

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**

**Township Board Meeting**

**June 24, 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, Township Engineer Marc Elliott, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 4 interested people.

**Consumers Energy** – Dennis McKee was present and provided information regarding Consumers plan to update all electric meters advising Kalamazoo County area is scheduled for 2015. He noted the new “smart meters” will send readings via text eliminating the need for meter readers; it will also notify Consumers Energy when the power goes out and customers will be able to track their usage data.

**South 9<sup>th</sup> Street Rear Access & Atlantic Avenue Agreements** – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell provided information on a preliminary design for access from Atlantic Avenue to the Oshtemo Community Center property which would provide rear access to properties on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street between Stadium Drive and Atlantic Avenue, considerations including, the overarching objective of rear access is to encourage economic development in the DDA that meet the goals and vision of the Village area, any access should recognize the goals of the Township’s access management requirements, provide cross access agreements to adjoining properties. She noted the recent acquisition by the Township of three parcels fronting on Atlantic Avenue provided further opportunity to develop the preliminary design. Board discussion included concerns regarding stormwater retention and the desire for an aesthetically pleasing option and assuring adherence to the access management plan. It was also noted that a traffic study is needed which the DDA should be asked to pursue.

Drafts of 9<sup>th</sup> Street properties easement/cross-access driveway agreements and Atlantic Avenue cross access agreements were also provided for Board consideration. Consensus was to move these forward with the next review of the access design.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to authorize the Supervisor to finalize the access plan consistent with the preliminary design and seek bids. An amendment to the motion offered by Trustee Carr to first require a traffic study failed due to lack of a second. Mr. Larson’s motion carried 6-0 with Carr voting no.

The public comment session was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:25 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 4 interested people.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) June 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes
- b) Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c) Employee Handbook Amendments

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

### **PROPOSED 2015 NORTH 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET SEWER PROJECT COORDINATION WITH NON-MOTORIZED PLAN**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised that plans for sanitary sewer extension in North 10<sup>th</sup> Street from West Point Drive to H Avenue, have been designed, and are ready to go to bid for 2015. She advised the Board should have discussion at this time regarding including non-motorized facilities as part of the project. Engineer Elliott advised the sewer project would place the trunk line, it would serve areas that are either currently undeveloped or those that have aging septic systems. Consensus was to proceed with obtaining estimates for the sewer project and non-motorized elements, to be considered for the 2015 budget.

### **PROCLAMATION OF GRATITUDE DINERSTEIN COMPANIES DONATION – DRAKE FARM LAND**

A proclamation expressing the gratitude of the Township to the Dinerstein Companies for their donation of approximately 11 acres of land at the southwest corner of Drake Road and Croyden Avenue, was presented by Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell; this will increase the size of the historical Drake Farmstead to approximately 25 acres.

Motion by Everett, second by Larson to issue the proclamation. Carried 7-0.

### **OTHER BUSINESS AGREEMENT WITH KALAMAZOO COUNTY SOUTH DRAKE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (SoDA)**

An agreement between Kalamazoo County, the Township, and the SoDA Board that the County Board will continue to work toward adopting a policy addressing tax increment financing requests and reconsider the SoDA plan was before the Board.

Motion by Everett, second by Carr to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement and request the SoDA Board to also execute the agreement. Carried 7-0.

### **OSHTEMO COMMUNITY CENTER CEILING REPAIRS**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised a problem has developed with the ceiling in the north room of the Oshtemo Community Center; Maintenance Director Rick Everett advised the old plaster ceiling above the current suspended ceiling is collapsing. One contractor has observed the damage and provided an estimate of \$7,500 for repairs, two other quotes are being sought.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to approve an expenditure up to \$7,500 for repairs and amend the budget from General Fund reserves. Carried 7-0.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Bushouse commended Attorney Porter for his recent work on a cable franchise application.

Trustee Farmer commented she attended a recent local officials event; the topic was the August ballot proposal regarding personal property tax.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL**  
Township Supervisor