



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, APRIL 24, 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 Linda Kerr, Trustee Michelle O'Neill, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Superintendent Erik Wilson, Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Fire Chief Chad Tackett, and Zoning Administrator John Lovely.

Maple Hill Splash Pad Concrete

Board members discussed a request by the Parks & Trails Committee to color the concrete for the center of the splash pad to differentiate between the splash zone and dry zone, citing concerns for safety and accessibility. Adding color would also address the concern that if the water contains high iron content, there could be staining on the pad. Superintendent Wilson spoke with Katerberg VerHage and VIRIDIS about options for sealing the concrete on the pad that would be slip resistant and also protect it and prevent rust staining. They recommended a product that meets those criteria, lasts seven to ten years, and would add roughly \$3,500 to \$4,500 in cost to the project. This product does not change the color of the concrete but will work well for protection. Board members asked to test the iron content of the water after the well was drilled and apply sealant if necessary.

Roadside Cleanup

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that a resident contacted her to see if the Township was interested in partnering with the courts to clean up trash on the roadsides in the Township for community service. The court would provide supervision and transportation, and the Township would have to provide safety gear, vests, and gloves, as well as pick up the bagged trash afterwards. Board members discussed areas in the Township that could benefit from this service, as well as concerns about the perceived safety and privacy of residents. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp was asked to obtain more information about the service before the Board makes a decision.

Public Safety Committee

Supervisor Loeks stated that the Public Safety Committee only has three remaining members, and one of them will be moving out of the Township and resigning soon. Board members reviewed the Committee by-laws and its current function and discussed the need to revise the by-laws to have a better focus and charge for the Committee moving forward.

Due to a lack of time, code enforcement was tabled to a future Committee of the Whole discussion. Committee of the Whole adjourned at approximately 5:56 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 Boven 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, Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Fire Chief Chad Tackett, Attorney Michael Homier, Engineer Tom Wheat, and approximately five members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Paulette Brack, resident, spoke opposing the mandatory sewer connection ordinance and asked Board members to lift the mandate.

John Brack, resident, also opposed the mandatory sewer connection ordinance.

Lisa Koop, resident, asked when residents could see the Fire Department's Strategic Plan, as she was unable to attend the public input session on April 12.



PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Wendy Mazer, County Commissioner, gave several updates from the County. The Board of Commissioners approved a veterans millage ballot proposal for a November 2023 special election. The Justice Center project is going well and should be complete by September 1.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Wilson shared the Superintendent Report and highlighted the following items:

Administration

- ARPA reporting requirements are due April 30, 2023.
- The Superintendent's department is reviewing the CIP plan and process and asked if the Board would consider a special Committee of the Whole on May 8th to discuss the CIP framework.
- He is working with the Building and Zoning departments to review process and collaboration with setback reviews, inspections, and code enforcement.

Personnel

- Staff continues to work on the Building and Grounds Maintenance position.
- He is working on a survey to send to all employees to help him understand where the township stands as an organization today and identify areas for improvement.

Township Hall Project

- Staff is working on identifying options for fiber connectivity between the current facility and the new building.

Fire Station Renovation Project

- An Asbestos Survey has been ordered at a cost of \$1,200. Analytical Testing & Consulting will be onsite with two technicians on Friday, May 5 to evaluate the current structure.
- Progressive AE plans to issue bids on May 2, which will be due May 30 at 2:00 p.m. so that the Board will be able to review at its June 12 meeting.
- Construction is slated to begin mid-November with an estimated completion time of April 2024.

Parks

- Soccer nets have been installed at the 6th Street Park, and fields have been painted.
- The new swing set is being installed at the Texas Drive Park.
- Splash pad equipment has been delivered to the site, and the outer ring of concrete was poured.

Board members discussed the need for a grounds and maintenance or public works employee as soon as possible, especially with farmers' market and park rental season approaching, and directed Superintendent Wilson to make this position a priority.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended
- Approval of Bills for \$475,913.29
- Payroll of \$88,738.19
- March 2023 Building Department Report
- 2023 Q1 Investment Report
- 2023 Q1 Budget Reports

BUSINESS

Tabled

There was none.



New

Review Proposals for 6th Street Park Restroom Design

Supervisor Loeks recused himself from the discussion, as the firm for which he works submitted a proposal for the design.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that four firms submitted bids for the project, including Driven Design, Bosh Architecture, Progressive AE, and Wightman. She shared the RFP and bids received with a synopsis of costs and services included within the scope. Board members discussed the bids and briefly discussed the potential of adding heat to the restroom buildings in the future.

Motion by Boven, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to move forward with the proposal submitted by Bosch Architecture for design of the 6th Street Park Restroom Facility with a cost of \$24,700 and authorize Superintendent Wilson to sign an agreement for this service. Supervisor Loeks recused himself from voting.

Kieser & Associates Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Assessment Proposal

Engineer Tom Wheat stated that as part of the lake level control project, one of the permit conditions is that the district keep track of water quality and aquatic invasive species in Crooked Lake and Bass Lake to ensure no AIS are getting through the filter while the pump is running. The proposal presented is to set a baseline study of Bass Lake before the project commences. Any cost incurred will be credited against the Township's 10% of project costs, and future costs will be paid by the district. The costs for 2023 are not to exceed the estimated total of \$27,430.

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Beutel, to approve the proposal from Kieser & Associates for aquatic invasive species monitoring at Bass Lake and Crooked Lake and authorize Superintendent Wilson to sign the scope of work.

ZONING / BOARD / COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Tackett shared statistics for March, which included responding to 96 calls, 44 of which were EMS and 52 were Fire. He gave updates on the 360 Review report progress, focused on updated job descriptions and organizational chart. Unfortunately, no public attended the Strategic Plan public session on April 12. Board members recommended asking ESCI about how to get more public engagement, perhaps via a survey.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Homier recently attended the MTA Conference in Traverse City. He is currently working to resolve the FEMA agreement with the Drain Office.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Roberts stated that Deputy Treasurer Emily Meinema is currently attending her first year of the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Institute, which is a three-year certification.

Trustee O'Neill shared that KRESA recently released a report on the most popular college destination for class of 2022 graduates, and the Township's very own Kalamazoo Valley Community College was the No. 1 choice for every school district in Kalamazoo County.

Trustee Hammon stated that Shred/E-Recycling Day on April 22 was a great success, and our residents donated more than \$1,000 in donations for the Mattawan Food Pantry.

Clerk Beutel invited everyone to attend the May 2 Special Election Public Accuracy Test on Thursday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m. and encouraged voters in precincts 3, 4 and 5 to vote on election day.

Trustee Boven expressed his concern for young people driving golf carts around late at night on his street and other streets in the Township, as it is very dangerous.

Trustee Kerr said she is very excited about the splash pad and also about The Backyard restaurant opening in the Township this summer, which was recently featured in local news.



Supervisor Loeks stated the Flooding Task Force was meeting Tuesday, April 25 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom to discuss the legal lake level. The project bid came in higher than anticipated. He will be meeting with representatives from the Road Commission on Thursday after its Lunch & Learn to discuss the Q Avenue left hand turn lane they're requiring as part of the new Township Hall project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:17 p.m.

SUBMITTED: May 3, 2023

Clerk Emily Beutel

Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: May 8, 2023, as submitted