



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, February 27, 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, **Trustee Michelle O'Neill**, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending was Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp.

Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenity Package

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp presented an amenity package for the splash pad to include tables, chairs, shade, and sponsor signage, for which the Board has currently budgeted \$50,000. The Parks Committee recently reviewed the options and recommended carousel tables with umbrellas and Adirondack chairs that could be engraved with sponsor logos. Board members discussed the packages and preferred to see how the seating and splash pad area were being utilized before permanently affixing the Adirondack chairs to the pad. For sponsor recognition, they discussed plaques with sponsor logos inlaid in the concrete. There was also concern expressed about the proposed umbrella option in terms of maintenance and security.

6th Street Park Restroom Design

At the Parks & Trails Committee, there has been discussion regarding the 6th Street Restroom design structure and the possibility in rebidding as a prefab structure, as well as including gender-neutral or unisex bathrooms. The Township did not receive Round 1 of the SPARK grant funding but has budgeted \$600,000 in ARPA funds for the project. Board members discussed the possibility of changing the design to all unisex restrooms but were concerned about how that would impact the size and cost of the structure. Including a family restroom could meet the need without increasing the size of the structure drastically.

Maintenance Services

Board members reviewed a proposal for a park ranger program to assist with park maintenance services from RecWise, which is owned by long-time member of the Parks Committee Tricia Keala. Deputy Superintendent stated that the Township budgeted \$20,250 for this position for a part-time employee but is still seeking an individual to meet that need. The park ranger proposal would provide several individuals managed by RecWise to perform park and trail maintenance and assist with park and pavilion rentals. Board members discussed the proposal and expressed concern at the cost, which exceeds the budgeted amount.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join Trustee Hammon in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Beutel called the roll, and the following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Barbara Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, **Trustee Michelle O'Neill**, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Zoning Administrator John Lovely, Engineer Tom Wheat, Attorney Michael Homier, and approximately 10 members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lisa Koop, resident, stated she has been attending Board meetings for more than a year to speak about the Fire Department and asked the Board to repair the damage caused to her family by her husband's termination.

John Brack, resident, stated he believes septic systems are safe and asked the Board to lift the mandate so that he wouldn't have to tear up his yard to connect to sewer.



Paulette Brack, resident, shared an article from a septic installer that states that septic systems are more cost-effective and environmentally-friendly than sewage treatment plants and can last indefinitely if properly maintained.

Shawn and Becky Pollack, residents, stated that the mandatory sewer connection ordinance was a shock to them and decreases the value of their home.

Kathy Staufer, resident, supports what Mrs. Koop said and hopes the Board will do what is right.

Charles Roelant, resident, said he connected to sewer because he felt forced to, and the cost exceeded what he expected and his initial quote from contractors. He asked the Board to listen to residents and their interests.

Travis Bartholomew, RCKC Operations Director, gave several updates on road projects. His crew has been working very hard to clean up after the ice storm and is focusing on residential areas but anticipates cleanup countywide will take months. He encouraged the Board to attend RCKC's Lunch & Learn later this spring to tour their new facility.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Wendy Mazer, County Commissioner for District 8, congratulated Trustee O'Neill on being appointed to the Board. She stated the County declared a local emergency due to the ice storm and shared other updates from the County Board of Commissioners.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

Administration

- The severe weather events on February 22 and 23 caused significant damage throughout the township and surrounding areas. The staff and Board extend their appreciation to the Texas Township Fire Department, Kalamazoo County Dispatch Authority, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, electric service providers, mutual aid providers, and all first responders who worked tirelessly to make the community safe again.
- The February eNewsletter was distributed on Friday, February 17, and the next newsletter will be a printed newsletter distributed in April.
- This year's Concert in the Corners events are tentatively scheduled for July 23, 2023 and August 20, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Parks

- Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp is meeting with Comcast to determine the cost for connectivity to Texas Drive Park for WiFi at the Pavilion.

DDA

- The February 23, 2023 DDA meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

Township Hall Project

- The Township Hall project is progressing but is running about seven days behind schedule due to the weather.

Flood Mitigation

- The long-term project is currently out for bid. The bids are due March 1.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Supervisor Loeks asked to add Item 10E – Ice Storm Clean Up to the agenda and move the closed session to Item 10F.

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as amended.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Roberts, seconded by O'Neill, motion carried, to approve the General Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of:



- Approval of February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and February 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$753,228.17
- Payroll \$56,027.56
- January 2023 Building Report
- Contract for Tree Removal Services

Engineer Wheat explained the tree removal services for the long-term flooding project. The tree removal is on a short and sensitive timeline due to EGLE restrictions to protect endangered bat species. The cost will count toward the Township's apportionment for the project.

BUSINESS

Tabled

There was no tabled business.

New

Resolution 23-03 - 2nd Reading & Adoption of Ordinance 369 – Shafer Development Rezoning Request

Zoning Administrator John Lovely presented the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 369 conditional rezoning request, including a draft conditional rezoning agreement with the full list of conditions included in the Resolution and Ordinance. The title work and survey are complete. Representatives from Shafer Development were present to answer any questions about the proposed development on N Avenue.

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to approve Resolution 23-03, which adopts Ordinance No. 369, directs the Township Clerk to publish the notice of adoption, and directs the Zoning Administrator to coordinate the finalization, execution and recording of the Conditional Rezoning Agreement with the County Register of Deeds.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Hammon, Kerr, Loeks, O'Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenity Proposal

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp recapped the splash pad amenity proposal for seating, which the Board discussed at Committee of the Whole.

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to approve the quote from Landscape Forms for the purchase of five carousel tables, and to approve the quote from Katerberg Verhage for the installation of those tables, at the Maple Hill Splash Pad.

Discuss Committee Appointments for Township Board Members

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated there are two Committee vacancies due to Wendy Mazer's resignation on the Election Commission and Personnel Committee. Also, the Road Committee now has three Board members, as Trustee O'Neill served previous to being appointed as Trustee. Trustee Hammon offered step down from the Road Committee so that Trustee O'Neill could stay. Trustee Kerr and Trustee O'Neill asked to serve on the Personnel Committee and Election Commission, respectively.

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, for Trustee Kerr to join the Personnel Committee, Trustee O'Neill to join the Election Commission, and Trustee Hammon to step down from the Road Committee.

Review Proposals for 6th Street Multipurpose Field Goals

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp presented three quotes for the installation of goals at the two multipurpose fields at 6th Street Park, which includes one set of combination football/soccer goals and one set of soccer goals. She recommended the Township move forward with the proposal from RecWise and to include the cost of striping the fields at an estimated cost of \$2,900. The 2022



budget had a \$20,000 projected expense in capital outlay for the goals, but the project couldn't be completed before December 31. She asked the Board to authorize the expenditure in 2023 to allow for field rentals this season.

Board members discussed specifications regarding the aluminum posts and installation, as they seemed to vary between quotes, and asked for more clarification on the cost of ground sleeves to allow the posts to be removable. Hovenkamp will follow up with RecWise to confirm pricing.

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to waive the purchasing policy requirement for administration to solicit an RFP for the multipurpose field goals at 6th Street Park due to time constraints for installation and anticipated rental activity, and approve the proposal not to exceed \$25,000 from RecWise for the purchase and installation of the goals with ground sleeves at 6th Street Park.

Ice Storm Clean Up

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp contacted Kalamazoo Landscape Services (KLS) to partner in offering brush drop-off service for residents following the ice storm. She asked the Board to retroactively approve the partnership with KLS, beginning February 24 and running through March 10. The cost to the Township is \$7 per cubic yard, and Board members discussed the unbudgeted expense but felt it was an important service to offer.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to approve the partnership with Kalamazoo Landscape Services for brush/yard waste drop-off service through March 10, 2023, in response to the February 23, 2023 ice storm.

Closed Session to Review Confidential Attorney Legal Opinion

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to adjourn to closed session to discuss and consider a written confidential legal opinion with the township's attorney, which is material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute pursuant to section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act and to invite Deputy Superintendent into the session.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Hammon, Kerr, Loeks, O'Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none. Absent – none.

The Board entered into closed session at 6:55 p.m. and reentered open session at 7:25 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were none.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Becky Pollack, resident, reiterated her original comment regarding the sewer ordinance and asked the Board to lift the sewer connection mandate.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Homier had nothing to report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

All Board members thanked the Fire Department and other responding entities for their service to the community during the ice storm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Boven, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

SUBMITTED: March 8, 2023
Clerk Emily Beutel
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: March 13, 2023, as amended