

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Township Board Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**October 21, 2014**

The Oshtemo Township Board held a special meeting 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, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, and 13 interested people.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Lefler, 8644 Hathaway Road, commented on the financial audits for 2012 and 2013; fund balances are too high, and recommended the board establish a policy on fund balances, reduce all millages or publish a plan for spending goals.

**POLICE PROTECTION STUDY – CONSULTANT REPORT**

Dr. Dov Chelst, Director of Quantitative Analysis of the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) presented results of their study of police protection in the Township. He provided a review of the current structure, and advised the study included analysis of two specific time frames, February and August, types of calls for service, duration, response times, schedules and deployment which enabled them to analyze the workload. Their report indicates the calls for service workload exceeds the time available for the Township paid deputies and the number of deputies working daily varies wildly.

In response to questions, Dr. Chelst advised February and August were considered representative time frames for the year; the workload to deputy comparison was based on Oshtemo workload for Oshtemo deputies.

Leonard Matarese, Director, Research & Project Development for CPSM commented the Township needs to clearly identify the level of service the community needs, wants and is willing to pay for. In response to questions, he noted there are no national guidelines for law enforcement staffing. He advised if continuing a contract items it should include are a “chief” as the service provider’s representative and part of the Township management team, funding deployment rather than specific number of deputies, cars identified as associated with the Township, input from the Township on deputies performance, measureable goals, and regular reporting on calls for service and clearance rates.

Mr. Matarese suggested soliciting public input thorough facilitated workshops, citizen surveys or strategic planning with input from the business, education and religious communities in addition to residents, with the goal to looking forward.

Jim Lefler, commented the Board should listen to Mr. Matarese and also rescind the police special assessments.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell thanked the citizen ad-hoc committee who worked on the Township’s study.

**2015 BUDGET**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the Board needs discussion of the 2015 police budget. She noted the Board approved increases in the Police Special Assessment Districts for the 2014 budget intending to pursue a different contract with accountability standards, reporting, selection of officers; this was not able to be accomplished in 2014. It was noted the Supervisor and Sheriff have a scheduled meeting later in the week; consensus was to discuss the police budget at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Larson requested the Board reconsider the action taken at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the precincts opted out of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA), specifically Precincts 3 & 9. He commented the survey results indicated a majority considered public transit a benefit and supported the 2013 millage; the Board's action jeopardizes service to the West Main/9<sup>th</sup> Street area and influencing how the system develops.

Trustee Farmer concurred noting Precinct 8 was included with the idea service will come; Precinct 9 has an important commercial hub.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell commented she is not inclined to change her vote, the 2013 millage was for the County Connect system, precincts can be added later when plans are articulated, forming the boundaries by precincts is an imperfect system, and Precinct 8 has greater potential.

Motion by Larson, second by Farmer to opt in Precincts 3 & 9 into the CCTA. Roll call showed Farmer-yes, Everett-no, Culp-no, Bushouse-yes, Larson-yes, Heiny-Cogswell-no, Carr-no. Failed 4-3.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

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

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