

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
May 8, 2017 Board Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT        Manager Rodney Taylor; Interim Fire Chief Dave DeKorte, Lt. Mark Nelson, Sgt. William Darnell, Officers Earl Christensen, Ethan Rennaker and Monica Robbins (arrived late) and several citizens.

AGENDA                **Seeger moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the Agenda, as presented.**

CONSENT AGENDA **Mosier moved, Daggy seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following: approval of the Township Board Minutes of April 24, 2017; approval of General Fund Vouchers 67392 – 67439; and receive and file the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report. Motion voted and carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT    None.

PRESENTATIONS    Lt. Mark Nelson presented the following awards:

To Sgt. Darnell and Officer Christensen the Exceptional Duty Award for their part in the pursuit and apprehension of four individuals involved in the theft of an estimated \$20,000 in liquor stolen from Meijer.

To Officer Ethan Rennaker the Honorable Duty Award for his part in attempting to save a child who drowned in a pond on Warm Creek Drive (Watertown Township). Officer Robbins was on duty tonight and arrived late. Her award is presented later in the meeting.

COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS'    None present  
REPORT

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included: 2017 Clinton County Equalization Report; Public Service Commission Meetings Notice; West Orthodontics Open House Invitation; Clinton County Drain Commissioner notice of maintenance on Big Horn Drain; Clinton County Sheriff March 2017 Statistics; 2016 Fire Department Annual Report; Activity Report; and State of Michigan/Dept. of Human Services letter regarding Fedewa Appointment to the EMSCC/MTA.

**UNFINISHED** None.  
**BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS** Manager Taylor's memo, dated May 5, 2017, explained that the proposed Resolution 2017-05-09 Resolution is a requirement of the Transportation Alternatives Program grant and ensures that the local jurisdiction has agreed to fund and maintain the Herbison Rd. Pathway and ensures that the local jurisdiction has agreed to fund and maintain the pathway for the Herbison Road pathway project. He also explained that technicalities have delayed the start of the project thus making it impossible for the project to be completed prior to the beginning of the school year. He noted that although this complicates the plan, it is necessary to proceed if we want to acquire the grant funds for the project.

**Musselman moved, Mosier seconded, to adopt resolution 2017-05-09 that commits the Township to our share of the Herbison Road Pathway project and confirms that the Pathway will be maintained.**

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

**Budget Adjustment** Manager Taylor explained that he would like to acquire a new PC, monitor and keyboard with a new desk that can be more ergonomically correct, which is not in the current budget.

**Mosier moved, Ross seconded, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 2017 Budget: \$1,900 to 101-175-977-000 (Manager-Capital Exp) from 101-000-390-000 (General Fund Balance). Motion voted and carried.**

**PRESENTATION** Officer Monica Robbins arrived. Lt. Mark Nelson presented her with the Honorable Duty Award for her part in attempting to save a child who drowned in a pond on Warm Creek Drive (Watertown Township).  
Cont'd from above

Employment Rec/  
Maintenance

Manager Taylor's memo, dated May 5, 2017, explained that the creation of a part-time labor position was included in the 2017 Budget at 1,664 hours. He noted that the candidate selected is a previous part-time employee, Mike Stone, who also is the son of a Township Firefighter, thus requiring the Board to waive the nepotism policy.

**Ross moved, Daggy seconded, to authorize the hiring of Mike Stone as a part-time maintenance worker at Grade 3, Step 1, contingent upon the completion of a pre-employment physical and to waive Policy 8.13 of the Township's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual that prohibits the hiring of relatives and to allow the hiring of Mike Stone. Motion voted and carried.**

Burning Ordinance-  
Discussion

Manager Taylor and Interim Fire Chief Dave Dekorte provided information being considered to change the burning ordinance. They noted that many of the proposed changes have been implemented, but others require amending the Ordinance. They also noted that recent happenings brought to light that the burning ban in the Pines subdivision needs clarification, since supporting paperwork is unclear or conflicting.

The following topics were discussed: 1)the Interim Chief is recommending a ban on open burning in Looking Glass Pines, not a ban on recreational bonfires 2)the possibility of banning open burning for the most densely zoned properties/subdivisions, R6 or R5 & R6 3)why the Township would or should consider banning open burning for densely zoned properties 4)how to get public input on these issues 5)what type of complaints are received relating to open burning 6)with the State banning open burning, what do other communities in the area do, adopt their own ordinance or follow the Uniform Fire Code.

Manager Taylor and Interim Chief DeKorte will further investigate these issues, Township considering the Board's comments, and return to the Board in the near future.

**PUBLIC/STAFF  
COMMENTS**

Lt. Nelson reported that the Chief will be back to work tomorrow.

Manager Taylor reported the following: Girl Scout Troop 30226 has completed a project placing signs/trail markers in Padgett Park; the Rebuilding Together project for this year was held last Saturday, on a home where the owner was a former volunteer for Rebuilding Together projects, with Nicole Brush from the

Building Department providing leadership for this worthy cause; Chief Russell, Lt. Nelson and he have been involved in a recent unemployment determination; the Miracle League has 102 kids signed up for participation this year.

He also reported on the Business Awards presented last week, to Gunnisonville Meadows Senior Assisted Living, the DeWitt District Library, Bridge Street Social, Bath Village Diner, and Triton Industries.

**BOARD COMMENTS** Trustee Ross commended the Public Safety employees for what a great job they do, and how well they represent.

Clerk Mosier reported on the progress for getting a State Grant for new Election Equipment and the process for Clinton County Clerks to make a decision on what equipment will be selected.

Supervisor Galardi initiated discussion about the safety of walkers, bikers, and runners, and the need for their visibility when on Township roadways. He suggested looking into a “be fit be seen” initiative to promote safety and raise awareness.

**ADJOURNMENT** **Musselman moved, Seeger seconded, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mosier, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor