

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**June 1, 2016**

The Oshtemo Township Board held a special meeting at the Oshtemo Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Lt. Troy Faulk, and 9 interested people.

Trustee Carr arrived at approximately 6:00 p.m. due to a business appointment.

**Discussion – Fire Protection**

Fire Chief Barnes presented information regarding Fire Department staffing issues including a decline in the number qualified to be a Driver/Operator, which has resulted in closing Station 2 in 2015 for 242 hours and through May this year a total of 146 hours. He advised the fire service as a whole is experiencing a reduction in the numbers of qualified citizens willing or able to meet the time requirements of a paid-on-call firefighter. He noted it takes three years for a member to train and qualify as a Driver/Operator. He requested approval to hire three full time firefighters and amend the Operations budget by \$153,000 from reserves. Board members had questions regarding current scheduling, future scheduling, and budget concerns to maintain additional full time positions. Consensus was a strategic plan is needed to define and address these issues.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called a fifteen-minute break at approximately 6:45 p.m. Trustee Carr advised she would have to leave due to a business appointment.

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

**Discussion – Police Protection**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell presented information on recommendations from the Police Committee for future police contracting. Recommendations include providing the public with information on the data of police needs and revenue needs, the Lieutenant position is working well and should be maintained, the Community Policing Officer is in place and the position should be continued into 2017 and monitor the benefit, additional staffing be phased in over five years along with funding changes to maintain revenue, use dedicated revenue instead of general fund to sustain police protection. Attorney Porter provided options for special assessment funding illustrating the phasing recommendation; more discussion will take place during the 2017 budgeting process.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

**Deborah L. Everett**  
**TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**Attested: Elizabeth Heiny-Cogswell**  
**TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**