

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Meeting**  
**February 25, 2014**

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 Dave Bushouse  
Trustee Nancy Carr  
Trustee Dusty Farmer  
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Planning Director Greg Milliken, Parks Administrator Karen High and 15 interested people.

**Discussion – Grange Hall Accessibility Design** – Information regarding the Park Committee's work on an accessibility design for the Grange Hall was presented. Park Committee Chair Roger Taylor commented he feels it is important to retain the rural character of the Township and the Grange Hall is an important element, along with the historical significance. Park Administrator Karen High advised the committee began in the fall of 2011 by inviting residents within a mile of the Grange Hall along with the regular users to a community meeting and has been working with architect Nelson Nave and landscape architect Larry Harris to address the accessibility issues. The preliminary proposed plan would add an elevator, accessible rest rooms, replace the staircases that do not meet current building code and make site improvements to address drainage and the septic system. She noted the Township purchased the facility in 1980, however the West Oshtemo Grange organization dates back to 1917. She advised the preliminary cost estimate is \$300,000 with the goal being to seek grants and donations. She noted plans are needed for grant applications; the Park Committee hopes to secure 70% to 100% of the needed funding through grants and donations.

The preliminary building and site plans were reviewed, input was provided by members of the Oshtemo Grange, other users of the facility and board members regarding the site plan and storage needs.

Motion by Farmer, second by Everett to approve the schematic plans including the public and board input and authorize the Supervisor to pursue grants for the project. Motion carried 6-1 with Carr voting no.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Deb Everett  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Dave Bushouse  
Trustee Nancy Carr  
Trustee Dusty Farmer  
Trustee Lee Larson

Also present was Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 6 interested people.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Items on the consent agenda were:

Minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the Receipts & Disbursements Report.

Motion by Larson, second by Culp to approve the consent agenda. Carried 7-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Callie Melton, representing Priorities Michigan advised the group seeks to build a coalition to address bringing awareness regarding state dollars and how they are spent.

### **CONSUMERS SUNBURST RUN – REQUEST ROAD CLOSURES**

Greg Milliken, Township Liaison to the Consumers Sunburst Run advised the event will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, will incorporate a 5K, 10K and family fun run and a community breakfast with activities taking place at the Immanuel Fellowship Church at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and H Avenue. He also presented a request from the Consumers Sunburst Run Committee to close portions of 10th Street, H Avenue, and G Avenue; the request would need approval of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission as well.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Everett to authorize the Supervisor to submit a request for the road closures to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and subject to KCRC requirements for signage. Carried 7-0.

### **REZONING REQUESTS – SECTION 24 & 25**

Planning Director Milliken presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission for approval of a rezoning request, a portion of a 12 acre parcel at 5070 West Michigan from I-1 Industrial to I-2 Industrial. He advised the property is currently split between I-1 and I-2; the owners wish to have the entire parcel I-2. He noted the request is consistent with the Master Land Use Plan and there was no public comment at the Planning Commission public hearing.

Planning Director Milliken presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission for approval of a rezoning request, a less than .1 acre parcel which should have been included in the rezoning approved in late 2013 for the 40 parcels at the northwest corner of Stadium Drive and Drake Road. He noted the parcel was indicated on the map at the time of the earlier request; however, the parcel number was not listed in the notice. He noted the request is consistent with the Master Land Use Plan and there was no public comment at the Planning Commission public hearing.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to adopt both rezoning requests. Carried 7-0.

### **NORTH DRAKE NON-MOTORIZED PLAN DESIGN BIKE ROUTE DESIGNATION**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell and Engineer Elliott provided updates regarding the North Drake Road non-motorized facility plan.

Paul Seldon, representing Bike Friendly Kalamazoo requested the Board make a request to the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to designate North Drake Road as a bike route. It was noted the City of Kalamazoo will be doing so on the east side of the road and Kalamazoo Township will also be requesting the KCRC do the same on the portion of Drake Road in their jurisdiction.

Motion by Farmer, second by Larson to authorize the Supervisor to make the request that a bike route be designated on the west side of Drake Road from Grand Prairie to Ravine Road. Carried 7-0.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell requested the Board consider approval of the consultant design for non-motorized facilities as shown on plans dated February 21<sup>st</sup> contingent on resolution of specific comments and questions provided in the February 25<sup>th</sup> memo to the Board.

She also requested the Board consider amending the contract with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, per their request, to include clarification language for maintenance and replacement. She noted this should be subject to Township Attorney and staff review and approval.

Motion by Larson, second by Culp to approve the consultant design for non-motorized facilities as shown on plans dated February 21<sup>st</sup> contingent on resolution of specific comments and questions provided in the February 25<sup>th</sup> memo to the Board and amend the contract with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, per their request, to include clarification language for maintenance and replacement. She noted this should be subject to Township Attorney and staff review and approval. Carried 7-0.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to an inquiry from Trustee Farmer, Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Police Committee has met, there has been a request for more information from the County; the process is proceeding regarding a new contract for police protection.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Dinnerstein Corporation has informed her they will donate property at the corner of Drake Road and Croyden Avenue to the Township; this will add an additional 11 acres to the Drake Homestead.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised resident George Horn whose barn collapsed due to snow thanked the Fire Department for their response.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Culp, second by Everett to adjourn to closed session to discuss a proposal for purchase of real estate because doing so in open meeting could have a detrimental effect upon the Township's position.

Roll call showed Farmer-yes, Larson-yes, Everett-yes, Culp-yes, Carr-yes, Bushouse-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

The Board adjourned to closed session at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Motion by Everett, second by Culp to return to open session at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Everett, to authorize the Township's agent to act as discussed in closed session. Carried.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately at 9:15 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COSGWELL**  
Supervisor