

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
December 9, 2013 Board Minutes

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 Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Manager Rodney Taylor, Police Chief Brian Russell, Fire Chief Frederick Koos, Assistant Planner Tory Niewiadomski, Corridor Improvement Authority members Scott Randall and Charles Allen, and several citizens.

AGENDA **Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the Agenda, adding the Planning Commission Appointment. Motion voted and carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA **Balzer moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 62366 – 62404 and Tax Fund Vouchers 7870 – 7880; approval of Township Board Minutes of 11/25/13. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Abby Lorenzen introduced herself as the applicant being considered for appointment to the Planning Commission.

**Mosier moved, Ross seconded, to appoint Abby Lorenzen to the Planning Commission for a three year appointment ending December 31, 2016. Motion voted and carried.**

COUNTY  
COMM. REPORT

None Present.

PUBLIC HEARING  
Tax Increment  
Financing Plan

Supervisor Galardi called to order the Public Hearing. Assistant Planner Niewiadomski provided a presentation explaining the Tax Increment Financing Plan as recommended by the Corridor Improvement Authority. He noted that the taxing authorities have 60 days to adopt a Resolution notifying the Township of their decision and details of whether they will participate in the tax capture. He answered questions from the Board.

Public Comment: Scott Randall and Chuck Allen, members of the Corridor Improvement Authority, spoke in favor of the TIF Plan, as they believe it will help revitalize the Southern Tier.

**Musselman moved, Daggy seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 7:29 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

**Musselman moved, Balzer seconded, that the Board go on record as supporting the tax capture as proposed by the TIF Plan, noting that the Township intends to participate in the tax capture, and the Board will consider adoption of the proposed Resolution at a future meeting.**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included the following: Consumers Energy Public Hearing Notice for December 11, 2013; DeWitt Township Fire Department Newsletter “Burning Issues” and the Activity Report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Rezoning 13-880002 – David & Mary Fedewa – Second Reading Delayed for publication. Second Reading scheduled for January 13, 2014.

**NEW BUSINESS** Township/City Joint Building Agreement Manager Taylor reviewed the staff report from Chief Building Official Esser, which provided background on the proposed joint venture to share building services with the City of DeWitt (and possibly Bath Township in the future); how the program is proposed to work; costs associated with the program; and a proposed fee structure for the program. The issue was discussed at length. It was noted that the City has not yet approved the agreement and the program will not be in place until after the first of the year.

**Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the intergovernmental Agreement for building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, plan review and inspection services between the Charter Township of DeWitt and the City of DeWitt and authorize the Clerk to execute the same. Motion voted and carried.**

**Employee Benefit Changes** Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated December 6, 2014, which summarized the Benefit Committee’s work and recommendations. The issues were discussed.

**Ross moved, Musselman seconded, to concur with the Benefit Committee’s recommendation to renew the current Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability coverages for 2014 and authorize the Township Clerk to execute any necessary documents. Motion voted and carried.**

**Motion by Musselman, second by Balzer, to concur with the Benefits Committee to increase the buyout for Health Insurance from \$4,000 to \$5,000 for non-union employees effective for the 2014 buyout year. Motion voted and carried.**

**2014 Wages-Non-Union Employees** Manager Taylor provided a recommendation for salary increases for non-union employees for 2014, which reflected an increase of 1.75%. He noted that the commissioned salary and compensation study will not be available until late January or early February. His memo provided history of wage increases for these employees from 2007 thru 2013. Discussion included the possibility of increasing the proposed wage increase above the 1.75% recommended. Discussion determined that any additional recommendation should be delayed until the salary and

compensation study is received by the Board. He also provided information about the surrounding municipalities and their rates of increase for 2014.

Ken Pung, 14780 Boichot Road, asked for clarification on discussion points relating to the proposed raises.

