



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, March 13, 2023

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 O'Neill in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dave Pawlowski introduced himself as the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) liaison to Texas Township and invited Board members and public to contact RCKC with feedback and comments. He shared several updates from RCKC and asked everyone to slow down, especially in construction areas, as a Van Buren Road Commission was recently killed while working.

John Brack, resident, spoke about the history of sewer and septic systems. He understands the septic around lakes where lots are very small but doesn't feel he should have to connect.

Paulette Brack, resident, said she has been thinking about the sewer and septic issue. Animals leave their waste everywhere, on land and in water, and it's not an issue. She asked the Board to lift the mandate for non-riparian properties.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

There were none.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

Administration

- There will be a community open house welcoming new Superintendent Erik Wilson on Wednesday, March 22 from 4:00-5:30 PM at the Township Hall.
- Representative Morse selected the Township's proposal for Phase II development of 6th Street Park (restroom facility, pavilion and play structure) for her office to advocate for state enhancement grant funding. The total project ask is \$1.45 million, and if awarded, could be funded this fall.
- Shred/Electronics Recycling Day will be Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Parks

- The pocket park fence repair has been completed by Fence & Garden.
- Mejeur Electric completed the work for the lighting and security upgrades at Texas Drive Park.
- A segment of the trailway between 8th Street and Texas Drive will soon be closed due to the construction of Q Corners Lofts starting soon, and bike and pedestrian traffic are encouraged to detour on the nearby sidewalks until the project is complete.

DDA

- The February 23rd DDA meeting was cancelled due to severe weather.

Township Hall Project

- Staff met with PAE to finalize security specs for the Fire Department renovation project; construction documents are nearing completion and should go out for bid soon.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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



APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of February 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and February 27, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$76,964.17
- Payroll \$67,961.97
- February 2023 Building Report
- New Township Hall Change Order #007

BUSINESS

Tabled

There was none.

New

Accept Resignation of Trustee Linda Kerr from Parks and Trails Committee

Trustee Kerr submitted a request to resign from the Parks & Trails Committee and as the alternate for Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS).

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to accept Trustee Kerr's resignation from the Parks & Trails Committee and as an alternate for KATS.

Discuss Extension of Ice Storm Cleanup Program with KLS

In response to the February 23, 2023 ice storm, the Township partnered with Kalamazoo Landscape Supplies for brush drop-off service through March 10. Due to the recent snowfall, the Township has received requests to extend the service.

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to approve the extension of the partnership with Kalamazoo Landscape Supplies for brush/yard waste drop-off service through March 17, 2023 in response to the February 23, 2023 ice storm.

DDA Member Reappointment Requests

The DDA has two positions with terms that expired at the end of February, as well as one vacant position. The expired terms are for Larry Loeks and Seth Ganton, and both have requested reappointment. The term length for DDA positions is four years.

The DDA was slated to review the vacancies at their February 23 meeting, but that meeting was cancelled due to the ice storm. The DDA will review the applications submitted for the vacant position at their next meeting on March 23 and make a recommendation for the Township Board to consider at its March 27 meeting.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to reappoint Larry Loeks and Seth Ganton to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire on April 30, 2027.

Resolution No. 23-04 to Introduce Ordinance No. 370 to Amend the Clearzoning Ordinance and General Ordinance (CBD, Miscellaneous and Sign Ordinance Amendments)

Zoning Administrator John Lovely presented the proposed ordinance amendments and gave a summary of the major changes. Ordinance No. 370 includes significant amendments to the Corners Business Districts standards and requirements and the Sign ordinance, as well as number of smaller, miscellaneous amendments. The Planning Commission held its public hearing on February 28 and recommended that the draft ordinances be forwarded to the Township Board for introduction.

Board members discussed the cost and maintenance of requiring concrete curb and gutter on public and private roads and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to adopt Resolution 23-04, which introduces Ordinance No. 370, sets the adoption meeting for March 27, 2023, and directs the Township Clerk to publish the notice of posting.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Hammon, Kerr, Loeks, and Roberts. Nays – O'Neill. Absent – Boven.



Discuss Q Avenue Left Turn Lane Extension

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County is requiring the extension of the left turn lane on Q Avenue as part of the new township hall project, which will require 800 feet of widening. The lane needs to be extended from the Fire Station to the new entry drive for the new township hall, with a 300' taper to the West. Progressive AE was not notified of this requirement at the time of submittal or during early discussions about the project last fall. While Supervisor Loeks has had recent dialogue with RCKC leadership about the extension, a waiver is unlikely. Fulton & Sons has provided a cost estimate for this additional work at PAE's request for \$176,107.35. That does not include PAE's fee, which would bring the total cost closer to \$200,000.

Several Board members expressed frustration at the timeline of this requirement, as the project has been underway several months. The Township Hall itself will not create a traffic concern, according to PAE's traffic studies, but future development on the neighboring parcels will have an impact.

Board members discussed appropriate the funding source for the project and plan to split the cost between ARPA and Capital funds. The also discussed the desire to set up a meeting with RCKC leadership to discuss the possibility of a deferment until other neighboring parcels develop in the near future.

There was no Board action.

ZONING / BOARD / COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning Department Report

Zoning Administrator Lovely gave updates on ongoing and new developments in the CBD, 9th Street area, and several residential areas. He also shared progress on ordinance drafts, including the riparian ordinance work with CIB Planning, and some internal discussions considering adoption of parts of the International Property Maintenance Code for ordinance enforcement.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Paulette Brack, resident, thanked Board members for hearing resident concerns.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

There was no attorney present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Kerr attended the Kalamazoo County MTA meeting with Trustee Hammon last week. The group is working on ways to attract and engage more local officials.

Trustee Hammon shared that the Public Safety Committee had to cancel its next meeting because they no longer have a quorum. She'd like the Board to have a discussion about the Committee to get some direction on how to move forward.

Trustee O'Neill stated another sponsorship come in for the summer's Concert in the Corners events, which she is excited to see expand this year.

Treasurer Roberts stated the winter tax collection went very well with a 97.78% collection rate. She finished her lake ecology course through MSU Extension, which was very educational as a riparian landowner and Planning Commission member.

Supervisor Loeks updated the Board on the Pride Care ambulance contract, which was terminated effective March 1. The Township is now covered by Life EMS, and a contract should come forward for Board consideration soon. The lake level project received zero bids and will go out to rebid soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED: March 22, 2023
Clerk Emily Beutel
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: March 27, as submitted