



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
October 10, 2022 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, Clerk Adam Cramton, Treasurer Sandy Stump, and Trustees David Seeger, Brian Ross, David Fedewa, and Steven Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None.

**ALSO PRESENT** Manager Andrew Dymczyk, Police Chief Matt Merony, Community Development Director Brett Wittenberg, and several citizens.

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

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA** **Galardi moved, Smith seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Board of Trustees regular meeting draft minutes, September 26, 2022; and General Vouchers 74784-74830 Tax Vouchers 9452-9463.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**PRESENTATION** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING** None.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT** County Commissioner Robert Showers provided updates on the Clinton County Budget as well as the Clinton County Broadband Initiative.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included the following: 2023 DeWitt Township draft budget; DARA Newsletter October 2022; DeWitt Township Public Safety Block Party thank you letter; and Thank you from the family of Tina Galardi.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**IPMC Resolution 2022-10-66 & Ordinance 2022-10-02** Public safety departments and Township legal counsel continue to work towards ensuring that unsafe structures are not occupied. In that pursuit, Manager Dymczyk recommends adoption of Resolution #2022-10-66 authorizing the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-

10-02, that amends Ordinance No. 2017-03-01, making violations of Section 109.1 (i.e. occupancy of an unsafe structure) a misdemeanor, punishable by up to ninety days and up to \$500 fine, or both. Currently, all International Property Maintenance Code violations are a civil infraction. The act of committing a misdemeanor in the presence of a Police Officer can be a jailable offense.

Trustee Ross inquired if this new ordinance is an amendment of the current Dangerous Buildings Ordinance. Manager Dymczyk confirmed that it is.

Trustee Smith questioned the choice of 90-day imprisonment versus the 93 days that would be enforceable by the County Prosecutor. Manager Dymczyk responded that Township Legal Counsel recommended the 90-day term.

Trustee Seeger is concerned that enforcing the recommended action would exacerbate the negative circumstances of residents. He does not support this ordinance.

Manager Dymczyk provided that the proposed ordinance is a supplement to the tagging process of uninhabitable structures.

Police Chief Matt Merony also provided that it has recently become the trend that these uninhabitable structures are bringing drugs and crime into our community, and the Police Department spends a disproportionate amount of time in these locations.

Trustee Fedewa expressed that the structures in question have no running water, no electricity or sewer, and represent an increased fire risk from residents burning to keep warm.

Trustee Ross commented that the Township always acts in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

Trustee Smith compared the condition of the tagged buildings in the Township to the recent burned structure of Brook Rd. and how it serves as an example of what would be unsafe and un-occupiable.

Treasurer Stump feels that the proposed ordinance provides a framework to keep our residents safe.

Clerk Cramton reminded the Board that we have had a resident, who lives approximate to tagged structures in the Township, comment at multiple Board meetings about the activities in these structures and his concerns for the safety of the greater community, not just the occupants of the structures themselves.

Supervisor Galardi questioned if the Township assumes some liability by allowing residents to occupy structures that have been tagged as unsafe.

Trustee Seeger confirmed that he understands that this ordinance and its enforcement is a last resort measure, and he trusts the evaluation and enforcement process.

**Ross moved, Fedewa seconded, to adopt Resolution #2022-10-66 authorizing the first reading of Ordinance 2022-10-02, that amends Ordinance No. 2017-03-01, making violation of section 109.1 (i.e. occupancy of an unsafe structure) a misdemeanor, punishable by up to ninety days and up to \$500 fine, or both.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

Driving Record  
Subscription Service

In October of 2008, the Board approved a contract between the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) for a driving record subscription service that allows the Township to annually review driving records. In addition, if any infraction is placed on a driving record, the MDOS sends a notice to log in and review said infraction. With all Township employees having access to drive Township-owned vehicles, it is prudent to be able to monitor their driving records. In order to keep the Township's account active, MDOS is requiring a new Data Sharing Agreement (DSA).

Trustee Fedewa asked if there was a cost associated with the subscription. Manager Dymczyk was unsure but will provide the information.

**Smith moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the attached Data Sharing Agreement between Michigan Department of State and DeWitt Charter Township for Subscription Service and authorize the Township Manager to execute the same.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC,  
STAFF, & BOARD  
COMMENTS

Community Development Director Brett Wittenberg informed the Board that an Open House will be held on October 20 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM to hear concerns and comments regarding the Webb Road sidewalk project. The next Board meeting will include a Special Use Permit application for the Meijer Gas Station expansion.

Police Chief Matt Merony updated the Board about the increase in drug overdoses, mental health issues, and the focus on de-escalation tactics.

Manager Dymczyk offered updates on the following:

- Meeting with airport partners
- 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Auditor procedures are being evaluated
- Manhole work on the East side of the building
- Remy Chandler Drain assessment update
- Draft Budget update
- Utility Tree Trimming in the Township beginning on October 24

Trustee Smith expressed his regret at not purchasing a second LUCAS device last year as the price for a new one has increased.

Trustee Ross will bring his budget questions to Manager Dymczyk this week. He feels that, with the sizeable price of planned SCCMUA plant improvements, there is an opportunity for the Township to look at a rate study and also to consider an increase in the connection fee.

Clerk Cramton provided a brief election update.

ADJOURNMENT      **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn 7:47 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Cramton, Clerk



Rick Galardi, Supervisor