

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 8, 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 lead by the Bath Fire Chief.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Fire Chief Frederick Koos, Planning Consultant James Foulds, members of the DeWitt and Bath Township Fire Departments, and several citizens.

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

MINUTES **Mosier moved, Calder seconded, to approve the meeting minutes of May 26, 2009, with typographical corrections. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PRESENTATIONS Police Chief Russell welcomed emergency services personnel from DeWitt Township, Bath Township, and Mercy Ambulance Service, who responded to an accident scene on November 16, 2008, on East Clark Road. He explained that the accident involved two fatalities, but because of the use of their seat belts, the Brown family survived their injuries. He commended the parents for insisting on seat belt use by their children and their friends.

Chief Russell presented each member of the Brown family with a Saved by the Belt Award from the Michigan Department of Transportation. Supervisor Galardi commended the family for their safety practices.

2008 Audit Presentation Vicky Crouch, Layton & Richardson, P.C., provided an overview of the 2008 Audit and commented positively on the financial reports received from Abraham & Gaffney. Aaron Stevens, representing Abraham and Gaffney, the township's accounting services firm, was also present to answer questions from the Board.

Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to receive and file with the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury, the Township's 2008 Audit Report. Motion voted and carried.

Introductions Supervisor Galardi introduced State Representative Brian Calley and Grace Hummel, attending as part of the Student Statesmanship mentoring program.

COUNTY

COMMISSIONER None present.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: May Activity Report, two programming updates from Comcast; Principles of Governance Certificate from the Michigan Township's Association; Campaign information from Michael Trebesh; Capital Currents legislative updates; DeWitt Township Fire Department "Burning Issues" Newsletter; Public Police Advocacy from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce; letter from residents regarding the E. T. MacKenzie Company Stoll Road Mining Site.

COMMITTEES &
COMMISSIONS

None.

UNFINISHED
BUSINESS

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to remove SUP 09-990004 from the table. Motion voted and carried.

Planning Consultant Founds reviewed the changes in the proposed SUP as discussed by the Board at their previous meeting.

SUP 09-990004
Schafer – tabled

Trustee Musselman questioned the fencing requirement for this operation. Planning Consultant Foulds clarified that the surrounding zoning for this area is different than previously approved operations. He also noted that the recommended four year review will be done by the Planning Commission.

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve, as recommended by the Planning Commission, Special Use Permit 09-990004, as submitted by Schafer's 27 LLC, to allow an open air business for landscape and garden products with outdoor storage and sales on the property located at 16164 S. US-127 BR, on the following basis: 1)upon compliance with conditions of the Special Use Permit, the plans will comply with the site plan review standards and special conditions listed in the Zoning Ordinance, specifically, compliance with landscape requirements, signage requirements, best management practices for the storage and transportation of landscape and garden materials, and hours of operation restrictions. 2)the standards of the Basis for Determination listed in Section 7.4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance have been met. Motion voted and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department
Daytime Staffing

Fire Chief Koos and Manager Taylor reviewed the recommendation (Koos memo, dated June 2, 2009) to replace the vacant full-time firefighter position with part-time staff. Lengthy discussion followed. It was determined that part time staffing during the day would provide flexibility to the department and improve emergency response into the community. Chief Koos stated that he solicited input

from the department while considering this option, and he believes the part-time positions can be filled with current staff.

Clerk Mosier indicated that this proposal will require a new job classification within the Policy Manual.

Manager Taylor stated that he believes that the proposed option could provide benefits to the Township, providing flexibility and compliance with the Strategic Plan.

Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to implement a program for daytime staffing of the Fire Department utilizing 120 daytime hours to be filled with part-time fire/EMS personnel and to review the program annually. Motion voted and carried.

Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated June 5, 2009, which provided the bid dollars for Phase I of the Gunnisonville Cemetery Expansion. He stated that with the latest revenue projections, the Township Board may want to delay the project. He also offered options for modifying the project, reducing the cost.

