

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
November 24, 2014 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, and Trustees, Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman, Brian Ross, and David Seeger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT           Manager Rodney Taylor, Fire Chief Frederick Koos, Assistant Assessor Joe Lorenc, County Commissioner Jack Enderle, and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA   **Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 83848–63886; approval of Township Board Minutes of November 10, 2014, and to receive and file the Third Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report, the October Investment Earnings Report, and the draft Planning Commission Minutes of November 3, 2014. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT       None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT   Commissioner Enderle provided information regarding Tri County Office on Aging.

CORRESPONDENCE   Correspondence included the following: Jack Miller letter re: Heritage Glen Pond Petition; Consumers Energy Public Hearing Notice; Clinton County Sheriff October Statistics; Strengthening Neighborhoods meeting summary; Legislative Update from State Representative Tom Leonard; and a Historical Commission vacancy notice from the Clinton County Administrator.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS       None.

NEW BUSINESS        Manager Taylor explained that by executing the contract before year end with Night Magic for Meadows Celebration Fireworks a price increase will be avoided.  
Fireworks Contract

**Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute the agreement with Night Magic Displays for fireworks at the 2015 Meadows Celebration for an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000, and to also authorize the Clerk to execute the Application for Fireworks Display Permit and the Permit for Fireworks Display. Motion voted and carried.**

Employment/Fire **Ross moved, Balzer seconded, to hire Brian Williams, Salvatore Petrovia, Kevin Johnson, and Kimberly Johnson as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter/MFR at will employees upon completion of an employment physical. Motion voted and carried.**

2015 Poverty Exemption/Resolution R2014-11-69 Assistant Assessor Joe Lorenc answered questions from the Board regarding the number of property owners qualifying or applying for poverty exemptions.

**Seeger move, Galardi seconded, to adopt Resolution 2014-11-69 which amends the Township's Policy and Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions to include the 2015 federal poverty guidelines and recends Resolution R2013-11-69.**

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

2015 Meeting Dates/  
Holiday Schedule R2014-11-70 **Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to adopt Resolution 2014-11-70 establishing meeting dates for the Township Board for 2015.**

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

**Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Union Employees 2015 Holiday Schedule, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

MERS 2015 Employee Contribution Rates Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated November 21, 2014, outlining the changes to the MERS contribution rates for Supervisor and Non-Supervisory units within the Police Department.

**Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the two amendments to the Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement with MERS to change the employee contribution rates for the Supervisor and Non-Supervisory units of the POLC. Motion voted and carried.**

2015 Wage Scale PUBLIC COMMENT Manager Taylor reviewed his memo and recommendation for 2015 wage increases. The information provided included a chart of historical wage increase percentages from 2007 through 2014. He noted that salary adjustments were made earlier in 2014 based on the salary compensation study. He explained that the schedule provided reflects a 1.75% increase beginning January 1, 2015.

**Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the 2015 Classification and Wage Scale, as presented, which reflects a 1.75% wage increase, and to approve an increase in department head salaries to equal the non-union employees' increase of 1.75% effective January 1, 2015. Motion voted and carried.**

Employee Benefits      Manager Taylor provided a memo and information packet which provided an overview of The Benefits Committee's work. He thanked the committee members, Laura Tafelsky, Julie Coleman, Diane Mosier, Don Rochford, Mark Nelson, and Linda Parkinson, for their work in evaluating the benefit package that is provided by the Township. He explained that the committee faced a real challenge this year because of changes related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Board reviewed and discussed the information provided.

**Seeger moved, Daggy seconded,**

**1)that based on the recommendation of the Benefits Committee, the Township make the following changes to its employee benefit package:**

- a)all employees switch to the Pfc00100 Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant plan with a renewal date of 12/31/14**
- b)Supervisor unit of the Police Officer Labor Council will still be offered the current High Deductible Health Care Plan and contribution to an HSA of \$1,600 for single plans and \$3,200 for double or family plans**
- c)a cash buyout of \$1,500 per year for single employees who "opt out" of the healthcare plan for all employees, except the Supervisory Unit**
- d)increase the buyout for the Non-Supervisory Unit families and doubles to \$5,000 per year to be consistent with current non-union employees for 2015**
- e)authorize a one-time payment (taxable) of \$500/singles and \$1,000/doubles & families to assist with the employee's increased out-of-pocket risk/exposure with the employees having the option of taking a cash payment or opting to deposit said payment into their deferred compensation plan. Said payment will be made in a separate lump sum check. Those employees who "opt out" or are part of the Supervisory Unit are not eligible for this one-time payment.**

**2)Pursuant to Section 8 of Act 152 of 2011, DeWitt Charter Township hereby exempts itself from the requirements of Act 152 for the 2015 calendar year.**

**3)Authorize the Township Clerk and Manager to execute the Letter of Agreement dated November 12, 2014, between the Non-Supervisory Unit of the Police Officer Labor Council and DeWitt Charter Township that makes changes to the Health Insurance Benefits as recommended by the Township's Benefit Committee. Motion voted and carried.**

REPORTS &  
COMMENTS

Manager Taylor reported the following: two public meetings were held in the past week, 1) addressing proposed sidewalk ordinance changes and the other to get input regarding proposed non-motorized enhancements along Schavey Road; 2)a meeting to begin an initiative to strengthen neighborhoods in the southern tier; a communication has been sent to local businesses

about temporary signs and banners; our Parks & Recreation Master Plan will soon expire, and work has begun with the City of DeWitt and DARA to adopt a new plan before the March deadline; LEAP-has made another Art Grant announcement and he wants the Board to know that additional opportunities are out there for projects that meet the conditions of the grant.

There was a brief discussion on grant possibilities.

Trustee Seeger reported that the CCTOA January meeting will be at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Galardi provided information about Delta Township's expanded programs for seniors, noting that this appears to be an area where DeWitt Township could make some improvements, or possibly partner with Delta Township. He also reported that he will soon be asking the Board for confirmation to appoint Trustee Musselman to the DARA Board.

The Board exchanged comments with County Commissioner Enderle about his leaving the position.

**ADJOURNMENT Seeger moved, Mosier seconded, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor