

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
February 23, 2016

The Oshtemo Township Board public comment session was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Zak Ford
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Julie Johnston, Parks Director Karen High, and 4 interested people.

Discussion - Planning Director Johnston presented information on reorganizing the Zoning Ordinance into a more user friendly format. She advised she is in the process of seeking quotes for the project, additional funding in for the Planning Department would be needed; she will present a formal request after the quotes are obtained. Clerk Everett commented she would recommend the General Ordinance be included in the project so both documents are compatible.

Discussion – Parks Director High presented information regarding a feasibility study conducted to determine the feasibility of a capital campaign to raise funds to implement the Drake Farmstead Master Plan. She advised the consultant, who conducted the feasibility study interviews advises setting the campaign goal at \$500,000 and also advised the Township needs to provide a significant match. Parks Director High advised \$100,000 was approved in the 2016 budget and recommended the Board consider a total match of \$250,000 with the remaining \$150,000 budgeted over the 2017 and 2018 budget years. This item will be taken up for action on the regular agenda.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Clerk Deb Everett
Treasurer Nancy Culp
Trustee Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Zak Ford
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Parks Director Karen High, and 2 interested people.

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the Saturday, February 20th shootings.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Greg Rosine, Vice-Chair of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority provided information on the millage request that will be on the May ballot.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda were:

- a) Minutes of February 9th regular meeting
- b) Receipts & Disbursements Report

Motion by Taylor, second by Farmer to approve the consent agenda. Carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT BUILDING OFFICIAL

A recommendation from the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA), of which the Township is a member, to appoint Michael Alwine as Building Official was before the Board for consideration. In response to questions from Trustee Carr, Attorney Porter advised Mr. Alwine previously acted as building official for several small municipalities in addition to his work with KABA as a building inspector and Clerk Everett advised KABA does have a process for notifying builders after conducting inspections.

Motion by Everett, second by Ford to adopt a resolution appointing Michael Alwine as Building Official. Roll call showed Heiny-Cogswell-yes, Taylor-yes, Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Farmer-yes, Ford-yes.

OTHER BUSINESS DRAKE FARMSTEAD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As discussed at the earlier work session, Parks Director High advised the Oshtemo Historical Society, Friends of the Parks, Parks Committee and Township staff have worked together with consultant Keith Hopkins on the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to raise funds to implement the Drake Farmstead Master Plan. She advised Mr. Hopkins, who conducted the feasibility study, interviewed 26 residents, property owners, and foundations and is advising setting the campaign goal at \$500,000 and also advised the Township needs to provide a significant match; a challenge to the charitable community to match dollar for dollar. Parks Director High advised \$100,000 was approved in the 2016 budget and requested the Board consider a total match of \$250,000 with the remaining \$150,000 budgeted over the 2017 and 2018 budget years. She noted the commitment of the Board to support the campaign is needed prior to approaching donors.

Trustee Carr commented she understands the request for a commitment but would prefer to wait until work begins on the 2017 budget.

Trustee Farmer commented the Parks Department has been successful in seeking additional funds for other projects; parks are a good investment.

Motion by Taylor, second by Everett to allocate \$150,000 to the capital campaign over the next two budget cycles and start the capital campaign. Carried 6-1 with Carr voting no.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented Assessor Kristine Biddle has advised assessment notices will be mailed on February 26th with Board of Review dates set for March 14th – 17th.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell thanked the police officers who helped restore safety following the past weekend's shootings and commented help is available for anyone may need it; call 211.

She also noted the March Township Board meeting will be held on March 15th instead of the second Tuesday, March 8th since that is election day.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor