

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND BLANC**  
**Minutes for Township Board Regular Meeting**  
**Held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Hoffman in Conference Room A.

Board Present: Supervisor Marilyn Hoffman, Clerk Catherine Lane, and Trustees: Larry Anderson, Clark Kent, and Ryan Thompson.

Board Absent: Treasurer Earl Guzak and Trustee Paul Bush.

Staff Present: Township Manager Keith Edwards, Township Attorney David Lattie, and DPW Director Kirk Richardson.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Anderson, to adopt the Amended Agenda as presented with the addition of: Item 5C, Genesee County Road Commission Agreement for Waters Edge Road Paving Project; Item 5D, Resolution setting a Public Hearing on Estimated Costs for Waters Edge Road Paving Project; and Items 6E and 6F, Trustee Thompson's requests for discussion of Board Goals and Objectives and providing Wi-Fi in the Township. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Bush, Guzak]. Motion approved.

**023-2012 – Presentation by John Daly III, Ph.D., Manager-Director of Genesee County Road Commission**

Mr. Daly explained he meets with Township Supervisors monthly and speaks to them frequently. He schedules annual meetings with the seventeen Township Boards to answer questions and provide information. Funding for the Road Commission has not increased since 1997 and he does not see any significant changes in the near future, although the legislature is considering several bills that will shift responsibility for local roads to local entities. There is little flexibility in how the Road Commission spends their money because state statutes dictate seventy (70%) percent of their funding must be spent to maintain "primary roads." The remaining thirty (30%) percent is used to maintain local roads, section line roads, and subdivision roads. He is most concerned about two bills introduced in November in the legislature – House Bills 5125 and 5126, which allow County Board of Commissioners by a simple resolution to take over the Road Commissions. He is opposed to this legislation and asked Board members to write their representatives. Road Commissions were established by a vote of the people and they should make the decision.

Later in the year, Mr. Daly stated he will be implementing a new, shared cost program with Townships to replace box culverts and catch basins where roads are in good condition; the Road Commission will borrow money and Townships will be asked to share in the debt service. Trustee Kent asked why a Township should provide monies for road repairs and catch basins. Mr. Daly stated the Road Commission is limited by statute to spend thirty (30%) percent of their funds on local roads and are required to seek matching funds. Catch basins on primary roads are maintained by the Road Commission. Trustee Anderson noted there are catch basins that are failing and are a safety issue. Mr. Daly stated the Road Commission has always erred on the side of safety; however, repairing catch basins on poor roads is not a wise use of monies, as they will have to be redone when the road is repaired.

Clerk Lane asked if Mr. Daly supported Townships reducing the speed limit on gravel roads. Mr. Daly stated the speed for all gravel roads is established by the state at 55 mph for all gravel roads. He believes the speed should be reduced to 45 mph and it is beneficial for there to be uniformity across the state.

Bob Slattery, Director of Information and Planning, informed the Board for five years he has been developing a multiple-year Road Improvement Plan so the 50/50 and 60/40 monies could be utilized most efficiently. For ten years, the Road Commission has been driving all the County roads and utilizing pacer data that rates them from 1 to 10, with 10 being brand new. Mr. Daly asked the Township to review their Master Plan for Roads and participate in their Asset Management Program to maintain the overall condition of the roads. The plan is to prioritize each road in a community, spend monies where they will be most cost effective, and where the life of the road will be extended. Roads needing an inordinate amount of money to fix will be the last considered for improvements. Without funds, they are legally bound to maintain the reasonable condition of the roads. The better the repair, the lower costs to maintain vehicles.

Supervisor Hoffman asked Mr. Daly to enumerate some of his awards. Mr. Daly response was awards are won because of the work of his staff, i.e., operational and public relations awards, best practices for implementing vendor management fleet maintenance [savings of \$18,000.00], asset management approach, which proposed to do the right thing for the roads, at the right time, and in the right place – was developed and implemented by the legislators for state wide management of the roads.

A resident stated McWain Road is a gravel road with lots of potholes causing problems with cars. Mr. Daly stated gravel roads require a lot of maintenance, gave the resident his card, and asked him to call so they could discuss his particular road. Trustee Kent lives on Vassar Road and stated he has a suggestion for grading roads and putting down limestone – do not do it just before it rains, as the roads become slippery. Mr. Daly stated calcium chloride deliveries are scheduled 3½ months in advance. If he cannot take when it is scheduled, it will be months before another delivery. The Road Commission has no storage facilities – they cannot afford the cost of \$750,000.00.

#### **024-2012 - Public Comment**

- **Vanessa Ferguson, 1103 Leisure Drive**, provided a list of local unions and vendors who have committed to provide labor and/or materials to develop the three-acre dog park in Creasey Bicentennial Park at an estimated cost of \$54,500.00. The Parks and Recreation Commission's initial estimate was \$100,000.00. Ms. Ferguson presented this same information to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their last meeting. Davison Township's dog park is up and running because the Township fronted the money and volunteers are holding fundraisers to reimburse the Township. Ms. Ferguson explained she and her husband, Kris Johns, have held fundraisers, had media coverage, and will be contacting local businesses for sponsorships. They can be contacted at [vcf81@hotmail.com](mailto:vcf81@hotmail.com) or [kris.johns@gmx.com](mailto:kris.johns@gmx.com).

#### **025-2012 – Parks and Recreation Director Kae Eidson**

Parks and Recreation Director Kae Eidson reported their Master Plan has not been updated since 2006, which is expiring the end of February and they do not have funding in place. To submit for grants, their Master Plan must be updated this year. Requests for Proposals will be back by February 1, 2012. With a plan in place for the pavilion, we can apply to the Department of Natural Resources for grants. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint approved a grant for \$30,000.00 to develop the large pavilion on the north side of Creasey Bicentennial Park by the new soccer fields. They were advised to submit for an additional \$20,000.00 later this year. The total estimated cost is \$200,000.00, which includes the sanitary sewer, power, and parking for the pavilion. They are looking for support from local businesses, spearheading fundraising, and are considering

designating the annual cell tower rent be utilized to construct the pavilion. Vic Lukasavitz of Fleis VandenBrink is developing an overall proposal and getting firm estimates for the project. DPW Director Richardson will contact the City of Burton about their new, environmentally friendly toilets that utilize a dry system and requiring cleaning once a year. A new septic field would cost \$100,000.00. Trustee Kent noted there is a lateral sanitary sewer line about 1,000 feet from the park and it may be cost effective to extend that line to the pavilion.

#### **026-2012 – Appoint Election Inspectors for Presidential Primary on February 28, 2012**

Motion by Trustee Kent, supported by Trustee Anderson, to approve the List of Election Inspectors provided by Clerk Lane for the Presidential Primary on February 28, 2012. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Bush, Guzak]. Motion approved.

#### **027-2012 – Genesee County Road Commission Local Agreement for Waters Edge Paving Project**

Attorney David Lattie stated this is a standard agreement reflecting the Road Commission's estimated construction costs for the Waters Edge Road Project. The Road Commission pays the engineering and inspection fees of \$31,200.00; the resurfacing costs will be shared equally by each lot owner. Treasurer Guzak is reviewing the best source of funding for this project either financing through local banks or seeking bonds. The Board should anticipate there will be additional administrative costs of ten (10%) percent for mailings, publishing of notices, and Bond Counsel fees. To meet the mailing and publication requirements, Attorney Lattie recommended this Public Hearing be set for Wednesday, February 29, 2012, Board meeting; the regular fourth Tuesday is February 28, 2012, Election for Presidential Primary.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Thompson, to enter into the Local Road Agreement with the Genesee County Road Commission for Waters Edge Subdivision with estimated costs of \$31,200.00 for Engineering and Inspections paid by Genesee County Road Commission and \$312,000.00 for the constructing of the roads, for a Total Estimated Project Cost of \$343,200.00, as recommended by Attorney Lattie. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Bush, Guzak]. Motion approved.

#### **028-2012 – Resolution No. 3 for Waters Edge Condominiums Road Project**

Motion by Trustee Thompson, supported by Clerk Lane, to adopt Resolution No. 3 for Waters Edge Condominiums Road Project and set the Public Hearing on Estimated Costs for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, with an estimated ten (10%) percent for administrative fees, as recommended by Attorney Lattie. Roll call vote. Ayes: Kent, Anderson, Thompson, Lane, Hoffman. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Bush, Guzak]. Motion approved.

#### **029-2012 – DPW Director Richardson Discussion of DPW Meters**

DPW Director Kirk Richardson stated this is an informational presentation. The maintenance agreement will be brought to the Board in February. The maintenance cost for each meter is \$650.00 per month; the total cost per year for six meters exceeds the authorized levels of the Board's Purchasing Policy. Mr. Richardson showed on a Township map the location of the six (6) sanitary sewer flow meters that were installed, monitored, and have been paid by the Township since the 1990s and the five (5) sanitary sewer flow meters installed and maintained at no cost to the Township by Hach Company [the vendor]. This was a pilot program for their new equipment and was not utilized anywhere else in the country. Mr. Richardson explained the meters provide flow information, which are monitored daily especially during heavy rains to help determine if or when there may be backups in basements and to identify the causes and will be asking the Board to continue this maintenance agreement in 2012.

### 030-2012 – Board Goals and Objectives

Trustee Thompson requested discussion of the Board's Goals and Objectives. Clerk Lane provided copies of the 2011 List of Goals and a directive to former Township Manager Dunnill on matters to be addressed. The Board and Township Manager Edwards agreed the lists were beneficial, should be reviewed, and updated for 2012. Discussion will continue at the February meetings.

### 031-2012 – Township Wi-Fi

Trustee Thompson discussed with Township Manager Edwards and GIS Coordinator Beller a couple of weeks ago about bringing Wi-Fi service to the Township Hall. Many businesses in our community provide Wi-Fi for their customers and the Board should consider offering it within Township buildings. The Board concurred. Township Manager Edwards will investigate the costs when meeting with contractors about our GIS and IT needs. DPW Director Richardson suggested trying a couple of different antennas, as there are some areas in the Township Hall where signals are blocked. Trustee Anderson reported repeater antennas and technology have come a long way and costs have been lowered.

### 032-2012 - Management Reports

- **Township Manager Keith Edwards**

- (1) **Written Report** will be provided on a monthly basis prior to the Committee-of-the-Whole meetings based on the draft outline sent to the Board. The intent is to open communication and for the Board to provide direction. Trustee Thompson felt the outline was very inclusive and it would be impossible to include all the items on the list with every report. It was suggested some items could be assigned to Department Heads for inclusion in their reports.
- (2) **Resignation of IT Technician Darren Raymond.** Mr. Raymond is on call until his last day of work on January 27, 2012; he is utilizing his vacation time. Township Manager Edwards stated he and GIS Coordinator Beller are working with Net Source One of Saginaw, Michigan, our current vendor, to maintain all the desk top computers and servers; their proposal is \$1,950.00 per month. Mr. Edwards recommended bringing them in on an interim basis until a proposal can be sought from other contractors, and/or the Board decides to hire an IT Technician. Costs will be distributed among the departments based on their use, i.e., like the Helpdesk, with Fire Station #1 to be brought on line sometime this year. The vacated IT position has been posted internally and there appears to be some interest. A draft employment agreement has been developed for an IT network person. Discussions include bringing the Web Site in house, a web-based platform, and greater public access. A complete report will be brought to the February meeting.
- (3) **Third Party Provider of Natural Gas.** A local businessman, Gus Chinonis, Regional Director for CE Options, LLC, a third party seller of natural gas, indicated the Township could save up to twenty (20%) percent on their natural gas bill, i.e., \$28,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Board members indicated former the Township Manager and Finance Director Barriger had investigated several companies offering this service and recommended Mr. Edwards follow up with Ms. Barriger. Mr. Edwards stated he found a contract with another company; but, it was not executed. Trustee Anderson reminded the Board that Consumers Energy still charges a fee for using their lines.

- **Township Attorney David Lattie – no report.**

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Trustee Kent, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Bush, Guzak]. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk Catherine Lane

**Board Approved: February 9, 2012**