. Consensus was the position is no longer necessary; Attorney Porter will provide a resolution to rescind the position at the February 14th meeting.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised Township Engineer Marc Elliot was no longer with the firm of Prein & Newhof.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Grace Borgfjord
Trustee Dave Bushouse
Trustee Scott Ernstes
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter and 16 interested people.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Larson to approve the December 13th regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Income to the General, Building, Fire, and Sewer & Water Funds of \$36,347.00 and disbursements of \$406,077.88 were reported. Motion by Bushouse, second by Borgfjord to accept the receipts and disbursements report. Carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gordon Lanker, 2524 North 2nd Street, commented he supported the Board's decision in 2009 to establish the Township wide special assessment district for more police protection and feels the current Sargent should be replaced with two deputies, he has information he would be willing to present. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell suggested he do so at the February 14th work session.

UPDATE OF TOWNSHIP AERIAL IMAGES

A recommendation from Planning Director Jodi Stefforia to update and upgrade the aerial images of the Township was before the Board. Kalamazoo County will be contracting for a fly over of the entire county and local units will have the opportunity as they have in the past to participate at 50% for the upgraded information. It was noted the Assessing and Fire Departments use the aerial images as well as the Planning Department. The cost for the upgrade would be \$9,800 and could be paid to the County over three years.

Motion by Larson, second by Bushouse to approve an expenditure up to \$9,800 for the aerial upgrades. Carried.

UPDATE – ITC TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a letter has been forwarded to Attorney General Bill Schuette regarding unfair practices of ITC and lack of information. She further advised follow up continues on the question of endangered or threatened species in the proposed transmission line corridor. Attorney Porter advised there still has been no response to his letter of December 1st inquiring of ITC's attorney their intentions to apply for Township or MPSC review. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised an alternate route proposal had been submitted to ITC by a group of residents from the Twelve Oaks neighborhood, and an e-mail from Rep. Margaret O'Brien indicates she is working on legislation to require public review of such projects.

Gail Stevens, 10725 West Main, inquired if a copy of the alternative route proposed by the residents is available; a resident present provided her with a copy.

JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATES

Updated position descriptions for Supervisor, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Clerk's Assistant, Treasurer, Planning Director, Senior Planner, Associate Planner, Building Official/Building Inspector, Building Inspector, Building Department Administrative Assistant, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, and Violations Bureau Administrator were before the Board, adding the essential job functions to each description.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Ernestes to approve the updated descriptions. Carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

A recommendation from the Planning Commission for approval of two proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the first to add car washes to the list of uses allowed with special exception use approval in the C, Local Business District and the second to address illuminated signs, requiring all signs be turned off at midnight when the premise is not open and abuts a residential zoning district and 9:00 p.m. when the premises is not open and the sign's illumination can shine into the window of any residence within 500 feet, was before the Board for Second Reading.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Culp to adopt the text amendments. Carried.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – 911 CENTRAL DISPATCH

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented a letter of support to Kalamazoo County for the proposal being considered by the County Commission to develop a 911 business plan and professional consultant for central dispatch.

Motion by Borgfjord, second by Ernestes to send the letter of support. Carried.

UPDATE – PROPOSED TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the two current transit millages expires at the end of this year and the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners will be considering two millage renewals, one county wide for "on demand" transportation service, and one for "fixed route" bus line service. The amount of the requested millages is still being discussed. The defined boundaries of the "fixed route" bus line service area, and therefore that millage area, will be new. The County Commission will determine them at an upcoming meeting. As recommended to the County Commission by the Kalamazoo Area Transit

Authority, several Oshtemo precincts are included; all residents in these precincts would pay the millage if the bus line goes into the precinct at any point.

CANCEL FEBRUARY 28TH MEETING

Clerk Everett advised the Board meeting on February 28th would be the same date as the Presidential Primary.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to cancel the February 28th regular Township Board meeting.
Carried.

**SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY
NEW KL AVENUE PRESERVE**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised she was pleased to announce the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy had received a donation of nearly 70 acres at the corner of KL Avenue and South 4th Street from Dr. Richard Malott.

Geoff Cripe of SWMLC advised the group serves nine counties, has 43 public nature preserves and 71 conservation easements on private property and acknowledged and thanked Dr. Malott for his donation.

Dr. Malott commented he is a 30 year resident, was pleased to make the donation and is happy to live in Oshtemo Township.

The Board and public present thanked Dr. Malott for his donation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Kalamazoo County Road Commission will hold a public information meeting on the planned 2012 9th Street, M-43 to KL Avenue project on January 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell also advised the Michigan Botanical Club 2012 theme will be to explore natural features in Oshtemo Township. Their first program will be held at the Oshtemo Branch Library on January 16th.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor