

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
Township Board Meeting
March 10, 2015

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 Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson
Trustee Grant Taylor

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

Update – Kalamazoo County – Engineer Elliott provided information on upcoming Kalamazoo County Road Commission projects including work scheduled for Stadium Drive/9th Street intersection which will need coordination with the Township and Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Discussion – Ordinance Amendments on Consent Agenda – Attorney Porter provided review of proposed amendments to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer Ordinance and Fire Code Ordinance. He advised the amendments would provide for enforcement of the Fire Code Ordinance by Fire Department personnel, noting they maintain updates and training related to the Fire Code, the amendment to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer Ordinance would provide that authorization could be granted by the Fire Chief to the OEO to enforce the Fire Code.

Discussion – Capital Improvement Planning – Engineer Elliott reviewed the City of Portage's plan for road maintenance/sewer installation, there was further discussion regarding where the need for sewer might be in the Township and the Capital Improvement Plan which needs to be completed and reviewed when work begins on the 2016 budget.

The Board work session adjourned at approximately 6:50 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 Nancy Carr
Trustee Dusty Farmer
Trustee Lee Larson
Trustee Grant Taylor

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, and 6 interested people.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jack Urban, representing Friends of Transit, commented on comments that had been made by some that the Central County Transit Authority millage should be county wide resulting in a lower cost. He noted the 2008 county wide millage request failed due to confusing ballot language, voters in rural areas being asked to pay for a non-benefit, and it was a presidential election where voters don't look at the entire ballot. He further commented the matter of setting the boundary by precincts is in State law, public transit is a benefit for all the community; people come from all across the county to shop and work in the Township.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda were:

- a) Minutes of the February 24th regular meeting.
- b) Receipts & Disbursements Report.
- c) Ordinance Enforcement Officer Ordinance Amendment – First Reading – set Second Reading for April 14th
- d) Fire Code Ordinance Amendment – First Reading – set Second Reading for April 14th
- e) Update – North Drake Road Sidewalk Project

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

CENTRAL COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CCTA) PRESENTATION

Sean McBride, Executive Director of the CCTA presented information regarding public transit in Kalamazoo County including information regarding the millage request that will be on the August 4th ballot.

In response to Board member questions, Mr. McBride advised the .4 millage currently paid by all County residents provides funding for fixed route service outside the City of Kalamazoo, the millage rate is unknown if the CCTA millage request had been county wide, the proposed .75 mills on the August ballot will be levied only in the precincts opted in, the .4 mills being levied county wide will be decreased at the next election for that millage, and precincts opted into the CCTA will pay both the CCTA and county wide millage.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell complimented Mr. McBride on the efforts of the KCTA and CCTA to provide public transit. She commented the Township supports public transit as evidenced by the precincts opted in to the CCTA boundary.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – WMU BTR PARK 2.0

Bob Miller, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach for Western Michigan University, provided information regarding the development of the WMU BTR Park 2.0 on the former Colony Farm Orchard property on South Drake Road noting they have been working with the Township and Southwest Michigan First and thanked those involved for their effort. He noted WMU seeks businesses that will collaborate with the university and their students in the areas of advanced engineering, life sciences, and information technology, as has occurred in the current BTR Park.

Attorney Porter advised the estimated cost for infrastructure is \$3.5 million, with the primary target for funding being an Economic Development Grant which has a 50 percent match requirement. WMU has committed \$250,000 toward the match, with a request the Township commit to the balance of the grant match. It was also noted Southwest Michigan First will be working to seek other grants as well along with promoting the project to Kalamazoo County for their participation.

In response to Board members questions, it was noted the current BTR Park is at capacity, there has been interest expressed to both WMU and Southwest Michigan First for available building sites, the Township would be asked to use \$90,000 of sewer/water funds to fund up-front costs, reimbursements will come in the form of connection fees as the sites develop, WMU is looking to recoup their costs for the property, and due to several other projects underway by the university, WMU is not in a position to provide more funding. Board consensus was there is risk involved not to be taken lightly, it is a worthwhile project and unique opportunity, and other funding sources will continue to be sought.

Elaine Branch, 7654 West Main, commented she would not want to see the sewer/water fund depleted for this project. It was noted the amount needed would not.

Motion by Larson, second by Taylor to adopt the Resolution to Approve United States Economic Development Authority Grant Application for Development of the Western Michigan University BTR Park 2.0. Roll call showed Larson-yes, Taylor-yes, Carr-yes, Culp-yes, Everett-yes, Farmer-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-yes.

**OTHER BUSINESS
DDA VACANCY**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a vacancy has occurred on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors and recommended the appointment of Rich McDonald to complete the term expiring December 31, 2016.

Motion by Taylor, second by Everett to approve the appointment. Carried 7-0.

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL WATER & WASTEWATER COMMISSION DUES

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the KRWWC fiscal year end is March 31st and there is a shortfall due to the ongoing litigation with the City of Kalamazoo, the commission is requesting an additional \$3,000 in dues for their 2014-15 fiscal year. Trustee Taylor advised he would vote no as he is not familiar with the issue.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to approve the additional dues and amend the budget accordingly. Carried 5-2 with Carr and Taylor voting no.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented residents are welcome to submit a Board/Committee Appointment application to serve on the various boards/committees of the Township.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

DEBORAH L. EVERETT
Township Clerk

Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL
Supervisor