



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2023

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Supervisor Loeks commenced the Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Barbara Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Engineer Tom Wheat, Zoning Administrator John Lovely, Deputy Treasurer Emily Meinema and approximately 12 residents.

Mandatory Sewer Connection Update

Treasurer Roberts and Deputy Treasurer Meinema presented several potential options to Board members regarding possible exemptions, deferments, or financing plans to assist residents who need to connect to sewer. At that time, 137 parcels had not yet connected, though there were 21 open permits.

Board members discussed the possibility of capping the interest rate for financing connection fees at 5.5% moving forward, as the 2023 rate capped at 8% per the ordinance, as well as whether or not the Township could finance installation costs. For parcels experiencing financial hardship, or difficulties with topography, a Hardship Advisory Review Committee could be created to review waivers, deferments, or exemptions.

Due to the number of available installers and their timelines, it was also discussed to allow an extension of the connection deadline from April to October 1, 2023. Board members would like to discuss this as an agenda item in February.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at approximately 5:58 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and asked everyone to join Trustee Boven in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Beutel called the roll, and the following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Linda Kerr, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Trustee Barb Hammon was absent. Also attending were Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Zoning Administrator John Lovely, Fire Chief Chad Tackett, Attorney Michael Homier, and approximately 15 members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Travis Bell, resident, commented on the mandatory sewer connection conversation and thanked the Board for considering options for residents. Financing installation costs would be very helpful, as would engineers marking leads. He asked the Board to make a decision as quickly as possible so that residents can plan.

Paulette Brack, resident, thanked the Board for having the conversation but asked them to consider lifting the mandate for those with working septic systems and instead charge an availability fee.

John Brack, resident, feels that an extension or financing is insufficient and that the mandate should be lifted for those with working septic systems.

Ken Oliver, resident, asked the Board to take action on anything as soon as possible to help residents plan.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissioner Wendy Mazer gave an update on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, which had its organizational meeting and elected officers. She invited everyone to contact her with questions.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp shared the Superintendent Report, which highlighted the following items:



Administration

- Curbside collection is officially scheduled to begin April 24, and the Township is expecting a cost increase from College Hunks due to labor and fuel costs.
- Deputy Superintendent Hovencamp met with Deb Droppers of KELC to discuss Concert in the Corners programming for 2023 and would be seeking direction from the Board on the number and timing of events, as well as potential sponsorship opportunities.
- She is also currently working the ImageShoppe to update some documents and templates for consistency and congruency with the branding of our new website. A portion of this work also includes the development of some templates to use for social media.

Parks

- The Parks Committee will be reviewing potential Splash Pad amenities at its meeting on January 24 in anticipation of long lead times for sourcing items.
- GameTime submitted a revised cost for the swing set installation at Texas Drive Park with the addition of the concrete for a bench for \$35,879.71.
- Funding for Round 1 of the SPARK grant should be announced the week of January 30. After that, the township will need to decide if it wants to submit for MDNR grant opportunities this year (deadline is April 1).

DDA

- The DDA is meeting on Thursday, January 26.
- Deputy Superintendent Hovencamp is currently working with Jeff Mejeur to get cost estimates for the replacement of light bulbs on the streetlights around the trailway.

Township Hall Project

- Framing is underway and the building is starting to take shape!
- PAE was notified by RCKC that the extension of the left hand turn lane on Q avenue will likely be required as part of our access drive permit. Staff is working to obtain more information on what that will entail.

Flood Mitigation

- The Flood Task Force met on Thursday, January 19 and discussed conditions of the permit and what the immediate future looks like in terms of bidding out the project, determining final costs, securing funding, etc.
- The next Flood Task Force meeting will be scheduled prior to notices of assessment being mailed out to impacted residents.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Boven, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to approve the General Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of:

- Approval of January 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and January 11, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, and January 11, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes.
- Approval of Bills for \$522,061.59
- Payroll of \$61,538.86
- Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) 2023 In-Kind Contribution
- 2022 Q4 Budget Reports
- 2022 Q4 DDA Financial Statement
- 2022 December Building Report

BUSINESS *Tabled*

New



Appoint Candidate to Fill Trustee Vacancy

Board members thanked all of the candidates for interviewing and were grateful to have so many qualified candidates with unique perspectives apply for the position. Each Board member expressed their preferred candidate choice and why they felt that way, followed by some discussion.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Loeks, motion carried, to appoint Michelle O'Neill as a Township Trustee to complete Trustee Mazer's term, ending November 20, 2024.

Ayes – Boven, Loeks, and Roberts

Nays – Beutel, Kerr

Texas Drive Park Pavilion Lighting & Security Proposal

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp presented a proposal from Jeff Mejeur to update and improve the Texas Drive Park Pavilion lighting and security cameras. It was recommended that the township proceed with eight cameras at this time. There is no funding currently allocated for this project, but she suggested utilizing ARPA dollars for that park improvement.

Motion by Boven, seconded by Loeks, motion carried, to approve the proposal from Mejeur Electric for lighting and security upgrades at the Texas Drive Park pavilion.

Concert in the Corners Programming and Sponsorship

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp asked the Board if there was interest in soliciting sponsorships for the summer Concert in the Corners program. The Michigan Arts & Culture Council has granted \$4,000 in funding with a 1:1 grant match, so the total \$8,000 in funding could allow expanding to two events this summer.

Board members discussed soliciting sponsorships at the two proposed sponsorship levels, as well as hosting two events on Sunday afternoons this year, being mindful not to compete with other events.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to go with Sponsorship Option B and to authorize two events this year.

Approve Hiring of POC Probationary Firefighter Alec Ryder

Chief Tackett stated that Alec Ryder had gone through the paid-on-call (POC) interview process and felt he would be an excellent candidate for a POC position, as he comes with knowledge of department operations and some initial training such as Firefighter I and II.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to approve the hiring of Alec Ryder as a Probationary Firefighter for the Texas Township Fire Department, contingent upon a successful background investigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Department Report

Chief Tackett gave the Fire Department report for December 2022, which included responding to 93 calls. He stated that ESCI will begin working on the strategic plan next month.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Homier stated that Foster Swift would be hosting a seminar on February 7 regarding the Earned Sick Time and the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act. Clerk Beutel plans to attend.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Roberts thanked Attorney Homier and Emily Meinema for attending the Committee of the Whole discussion and would like to see the Board take action soon.

Clerk Beutel shared that there would likely be a May election for a KRESA millage renewal, which would be held for Precincts 3, 4 and 5. She and Deputy Clerk Melissa Somers were currently preparing for a post-election audit with the County for the November 2022 general election as well.



Trustee Kerr thanked Michelle O'Neill and Todd Ellis for attending the Board meeting and for their interest in the trustee position.

Supervisor Loeks was glad to see framing going up for the Township Hall. The timeline for the mechanical equipment is long, but the building could possibly be ready by late summer or early fall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Roberts, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

SUBMITTED: February 2, 2023
Clerk Emily Beutel
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: February 13, 2023, as submitted