Manager Taylor referred to the latest numbers provided by the Clerk's office, projecting the time frame for use of available lots in Gunnisonville Cemetery, which is approximately 10 years. He explained that there could also be alternatives for use of Hurd Cemetery where over 700 lots are available.

Trustee Musselman questioned why there is immediate need, when there appears to be a 10 year supply of lots left at Gunnisonville. Clerk Mosier stated that these numbers are only estimates, and lot use and lot sales have changed over the years with more and more cremain burials. She agreed that the project should be delayed. She also noted that the new Master Plan is a tool we will use in the future, and that in coming years, the Board may want to make a small investment in Hurd Cemetery to make its use more desirable.

Board members agreed that considering the cuts currently being made, that the cemetery expansion needs to be delayed.

Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to postpone action on the Gunnisonville Cemetery expansion. Motion voted and carried.

Manager Taylor explained that although budgeted in 2008, this project is now being completed in partnership with DARA and the City of DeWitt and requires a budget adjustment.

Mosier moved, Calder seconded, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 2009 General Fund for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan: \$7,250 to 101-751-802-000 (Parks and Rec Consultant) from 101-000-390-000 (General Fund Balance). Motion voted and carried.

Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to authorize the Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer to execute any documents necessary with the Clinton County Road Commission upgrading the Micro-surfacing in Oakland Hills to a double application, with the new authorized amount for this project not-to-exceed \$36,620.20, and the Road Commission paying for 50% of the cost increase. Motion voted and carried.

VOUCHERS

Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to approve General Operating Fund Vouchers 55580 - 55645. Motion voted and carried.

REPORTS &
COMMENTS

Chief Koos and Supervisor Galardi commented on the great cooperation with Bath Township on the incident involving the Brown family.

Police Chief Russell reported on a recent drug bust.

CDD Trent reported that the Exemption Certificates for Mohre and Redline have been received from the State. He also reported being reappointed as a representative on the Clinton County Economic Alliance Board.

Supervisor Galardi provided an overview of four early successes on South Central Area Plan projects.

Manager Taylor reported a committee has been established to work on implementation of web site design for the Township proposed new web sites. He welcomed Board input.

Trustee Ross reported the following: the Planning Commission will host a wind energy public information workshop on June 29th; he requested that the Treasurer look at the investments shown in the audit that are concentrated in the industry of mortgages with the possibility of more diversification; page 22 of the audit shows debt which may have interest rates that could be reduced in today's market.

Trustee Calder stated that he looked at the list of budget cuts from the last meeting, and commended the Manager for finding opportunities to make cuts; however, he is concerned about cutting the sidewalk near State and Wood Roads. Manager Taylor explained that he continues to work on alternate options to complete this project.

Treasurer Daggy reported that sewer bills will be mailed this week and summer tax bills are next. She also noted that she will work with our investment firm to address Trustee Ross' concerns.

Clerk Mosier reported on progress of the codification project and work on the 2010 budget.

Supervisor Galardi reported the following: Manager Taylor and he made a presentation to the Planning Commission on the Comprehensive Plan review, the Strategic Plan; discussions continue to take place regarding the airport, working

regionally towards finding ways to promote the success of the Capital Regional Airport.

Supervisor Galardi welcomed the attendance of former Supervisor Robert Zeeb, explaining that he is here this evening about some decisions that were made which involved Bath Township's proposal to relocate the sewer interceptor. Supervisor Galardi apologized, on behalf of himself and staff, that some actions were taken without informing the Herbison Road residents.

Supervisor Galardi stated that we are going to slow down on this project, involve the residents in the area, bring in some experts to further investigate and affirm numbers provided by Capital Consultants, etc. He thanked the Zeebs for their patience and their input.

Closed Session
Maint Dept Union
Negotiations

Calder moved, Ross seconded, to recess to closed session to discuss Maintenance Department union negotiations at 8:40 p.m.

**AYES: Ross, Calder, Daggy, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger, Musselman
NAYS: None**

Supervisor Galardi reconvened the regular meeting at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor