



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
August 28, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Adam Cramton, Treasurer Sandy Stump, and Trustees David Seeger, Brian Ross, and Steven Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Trustee David Fedewa.

**ALSO PRESENT** Manager Andrew Dymczyk, Police Chief Matt Merony, Fire Chief Dave DeKorte, and several citizens.

**AGENDA** **Galardi moved, Smith seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA** **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Board of Trustees regular meeting draft minutes, August 14, 2023; Board of Trustees special meeting draft minutes, August 22, 2023; Planning Commission regular meeting draft minutes, August 7, 2023; Zoning Board of Appeals regular meeting draft minutes, July 19, 2023; and General Vouchers 75947-76002, Tax Vouchers 9583-9599.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**PRESENTATION**

DeWitt Township  
Police Life Saving  
Award – Mr. Corey  
Taylor

Police Chief Matt Merony presented the DeWitt Township Police Life Saving award to Corey Taylor in recognition of his actions during a search and rescue operation for a missing resident from Addie's Acres. Mr. Taylor used his own ATV to search a large area and found the missing person in the woods. The missing person was transported to the hospital and has recovered from the ordeal. The DeWitt Township Police Department, and the Board of Trustees, thank Mr. Taylor for his contribution to the health and safety of the Township.

**PUBLIC HEARING** None.

**COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER  
REPORT**

County Commissioner Ken Mitchell was present to answer any questions from the Board. He noted severe weather experienced by the County in the last week with many downed trees and power lines. He added that they have determined what caused an emergency siren to spontaneously activate, and the siren has been repaired.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included the following: DeWitt Township Police Department July 2023 Activity Report; DeWitt Township Fire Department July 2023 Activity Report; Webb Road Sidewalk Project Detour Map; Letter to the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission from Tom and Brittany Morgan; Howard Joseph Shooltz Obituary; ACD.net Letter of Intent to Commence Utility Work; Consumers Energy Notice of Hearing; and Bengal Township Law Enforcement Officers Open House.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Municipal Building South (MBS) Notice of Intent Resolution No. 2023-08-08** At the July 24th regular board meeting, an ad hoc financing committee was formed for the purpose of meeting with the Township’s Financial Advisor to evaluate financial options and impacts surrounding the Municipal Building South project. The committee met with the Township’s Bond Advisor, Robert Bendzinski, on August 7, 2023.

The Municipal Building South project has progressed to a point where action is required to notify the public of the Township’s intent to issue bonds to fund the project. Based on the ad hoc committee’s discussion, Manager Dymczyk recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2023-08-08, Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds for up to \$15,000,000 for the purpose of financing the Municipal Building South project.

Manager Dymczyk provided an MBS cost estimate, financial project timeline, and schedule of debt service requirements for \$11.5 million, \$12 million and \$15 million.

Bond Attorney Michael Gresens explained the timeline of events as the Township moves through the bonding process. Bond Advisor Robert Bendzinski explained that the Township will not Bond until there are construction bids in-hand. This will likely happen in April.

**Stump moved, Cramton seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-08-08, Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds for up to \$15,000,000 for the purpose of financing the Municipal Building South project.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

**2023 Poverty Exemption and Guidelines**

Pursuant to MCL.7u (e) of the Michigan Compiled Laws, which deals with the creation and implementation of poverty exemptions, the local governing body of the assessing unit determines and makes available to the public the Policy and Guidelines for the granting of poverty exemptions. The Township continues to comply with these requirements by establishing the Poverty Exemption Application and Policy and Guidelines, which are updated yearly.

As part of the Township’s assessing audit, it was discovered that the current guidelines reference owning real estate other than the owner’s principal residence will disqualify them from being eligible for the poverty exemption. Under the 2020 update to the poverty exemption statutes, this is no longer allowable. Township Assessor Chris Coucke is asking

the Township Board to adopt the attached guidelines, which simply removes the following language:

*12) "An exemption shall not be granted if the applicant owns real property or holds a partial interest in any other real estate other than their homestead."*

**Galardi moved, Ross seconded, to adopt Resolution R2023-08-09 which amends the Township's Policy and Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions to remove language regarding ownership of additional land by applicant.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

Annual Streetlight Assessment, Set Public Hearing

It has been the practice of the Township to assess the operating costs for Township streetlights back to the property owners in each individual district. The law requires first class mailing to the owners of the properties, a publication in a local paper, and a public hearing before the Township Board each year prior to those properties being assessed on the Winter tax bill. The Assessing Department is preparing the assessments and the appropriate Resolutions for the Board's consideration. At this time, the Board is tasked with establishing the date and time for the public hearing to facilitate the above requirements.

**Seeger moved, Stump seconded, to schedule a public hearing to hear comments relative to the annual assessment for street lighting costs for each streetlight district on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 PM, and to authorize the Township Clerk to take care of the appropriate public notices and mailings.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

CLOSED SESSION: Attorney Correspondence

A closed session of the Board of Trustees is permissible under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(c) for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement. Manager Dymczyk recommends that the Board enter into closed session for strategy and negotiations.

**Galardi moved, Cramton seconded, to enter the Board into closed session at 7:49 PM, under the Open Meetings Act, for a strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

**Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to return to regular session at 8:14 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Supervisory Unit –  
Employee Pension  
Contribution Change  
Letter of Agreement

In May of 2023, the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Supervisory Division, and the Township, agreed to a letter of agreement capping pension contributions at 15% through September 1, 2023. Since that time, there have been many discussions concerning Michigan Employment Retirement System (MERS) employee contributions.

The Supervisory Division met with Township representatives on June 19th and 20th and came to terms on a tentative agreement for a successor agreement. Within that agreement, it is proposed that pension contributions would be a fixed rate and would no longer utilize a formula stated by contract. The fixed contributions as stated in this tentative agreement for 2024 is 20% for those employees who are eligible for the MERS B-4 defined benefit pension plan. Manager Dymczyk recommends entering into a letter of agreement with POLC Supervisory Division, capping the contributions at 20% for those employees eligible for the MERS B-4 defined benefit program from September 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024.

In the event the tentative agreement between the Township and POLC Supervisory Division is not adopted, employees with a MERS B-4 defined benefit plan would be required to contribute 20.67% in 2023, and 24.47% in 2024 based on the calculation in the collective bargaining agreement dated January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2023.

**Smith moved, Seeger seconded, to direct the Manager’s Office to execute a Letter of Agreement with POLC Supervisory Division, capping the MERS B-4 defined pension plan employee contributions at 20% through December 31, 2023, and to execute the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement for the Supervisory Unit at an employee contribution rate of 20% effective September 1, 2023.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Fedewa.**

**Motion carried.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC,  
STAFF, & BOARD  
COMMENTS

Brian Hurtekant, 4147 Keepsake Ln., thanked the Board for acting to improve safety in DeWitt Township through code enforcement of motels and trailer parks. He questions if the residents of Clinton County are receiving, from the County, benefits comparable to the money being spent on various programs. He highlighted the cost of a current wage study and an examination of the Prosecutor’s Office.

Fire Chief Dave DeKorte reported on Bath Township mutual aid given for the barricaded suspect situation last week, and numerous calls for aid during and after last week’s storm. The department participated in the dispatch recruitment video recording.

Police Chief Matt Merony informed the Board that the police department also participated in the Bath Township situation, and that the recent rash of larcenies from autos is slowing down. The department served multiple warrants with regard to several breaking and entering incidents. Chief Merony feels that the recent closure of motels in the Township has resulted in a large decrease in arrests and an ability to redeploy resources.

Manager Andrew Dymczyk provided updates on the following:

- Non-Supervisory bargaining unit negotiations begin tomorrow

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- GovHR Wage Study results soon
- Alternative IT solutions
- Budget 2024 progress
- Pollinator garden has turned into deer salad
- Dog park enhancements, an Eagle Scout project, have been ordered
- Webb Road pathway project has begun
- Cottonwood Circle right-of-way use

ADJOURNMENT      **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn 8:18 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Cramton, Clerk



Rick Galardi, Supervisor