



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, APRIL 10, 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 Barb Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, Trustee Michelle O'Neill, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also present were Superintendent Erik Wilson and Fire Chief Chad Tackett.

Fire Department & 7110 West Q Ave Facility Improvement Project

Board members reviewed the bid specs and revised cost estimate for the renovation of the Fire Department and Township facilities located at 7110 W Q Ave. The estimated cost has risen significantly due to inflation, supply chain instability, and some changes to the scope of work since the initial design roughly two years ago. Board members discussed potential cost savings and items that could be put out to bid as alternates in an attempt to bring down the anticipated cost. However, with the instability in the market, members agreed that putting the project out to bid was the only way to get a true cost estimate.

Regarding how the project would be funded, Fire Department carryover and CIP funds, as well as Township general fund **and ARPA funds**, were discussed.

Due to time constraints, the Board tabled the Public Safety Committee discussion to a future Committee of the Whole.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at approximately 5:55 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 O'Neill 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 Superintendent Erik Wilson, Zoning Administrator John Lovely, Fire Chief Chad Tackett, and approximately 14 members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Paulette Brack, resident, asked members to repeal the mandate and allow connection when septic systems fail.

Marcia Smell, resident, asked the Board members if any of them were sympathetic to their residents and what they're going through. The six-month extension is appreciated but isn't enough time for many who are still recovering from inflation.

John Brack, resident, stated he still opposes the sewer connection mandate.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Planning Department Report

Zoning Administrator John Lovely recapped the March 23 Planning Commission meeting and last month's activities in the planning department. The Planning Commission will be reviewing ordinances at both April meetings, as there are no applications for consideration for this month. Staff has prepared a summary of comments from the riparian ordinance discussion, and CIB is working on a list of survey questions to be mailed out in May or June.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Erik Wilson updated the Board on the following items:

Administration

- Two new sponsors, Biggby Coffee and Advia Credit Union, will support Concert in the Corners.
- Electronics Recycling and Shred Day is coming up on Saturday, April 22 from 9am to 12 noon.
- The April newsletter was finalized and sent to print.



- A special eNewsletter was sent out to advertise the upcoming Curbside Bulk Item Collection service, which begins on April 24.

Parks

- Staff is preparing restrooms at Texas Drive Park and the Farmers’ Market/Pocket Park for reopening, and the lights at both restrooms have been upgraded.
- The 6th Street Park multipurpose field goals will be installed April 14.
- The RFP for the 6th Street Restroom project was distributed to local firms and posted on the township’s website. Proposals are due by 3:00 PM on Monday, April 17.
- The five tables for the Maple Hill Splash Pad have been ordered and should be ready for pick up by the end of April.
- The Parks Committee is requesting that the concrete in the splash zone of the Maple Hill SplashPad be colored and would like to defray funding from the budgeted \$50,000 for amenities to fund this enhancement. Staff is working to obtain a cost estimate for this change, which would require township board approval as it is a deviation from the original bid specs.

DDA

- The trailway light upgrade project was completed, and the cost was lower than anticipated.

Township Hall Project

- The next Progressive AE Touch Base meeting is Friday, April 7.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Hammon, seconded by O’Neill, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as submitted.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of March 21, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes and March 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$190,490.33
- Payroll of \$65,770.28
- Financial Reports-Jan 2023 Cash by Bank & Fund; Feb 2023 Cash by Bank & Fund

BUSINESS

Tabled

There was none.

New

Bid Specs for Fire Department & 7110 West Q Ave Facility Improvements

Board members discussed the project, bids, and funding options at the Committee of the Whole and will proceed with bidding the project to see where pricing comes in.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to approve the bid specs for the renovations at the 7110 West Q Avenue facility.

Ayes – Beutel, Hammon, Kerr, Loeks, O’Neill, Roberts. Opposed - Boven

National Opioid Settlement Funding – Participation in Additional Funding Round

Superintendent Wilson explained the opioid settlement funding.

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to authorize Administration to participate in the next round of opioid funding and authorize Superintendent Wilson to sign the participation agreement.

Contract for Ambulance Services with Life EMS

Supervisor Loeks explained that Life EMS has been providing ambulance services for the Township since the PrideCare contract was terminated in March and provided a 6 month contract until a more



complex contract can be worked out. He stated the next contract can either be with the City of Portage, as with previous contracts, or between just the Township and Life EMS.

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Beutel, motion carried, to approve the ambulance services agreement with Life EMS and authorize Superintendent Wilson to sign the agreement.

Approve Elimination of Fees for Electronics Recycling Events

For past e-recycling events, the Township has collected fees from residents to recycle CRT TVs and monitors (\$20 and \$15, respectively). Staff proposed eliminating those fees, which were less than \$300 each year in 2021 and 2022, to streamline the process for both volunteers and residents.

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to authorize the elimination of all fees for Electronics Recycling events.

Review Proposal from Dave's Glass for Installation of Timers on Restroom Doors

In an effort to reduce staffing needs and hours for the maintenance assistant position, Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp has been working on a proposal for the installation of automatic timer locks on the doors at the Texas Drive Park and Farmers Market Pavilion restrooms. Dave's Glass provided several options, including mechanical or Bluetooth programming, which Board members reviewed.

Motion by Boven, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to approve the mechanical proposal in the amount of \$5,825 for installation of automatic timers on the park restroom doors.

ARPA Allocation of Funds for 2023 Park Improvements

Board members reviewed proposed ARPA funds allocations for Park projects with the intent to reduce the use of Capital Funds. However, while the Township awaits bids on other projects, Board members asked to wait until a future meeting to make the allocations.

Motion by Boven, seconded by O'Neill, motion carried, to table this item to the May 8, 2023 Board Meeting.

ZONING / BOARD / COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The Farmers' Market Committee met and reviewed vendor applications and special events for the season. Opening day is Saturday, May 13.

The Election Commission is meeting after the Board meeting concludes to approve election inspectors for the May 2, 2023 special election.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The attorney was not present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Roberts stated the pre-audit took place last week with Siegfried Crandall which went well. The audit will take place in May. She also shared that fewer than 100 sewer connections remain.

Trustee O'Neill stated that she is sympathetic to property owners who are impacted by the mandatory sewer connection ordinance, both those who have yet to connect and those have already connected. Many people have already connected, even though it has been a hardship.

Trustee Hammon is looking forward to attending MTA's Breaking the Zoning Code workshop.

Clerk Beutel gave an update on the Uniform Chart of Accounts.

Trustee Kerr asked about ordinance enforcement and how and when issues were being enforced, proactively or reactively. Board members asked to add this discussion to another meeting.

Supervisor Loeks also stated that he is sympathetic to those who are struggling to connect to sewer but encouraged residents to look at options other than gravity feed. Texas Township has several large lakes and also supplies the City of Kalamazoo's water system through the wellheads at Al Sabo, all of which are negatively impacted by septic systems that are aging or may not be properly maintained.



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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

SUBMITTED: April 19, 2023

Clerk Emily Beutel

Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: April 27, 2023, as amended