**Musselman moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the 2014 Classification and Wage Scale as presented which reflects a 1.75% wage increase. Motion voted and carried.**

**Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to approve an increase in department head salaries to equal the non-union employees' increase of 1.75% effective January 1, 2014. Motion voted and carried.**

Budget Adjustment

**Balzer moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 2013 Budget: \$31,000 to 101-446-977-000 (Roads-Capital) from 101-000-390-000 (General Fund Balance). Motion voted and carried.**

Employment  
Recommendation/  
Fire Department

Fire Chief Koos reviewed his memo, dated December 6, 2013, recommending hiring firefighters.

**Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to hire David Stolzful, Deana Coffey, Tory Wierman, Jeffrey Walsh, Christopher Dick, and Brenner Ballard as paid-on-call Firefighters/MFR's, as at will employees pending passing the ability test and completion of an employment physical. Motion voted and carried.**

Appointments

**Galardi moved, Seeger seconded, the following:**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Adam Bertram and Kristen Krol, to the Planning Commission for three (3) year terms ending December 31, 2016.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Stephen Gobbo, as the Planning Commission Representative, to the Board of Appeals for a one year term ending December 31, 2014.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Wayne Summers to the District Library Board for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2016.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Mark Helinski and James Kurt to the SCCMUA Board for three (3) year terms ending December 31, 2016.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Tom Hendrickson to the Public Safety Committee for a four (4) year term ending December 31, 2017.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Peggy Brown to the Sister City Community Board for a four (4) year term, ending December 31, 2017.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Joshua Knight, to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2015.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's reappointment of Tonia Olson to the Corridor Improvement Authority for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2016.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's appointment of Tory Niewiadomski as the Township's primary delegate, and Rod Taylor as the alternate delegate to CARTS for the year 2014.**

**To confirm the Supervisor's one year Trustee appointments as follows: Trustee Musselman to the Planning Commission; Trustee Ross to the SCCMUA and to the Next Michigan Development Corporation, Trustee Seeger to the Public Safety Committee and Trustee Balzer to the Board of Appeals and the Corridor Improvement Authority, and Treasurer Daggy to the DARA Board.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

#### REPORTS

Fire Chief Koos reported that the Firefighters Association entered the City of DeWitt/DeWitt Chamber Light Parade, and took First Place for the Spirit of Christmas division. He congratulated those who were on this committee and accomplished this great Township recognition

Police Chief Russell reported on progress of the new canine unit.

Manager Taylor reported the following: legislation has passed that will allow approved veterans and exemption from property taxes; since implementation of the Property Maintenance Code, 29 cases have been addressed, with 16 or 55% being resolved with a letter, 9 or 38% receiving another notice and a \$25 fine, and 4 citations issues, three of which went to one homeowner. He also noted that the Turner Road home, a longstanding maintenance/cleanup issue, will be resolved in court.

Trustee Musselman wished the Board members a Merry Christmas.

Trustee Balzer thanked Manager Taylor for his work on the DeWitt Bath Review circulation; reported that there will be no Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in December.

Treasurer Daggy stated that she believes that 2013 was a very successful year for the Township.

Supervisor Galardi explained that he would like to meet with Board members/staff to discuss succession planning. He noted that contact will be made and appointments scheduled.

#### COMMENTS

Ken Pung, 14780 Boichot Road, stated that earlier this year a meeting was held with parties involved in the Stoll Road pit, and he attended that meeting and participated in discussion. He stated that he thought an agreement was reached during this process, but nothing has happened since. He stated that if the table is being set for a decision to be made, he should be informed and be able to participate in the process. He stated that if the Township is not going to live up to the agreement reached, he needs to know. He indicated that he has heard rumors and wants to know if the Board knows more about this situation than he does.

Supervisor Galardi stated that the Board has not been informed about the status of this situation, and asked that Manager Taylor send an email to Mr. Pung, and Board members about the status of this situation within 48 hours. Manager Taylor stated that he will comply with the Supervisor's request.

ADJOURNMENT **Musselman moved, Daggy seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor