

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
December 8, 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, Police Chief Brian Russell, County Commissioners Robert Showers and Jack Enderle, County Commissioner Elect Kenneth Mitchell, DARA Chairperson Doug Simons; DARA Program Coordinator Chad Stevens, and several citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA **Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included approval of General Operating Fund Vouchers 63887–63931; approval of Township Board Minutes of November 24, 2014, and to receive and file the draft Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes of November 19, 2014. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT Commissioner Enderle and County Commissioner Showers provided information on Clinton County business and job creation development happening within the County.

Supervisor Galardi thanked Commissioner Enderle for his service, as well as Commissioner Showers. He also welcomed Commissioner Elect Kenneth Mitchell, who will take office in January 2015.

Supervisor Galardi called a quick recess to allow interaction with the new and outgoing County Commissioners.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: Activity Report; Cooper Drain Work notice from the Clinton County Drain Commissioner; Fire Department Burning Issues Newsletter; Mike Stoltz/Schroeder Homes regarding the Building Operations; price change notice from Comcast; and a hand out correspondence from Ken Schelb, resident, regarding the proposed non-motorized improvements to Schavey Road. An additional correspondence was also handed out from Jim Lancaster (his memo number 2) which was received under New Business number 6, DARA Contract Issues.

Ken Schelb, 13875 Schavey Road, addressed the Board regarding his correspondence and issues with the proposed non-motorized improvements for Schavey Road. Supervisor Galardi thanked Schelb for his input representing his neighborhood, noting that Manager Taylor will continue to communicate with those in the area regarding this project, which is still being engineered.

UNFINISHED
BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS
Outstanding Citizen
Nomination

Galardi moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the nomination of Norm & Renee Farnum as Outstanding Citizens. Motion voted and carried.

Budget Adjustments

Motion by Mosier, second by Daggy, to approve the following budget adjustments to the 2014 Budget: \$3,010 to 101195702000 (Election Salaries) \$1,250 to 101195977000 (Election Capital Expenditures) \$240 to 101195703000 (Election Benefits) \$5,000 to 101751977000 (P & R Capital Expenditures) \$9,500 from 101000390000 (General Fund Balance); and \$11,450 to 265301956000 (Drug Law Enforcement) and \$11,450 from 265000390000 (Drug Forfeiture Fund Balance). Motion voted and carried.]

Appointments

Supervisor Galardi presented his 2015 appointments.

**Seeger moved, Musselman seconded, to confirm the following appointments:
Reappointment of Marsha Zimmerman and Dale Dailey to the Planning Commission for three (3) year terms ending December 31, 2017;**

Reappointment of Stephen Gobbo, as the Planning Commission Representative, to the Board of Appeals for a one year term ending December 31, 2015;

Reappointment of Brian Byars to the District Library Board for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Diane Mosier and Rodney Taylor to the SCCMUA Board for three (3) year terms ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Robert Showers to the Next Michigan Development Corp for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2016;

Reappointment of James Sinnamon to the Sister City Community Board for a four (4) year term, ending December 31, 2018;

Reappointment of Richard Byelich, Brian Schertzing, Gene Brownfield, Dennis Rozen and Gordon Woodman to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2016;

Reappointment of Andrew Richards, Donald Riel and Jeff Carpenter to the Board of Appeals for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Charles Allen, Raymond Mohre, and Scott Randall to the Corridor Improvement Authority for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Al Harrsion and Concetta D'Agostino to the Board of Review for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2016;

Reappointment of Richard Byelich to the Salary Compensation Commission for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2019;

Reappointment of Doug Simon to the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Phyllis Daggy to the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2017;

Reappointment of Tory Niewiadomski as the Township's primary delegate, and Rodney Taylor as the alternate delegate to CARTS for the year 2015;

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.

Motion voted and carried.

Fee Schedule

Manager Taylor reviewed his memo, dated December 5, 2014, which explained the proposed changes to the Fee Schedule. He noted that the review is done annually.

Musselman moved, Balzer seconded, to adopt Resolution 2015-12-71, updating the 2015 Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2015.

AYES: Balzer, Ross, Daggy, Mosier, Galardi, Seeger, Musselman

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Employment Contracts

The Board reviewed the proposed contract language and changes in salary outlined in Manager Taylor's memo, dated December 5, 2014. He also noted that the current Police Chief and the Fire Chief contracts will expire December 31, 2014, and the new contract are proposed to be for four years, expiring on December 31, 2018.

Ross moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the Fire Chief Employment Agreement between Frederick H. Koos and DeWitt Charter Township, and to approve the Police Chief Employment Agreement between Brian Russell and DeWitt Charter Township. Motion voted and carried.

DARA Contract Issues Supervisor Galardi introduced the DARA Chairperson, Doug Simon, and asked that he provide an update on the DARA Board's current issues and progress toward filling the vacant Director position. Simon reviewed the process undertaken by the DARA Board since August 1st in an attempt to hire a Director. He noted that the DARA Board has been unable to reach an agreement on the Director position.

The two Jim Lancaster memos were reviewed and discussed.

There was a brief discussion about how DARA is currently operating, and concern was expressed that Chad Stevens, the current Program Coordinator, is doing his job, working for Community Education approximately 20 hours per week (contract with DARA), and also performing the duties of the Director. It was noted that Lindsey Parkinson has also taken on additional responsibilities and an intern is also currently on staff.

The following issues were identified as problematic: 1)DARA Board representation, appointees and the even number of Board members) 2)scope of DARA services 3)contract issues/violations such as budget/ minutes/ no director.

Mosier moved, Ross seconded, that the Township Supervisor send a letter to the Mayor/DeWitt City Council, informing them that the terms of the DARA contract state that disputes involving the DARA operation are to be handled through mediation, and since the DARA Board has been unable to hire or appoint a director, mediation should begin. Motion failed.

There was discussion about what should be handled through mediation, and discussion determined that contract issues should be resolved by the City Council and the Township Board.

Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, that per the DARA Board October 1, 2014 recommendation, the DARA Director issue be referred to mediation; that a list of issues be developed and referred for discussion to the Township Board and the City Council regarding the DARA scope of services and DARA representation, and any other contract issues or concerns raised by either party; and that a letter be sent to the DeWitt City Council requesting resolution to issues, and providing the required 1 year legal notice to dissolve the contract should the issues not be resolved by April 1, 2015.

Discussion continued about how to resolve the issues and how to use mediation.

Mosier moved, Seeger seconded, to amend the motion to include that the Township Board approve/appoint the Honorable Peter Houk, should the City Council agree with said appointment. Vote on Amendment: Amendment carried.

Vote on motion, as amended: Motion carried.

Simon thanked the Board for their support and willingness to resolve the issues, stating that he believes DARA is a valued community asset. Supervisor Galardi thanked the Township's DARA appointees, Daggy, Simon, and Winagar, who he noted is out of town this evening.

REPORTS

Chief Koos reported that the Fire Department Secretary, Lori Fox, has resigned effective year end to pursue a business venture. He also thanked the Board for renewing his contract, and he believes it will be his last.

Police Chief Russell thanked the Board for their support in renewing his contract. He reported upon retirement of Lt. Traub the first of the new year, Detective Sergeant Mark Nelson will be promoted to Lieutenant and Officer Derreck Schaberg will become the Detective. This will leave a Sergeant position to fill early next year. He also noted that there has been discussion with the County and Bath Township to partner in the process of hiring patrol officers.

Manager Taylor reported the following: Restructuring is taking place at the DeWitt Bath Review and to date he is uncertain of the impact on the publication; he has been shopping property and liability insurance with MML, but it currently appears we will remain with MMRMA; he is beginning a process to work with the Health Department and a January meeting is planned to discuss mobile home communities; he has run into a snag with Consumers Energy (right-of-way issues) on the southern tier pathway/sidewalk projects and is he is working to resolve the issues so that the project can move forward; he commented positively on the Board's desire to resolve the DARA issues.

There was brief discussion about the need for local senior citizen programs.

The Board thanked Treasurer Daggy for the decorations in the Board Room. Clerk Mosier noted that the Township employees are again doing a project to help the less fortunate by contributing to their heating costs. Anyone who wants to contribute is welcome to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Balzer seconded, to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor