

**DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**October 12, 2009**

The regular meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Diane Mosier, Treasurer Phyllis Daggy, Trustees: Steve Musselman, Max Calder, and David Seeger.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Trustee Brian Ross

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Community Development Director (CDD) Richard Trent, Chief Building Official Chad Miller, County Commissioner Eileen Heideman, DeWitt School Board Member Cliff Flood, and several citizens.

**AGENDA**                    **Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

**MINUTES**                    **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2009 Regular Board meeting, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

**PRESENTATIONS**        DeWitt School Board Vice President Cliff Flood provided an update on recent DeWitt Schools issues involving DeWitt Public Schools, including clarification of their ballot proposition that will be put before the district's voters on November 3, 2009. Discussion focused on the ballot language, which Township Board members thought to be not only confusing, but less than descriptive of the reduction in millage that was explained by Flood.

Mike Lee, representative of the committee promoting the DeWitt School Millage Proposal, explained his committee's position supporting the proposition. He provided details regarding the facts, i.e. reduction in millage from 11.12 mills to 10 mills immediately, and then reducing the millage to 5.72 in 2019 which will extend to 2035.

**Resolution 091063**        Clerk Mosier read for the record Resolution 091063 recognizing Robert Ancel Robert Ancel- as an Outstanding Citizen of DeWitt Township. Citizen Award

**Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to adopt Resolution 091063, honoring Robert Ancel.**

**AYES: Musselman, Seeger, Galardi, Mosier, Daggy, Calder**  
**NAYS: None**                    **Motion carried.**

Ancel introduced his family and thanked the Board. Supervisor Galardi called a brief recess.

Supervisor Galardi reconvened the meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING** 2010 Township Budget Manager Taylor explained the process to date that has resulted in this proposed 2010 Budget, including the power point presentation at the previous meeting. He noted that the L4029 establishing the millage rate to be levied to support the budget is also before the Board this evening, and budget adoption and appropriation resolutions will be considered at the next meeting.

Manager Taylor explained that the revenue projections are conservative, projecting what he believes will be the worst case scenario, and that expenditures, which are more within our control, are also considered to be the worst case scenario.

Supervisor Galardi initiated discussion regarding upcoming community conversations, to involve residents in decisions that will need to be made in the future.

Supervisor Galardi called to order the Public Hearing on the Township's Proposed 2010 Budget and called for public comment.

Andon Pogoncheff, 1793 W. Stoll Road, stated that his comments are intended to address the problems projected for the Township in 2011. He explained that his neighborhood watch group put together some ideas for addressing upcoming budget issues, and he handed out a written document to all Board members. He stated that he has been told that in the future the Township is considering 1)to do away with our police force and have 10 sheriff deputies cover the Township 2)to reduce our force to 12 officers and raise taxes; 3)raise taxes with no number listed for size of police force.

Supervisor Galardi attempted to clarify how any rumor of this type could have started or where there is any basis in fact for the statements that the above is being considered by the Township Board. Supervisor Galardi stated that it is unfair to have police officers in fear of losing their jobs because of false rumors.

Trustee Calder stated that he believes that the Township Board operates in the public eye with complete transparency, and he is proud to say that he has been a part of this public process. Clerk Mosier stated that she believes that when times get really tough, as projected for 2011/2012, everything will be explored that might offer a leaner operation, but that this consideration process will be done with community input and complete transparency. She also noted that in this year, 2009, the Township Board completed a Strategic Plan identifying our number one priority as Public Safety. She stated that she is baffled that residents believe we are planning drastic cuts to our Police Department when the Strategic Plan adopted this year states the exact opposite.

Andon Pogoncheff reviewed his group's written suggestions for helping with the Township's budget constraints in the future 1)shorten hours of operation at the

Township hall 2)increase users' fees at the Community Center and Granger Park  
3)reduce elected officials pay 4)ask for voluntary reductions of employees pay 5)  
increase the Police and Fire millage to 2 mills each.

Supervisor Galardi thanked the group for their input, noting that everything on the list has been mentioned and will be considered as future options are discussed. He explained that the time for Community Conservations is approaching and public input of this type will certainly be welcomed. He encouraged those present to participate in the upcoming process.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
REPORT

County Commissioner Heideman reported on issues relating to the County's budget. CDD Trent initiated discussion regarding funding for the Clinton County Economic Alliance.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: September Activity Report; Fire Department Burning Issues Newsletter; Office Recycling Report from Granger; a letter from DeWitt Public Schools to DARA.

COMM & COMM None.  
REPORTS & COMMENTS

UNFINISHED Ordinance Amendment 18.2 Second Reading was delayed for publication.  
BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS Manager Taylor explained that tonight's presentation is the first step for the  
Property Maintenance Board in learning about a Property Maintenance Code application for the  
Code Township. He reminded the Board that it has been two years since community input received during the South Central Area Plan forum identified property maintenance as a priority for their neighborhoods.

Trent and Miller provided a power point presentation which initiated a lengthy discussion on the needs and benefits relating to the possibility of the Township adopting a Property Maintenance Code.

Ron Balcer, 3450 E. Clark Road, Bath, stated that he understands the intent of a Property Maintenance Code, but he has some concerns about the reality of enforcement problems, especially in the Agricultural areas of the Township.

Frank Majkol, 3401 E. Stoll Road, Lansing, stated that many people are returning to prairie grass rather than a conventional lawn, and that a noxious weed regulation may not be appropriate in this day and age. He stated that he would not like to see the Township disallow properties returning to their natural habitat.

Supervisor Galardi allowed questions from the public. He stated that he understands that we are, in effect, talking about an expansion of police powers, and as a Board, we take this very seriously and will proceed with care. It was noted that the plan initially would be that enforcement of a Property Maintenance Code will be complaint driven. CDD Trent stated that reasonable and consistent enforcement will be important for this program.

Supervisor Galardi assured those present that the Township has no interest in adopting a Property Maintenance Code as a means to generate revenue, but rather to address problems that are occurring currently within the Township.

Manager Taylor stated that after tonight, without objection from the Board, Supervisor Galardi, Trustee Seeger, CDD Trent, Building Official Miller and he will work together to move this project forward.

CDD Trent noted that this issue will be discussed at a community forum on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.

SCCMUA Grant

**Calder moved, Seeger seconded, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the letter of agreement with Bath Charter Township, the City of DeWitt, and Watertown Charter Township to allow for the SCCMUA application a Michigan Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant. Motion voted and carried.**

Manager Taylor pointed out that he is also working on a grant application from the Township under the Michigan Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant.

L-4029 Millage Rate

Manager Taylor pointed out that the proposed millage rate is the same as the previous year and less than the maximum allowed.

**Daggy moved, Calder seconded, to approve the millage rate as presented on Form L-4029 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

**Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 56211 – 56257, and Tax Fund Voucher 7103. Motion voted and carried.**

REPORTS &  
COMMENTS

Manager Taylor reported that the MDOT traffic summit will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>; State Road demolition is nearing completion with two change orders involving a tree and some concrete removal; a grievance regarding disciplinary action has been received from Patrol Officer Rockford; we are finalizing a return to work plan with Officer Darnell.

EXTENDED PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Frank Majkol questioned whether specifications are written on the proposed purchase of a new fire pumper/tanker. He also suggested that the Township

consider two millage proposals if there is a need to increase the police and fire millage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Sale of Real Property.**

**AYES: Galardi, Mosier, Daggy, Calder, Musselman, Seeger**  
**NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Galardi reconvened the Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**Seeger moved, Calder seconded, to adjourn at 11:10 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor