



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
April 26, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT Supervisor Rick Galardi (DeWitt Twp, MI-I), Clerk Adam Cramton (DeWitt Twp, MI-I),
Location Treasurer Sandy Stump (DeWitt Twp, MI-I), and Trustees David Seeger (DeWitt Twp,
I=In-Person MI-I), Brian Ross (DeWitt Twp, MI-C), David Fedewa (DeWitt Twp, MI-I), and Steven
C=Call-In Smith (DeWitt Twp, MI-I).

MEMBERS ABSENT None.

ALSO PRESENT Fire Chief Dave DeKorte-I, Police Chief Mike Gute-I, Manager Andrew Dymczyk-I, and
I=In-Person Community Development Director Brett Wittenberg-C.
C=Call-In

AGENDA **Galardi moved, Stump seconded, to approve the Agenda.**

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC MEETING The State of Michigan has issued an update to the Michigan Department of Health and
POLICY UPDATE Human Services (MDHHS) Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and
Face Mask Order. The newest version is dated March 19, 2021, with an amendment
added on March 31, 2021. DeWitt Township will be holding in-person public meetings
of up to 50% of the fire-rated capacity of the meeting space.

Additionally, the Clinton County Board of Commissioners has extended the Declaration
of Local “State of Emergency” which, in combination with Senate Bills 1108 and 1246,
amending the Open Meetings Act (OMA), will allow the Township to simultaneously
allow for remote participation in public meetings by both membership and public.

The DeWitt Charter Township Open Meeting Policy & Procedure Manual has been
updated to reflect these changes.

Correspondence included the following: Emergency Order MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings
and Face Mask Order of April 19; and MDHHS Epidemic Order Effective, April 19
through May 24.

**Seeger moved, Fedewa seconded, to adopt the DeWitt Charter Township Open
Meeting Policy & Procedure effective April 26, 2021.**

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA Ross moved, Smith seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following: Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Draft Minutes, April 12, 2021; Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2021; and General Vouchers 72807-72846.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PUBLIC HEARING

DeWitt Crossings

South – Resolutions

2021-04-05, 2021-04-

06, and 2021-04-07

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Galardi.

Manager Dymczyk gave a brief overview of the proposed Street Lighting District.

No calls or comments were received in the Clerk’s Office prior to the Public Hearing. There was no one present that wished to comment.

Smith moved, Fedewa seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:34 PM.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

Fedewa moved, Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 2021-04-05 establishing a special assessment district and roll described as DeWitt Crossings South.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

Fedewa moved, Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 2021-04-07 Authorization for Change and allow the Clerk to execute the same.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

Fedewa moved, Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 2021-04-06 Authorization for Change and allow the Clerk to execute the same.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

N. Cedar St. Lighting District **The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:05 PM by Supervisor Galardi.**

DeWitt Township has received a petition from residents living on N. Cedar St. who wish to have streetlights added where currently there are none. DeWitt Township is considering 27 parcels of a proposed new streetlight district, of which 19 have signed the petition in the affirmative for estimated costs to be provided. A Public Hearing has been noticed and estimated costs have been provided to the affected residents.

Consumers Energy has not been able to provide the appropriate Resolution and Notice for Change in time for the Public Hearing, so there will be no action taken at its conclusion. The Hearing will be the final opportunity for the affected residents to approve or deny the forming of a new lighting district, with the installation and electric costs to be assessed on their winter tax bill. Pending receipt of the district package from Consumers Energy, action to approve the district could be taken up at the next Board meeting on May 10, 2021.

Residents were invited to comment or protest by attending the Public Hearing in person, virtually by phone, or by letter submitted to the Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office has not received any resident letters.

Gerald Spooner, 16763 N. Cedar St., spoke in favor of the lighting district. He feels that it will improve the safety of pedestrians on the street when dark.

Chester Thompson, 16832 N. Cedar St., spoke in opposition of the lighting district. He does not want any light entering his home from outside at nighttime.

Ben Mason, 16840 N. Cedar St., spoke in opposition of the lighting district. He feels that lighting the street will invite more drivers onto the street. He also provided a petition in opposition. Clerk Cramton's office will evaluate the petition for valid signatures and make a determination if a majority of parcels are for, or against, the proposed lighting district.

There is no action to be taken at this time on the proposed district.

Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:30 PM.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT County Commissioner Robert Showers provided a county-wide tax revenue analysis, as well as a county-wide population analysis. His goal, as a commissioner, is to see Clinton County exceed 90,000 residents, while preserving farm lands north of Cutler Road.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: MI Employment Relations Commission – PO Labor Council Supervisory Unit; MI Employment Relations Commission – PO Labor Council Non-Supervisory Unit; Q1 Cash and Investments; Q1 2021 Financial Reports;

2021 Goal Performance Dashboard; and Clinton County Sheriff's Office March 2021 Jail Billing.

UNFINISHED
BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance
Amendment 21-1
Industrial Districts
Building Height, First
Reading

Currently, the maximum building height permitted in the industrial districts is 36 ft.; except for structures such as elevator shafts, roof air, or heating equipment and chimneys which are not included as part of the building height. Based on staff's evaluation and analysis of the Industrial Zoning Districts (IL, IH, and I-P), staff feels that there may be benefits to increase the maximum building height to 45 feet to encourage new industrial developments to locate in the Township.

In the BSC, Shopping Center Business District, the maximum building height is forty-five (45) feet, and in the POD, Planned Office Development District, the height of building and structures may be increased above thirty-five (35) feet by one (1) foot in height for each three (3) feet they are set back; for executive and administrative office of a single entity, the building height can be increased up to ninety-five (95) feet. In addition, the Township does have a Mixed-Use Ordinance where structures can be built up to Forty-five (45) feet in height in various districts by Special Use Permit.

Staff feels that increasing the building height in the industrial districts to forty-five (45) feet is reasonable and appropriate and may satisfy the height requirement for potential industrial uses and their operations. Furthermore, the proposed height of forty-five (45) feet is not in conflict with building height permitted in the residential or commercial districts within the Township and will not result in detrimental impacts to the surrounding lands or uses.

At the April 5, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, the only question that was raised was if the Township's fire apparatus would be able to accommodate the increase in height. The Township's fire apparatus can accommodate the increase in height and language has been included within the ordinance that it is subject to review and approval from the Building and Fire Departments.

Smith moved, Fedewa seconded, based upon a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission at their meeting of April 5, 2021, and after finding that the proposed amendment has complied with the process for amending the Zoning Ordinance, approve the first reading of Zoning Ordinance Amendment 21-1, updates and amend the DeWitt Charter Township Zoning Ordinance for the purposes of increasing the maximum building height in the Industrial Zoning Districts to forty-five (45) feet.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

Employment Contract – The Township has been without a backup Mechanical Inspector who is called up to perform mechanical inspections/plan review when the Inspector is unavailable. Manager Mechanical Inspector Dymczyk has met with Mr. Gates and would recommend his hiring.

Cramton moved, Stump seconded, to approve the employment contract with Mr. Lance Gates contingent upon the successful completion of the pre-employment physical and authorize the Clerk and Manager to execute the same.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

Vacation Time – Al Hoard

Building Official Al Hoard will be traveling for 13 days during the month of June and, per his contract for any vacation time over ten consecutive days, he is required to receive Township Board approval. During his absence, Deputy Building Official Cory Donnell is available and will oversee the department. Manager Dymczyk is recommending the approval of Mr. Hoard's vacation request for 13 days during the month of June this year.

Galardi moved, Seeger seconded, to approve Building Official Al Hoard's vacation of 13 days during the month of June, 2021.

AYES: Seeger, Ross, Fedewa, Smith, Stump, Cramton, Galardi.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC,
STAFF, & BOARD
COMMENTS

Greg Whitlock, 12625 S US 27, inquired if the two arbitration results presented in correspondence indicate that a contract has been settled with the Police Department. Supervisor Galardi responded that the contract is settled. Mr. Whitlock also inquired about the status of the development at Stoll and Meyer Roads.

Fire Chief Dave DeKorte provided an update to the Board about a recent mutual-aid response for a powerplant fire in Delta Township. Chief DeKorte also informed the Board about a disaster exercise at Capital Region International Airport on May 11th.

Police Chief Mike Gute updated the Board on a recent shots-fired incident in the Township. The Police Department has placed the electronic radar speed limit sign on Solon Road as a response to residents' concern about traffic speed. Chief Gute also informed the Board that interviews have been conducted for officer candidates.

Manager Dymczyk provided updates on the following:

- Vaccination Clinic to be held at Community Center on May 3rd from 1-5 PM.
- The Township has received 22 application for 3 available officer positions in the Police Department. Adding 3 Officers will increase the overall staffing of the Department from 16 to 17 once all Officers have returned from leave. The Board agreed with this direction.
- Met with Supervisor Galardi and Planning Commissioner Daley to learn more about Farmland and Open Space Preservation.
- Working with the Clerk's Office and the Planning Department to ensure a smooth transition to accepting MMFLA and MRTMA licensing applications.
- American Rescue Plan is a Federal program that has allocated \$4 billion to local government in the State of Michigan. Guidance is forthcoming.
- Boardroom AV refresh update.

- Meeting with MERS on Wednesday to discuss options for legacy debt.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn at 8:29 PM.**

Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Cramton, Clerk



Rick Galardi, Supervisor