

5-9-2017

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00. DUE TO THE DEATH OF THE SUPERVISOR ROBERT BALDWIN, THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWNSHIP CLERK JANET CLARK. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG WAS SAID.

THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, ROLL CALL.

ROBERT BALDWIN	SUPERVISOR DECEASED
JANET CLARK	CLERK
DENISE MACFARLANE	TREASURER
NANCY STEPHAN	TRUSTEE
GARY TODD	TRUSTEE
JAMES T. PEEK	TRUSTEE
KELLY CUSHWAY	TRUSTEE

The township supervisor Robert Baldwin passed away May 2, 2017, there was a moment of silence for Robert Baldwin Supervisor and friend.

Clerk J. Clark asked for a nomination of a township trustee to serve as President Pro-Tem chair the board meeting.

Denise MacFarlane nominated James Peek and Janet Clark supported the nomination.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES.

MINUTES

The clerk presented the minutes of the 4-9-2017 regular board meeting.

MOTION was made by G. Todd and supported by D. MacFarlane accept the minutes of the 4-9-2017 regular board meeting.

K. Cushway asked about the letter that was requested to send to the Mecosta County Road Commission, concerning the signage issue at Ash Drive and 20 Mile. There was discussion. **MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes**

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer presented the treasurers report:

5-4-2017 General fund balance \$580,616.62

5-4-2017 Sewer fund balance \$513,013.02

MOTION was made by G. Todd and supported by N. Stephan to accept the treasurer's reports as presented in all funds. **MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes**

SEWER REPORT

Green Charter Township sewer report as follows:

4/1/2017 - 4/30/2017 29 days

Reading 194416390

Total Flow 806140

Average daily flow 27796

D. Vandawater reported Smith Instruments was in this past week at the lift station to calibrate the meter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Warba, Mayor and Mark Gifford, Manager of The City Big Rapids were present for the City of Big Rapids. They expressed a heartfelt sympathy on the loss of Supervisor Bob Baldwin, and pledged support to his successor.

Township residents Mr. & Mrs. Jim Coburn were present and expressed their condolences. They appreciated Bob and the board and will truly miss him.

Gary Scramling, township resident, contributed that he had donated his time working with Bob on the township parks and it was always a pleasure working and talking with Bob. He traveled the township with Bob and Jim Chapman.

Mr. Desnoyers resident in the township for thirty eight years appreciated Bob and other board members who have always welcomed him and answered his questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Gary Todd the Superintendent for the township grounds maintenance reported on the current conditions of this spring's cemetery mowing and cleanup work. A representative from Pro-Turf was present. There was a discussion.

1. Cemeteries not done timely, but as of today's meeting date they are done.
2. Having trash barrels emptied is a requirement in all the cemeteries.
3. Marty the supervisor of Pro-Turf was present and explained of the last 14 days, it had rained 7 days.
4. Weed whip of the banks out front of Stone Hatchery Park is necessary.
5. Questioned if Charlie Brown Park had been mowed.
6. Give Pro-Turf a calendar of Stone Hatchery Park for market and rentals.
7. Mowing cemeteries for holidays if very important.
8. No further action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of new supervisor due to death of Bob Baldwin.

MOTION was made by J. Clark and supported by G. Todd to appoint Deputy Supervisor James Chapman as the Township Supervisor to fill the vacancy of the late Robert Baldwin.

There was a discussion.

Pro- Tem J. Peek explained the procedure received from the township attorney.

The position needs to be filled within 45 days, or the decision would go the county clerk's office. The newly-appointed supervisor appointed to fill Bob's seat, would serve until the August 2018 primary and general election to be held November 6, 2018. Cushway asked if there was a timeline and if anybody else had been considered?

J. Peek explained there was a letter from the attorney explaining the time line and process in the event of a vacancy.

Clerk Clark commented there are issues that need to be taken care of and Jim Chapman is the best candidate, he has worked with Bob as the deputy and was a township trustee for six years.

Gary Scramling remarked he thought that if the board didn't appoint in 45 days the county would appoint.

Dale Jernstandt commented that Jim Chapman, being the deputy, and because of the scheduled surgery for Bob, was kept up to speed with what is going on. The appointment of Jim Chapman would be best and a smooth transition.

Trustee K. Cushway asked if anyone else was considered like the former deputy. Former deputy does not live in the township and cannot be on the township board. Cushway sees nothing wrong with appointment of Jim Chapman, would like to have choices, just need time to think about it.

Trustee N. Stephan read the following prepared statement:

Compared my view to the upcoming vote to an episode of Survivor. It seems to be an alliance of four that has taken control of Green Charter township board. Over the past few days there were behind the scenes conversations to appoint their chosen candidate for supervisor. Monday morning I was sensing a blindside. I reached out to three board members and I received a cold shoulder. When I approached fourth board member, I was told that Jim Chapman had been contacted and he was willing to step down from a couple of his other duties and would accept the position. "Their decision was a done deal, we have four votes, Jim Chapman will be our new supervisor tomorrow night". I have nothing wrong with Jim Chapman but I have a problem with the process that two of us were not even involved at all. What happened may be legal, in my opinion not ethical.

J. Peek, trustee responded he was shocked as the rest of the board members of Bob's death. Jim asked the clerk the procedure and she had contacted the attorney for direction. He had read reference to vacancies in the Michigan Townships manuals.

J. Peek did not believe it was a cut and dried situation, no vote or discussion behind closed doors. He had been into the township hall several days on dealing with Bob's death and other issues. J. Peek explained the procedure email received from council and information from the MTA book. No vote or discussion of more than two or three took place.

Property owner Linda Sweet was present and commented she is proud of what has been done with all the board members working together with Supervisor Bob Baldwin. This is a very difficult situation for the people that work in this office every single day. Not one sided at all.

Mr. Coburn commented the board should move forward.

K. Cushway also felt he was left out of the loop. Didn't know until this evening there would be an appointment, questioning possible Open Meeting Act issue.

J. Peek opinion was no violation of deliberation.

Dale Jernstadt - no need to make things more difficult need to move on and work together as a team.

J. Clark, - Bob was important to all of us and this is very difficult losing Bob. Of course what are we going to say? We have to make decision for the township.

G. Scramling - nothing set in stone only things done was to find out what the actual rules are and bring to the township board on how the township should proceed.

J. Peek asked to end the discussion and a vote.

Roll call vote: Cushway-no, Todd, MacFarlane, Peek, Clark- yes, Stephan-no
Appoint of James Chapman for the position of Supervisor to fill the vacancy of Robert Baldwin passed 4 yes, 2 no

TOM & JOYCE LANWAY – OWNERS OF COON GRAVEL PIT PROPERTY

Mr. & Mrs Lanway were present to introduce to the township board the propose development project of “Paris Springs and Lakes”. Tom discussed the following;

1. 155 acres on 23 Mile Road, the Coon pit, proposing transforming it into an RV park.
2. Destination point and growth for the township
3. Engineering studies
4. Planning process
5. Master Plan
6. Time frame
7. Infrastructure
8. Public hearings
9. Health Department
10. Growth for the township well into the future
11. Tom Lanway thanked the board asked for support from the township for this project.
12. He left a brochure for the township to view the project.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST - WATER & FRANKLIN

There has been a request for installation of a street light at the intersection of Water Street and Franklin Street. The clerk reported the cost of installation by Consumers Energy has been \$100.00.

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by N. Stephan to authorize a street light installation by Consumers energy at the intersection of Water Street and Franklin Street, if the cost for installation is \$100.00.

Discussion; Jim Coburn commented the street light at their intersection of 23Mile and 190th Avenue has been good for that area.

MOTION CARRIED 7 YES Stephan, Peek, Clark Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Cushway

CEMETERY LOT BUY BACK

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by K. Cushway to buy back the four (4) Cemetery lots purchased by Janet & Ronald Giese in 1993, at the same purchase price of \$40.00 per grave site, total price of \$160.00. Her wish is to use the refund amount for the cremation burial of her husband and installation of a foundation for their marker.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Cushway, Todd, MacFarlane, Chapman, Clark, Peek, Stephan

HOPE NETWORK WORKSITE AGREEMENT

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by K. Cushway to approve the Worksite agreement with Hope Network. **MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES** Stephan, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Cushway

CEMENT PAD - STONE HATCHERY PARK FOR PORTABLE TOILETS

Information has been received that Bob Parker intends to begin project May 15th. There was a discussion on the quotes and Parker was the lowest quote. Jim Chapman will follow up on with Mr. Parker.

MOTION was made by K. Cushway and supported by N. Stephan to continue to move forward with the cement installation with Robert Parker for the amount of \$3066.00.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Cushway, Todd, MacFarlane, Chapman, Clark, Peek, Stephan

Trustee G. Todd commented that Bob Baldwin had asked him to keep an eye on this cement project at the Stone Hatchery Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor J. Chapman reported to the board that he and Bob Baldwin met at the Mecosta County Road Commission and mentioned the need for more signage at the intersection of Ash & 20 Mile. The sign has been installed and Jim will follow up on reflective strips.

SPRUCE BRIDGE

Resident Dale Jernstadt reported the discussion went well with Mr. Young who has the specification prepared. He suggested naming it the Bob Baldwin Bridge.

K. Cushway congratulated James Chapman to the position of supervisor, and had no problem with his appointment, just the process.

Joan Pehrul, deputy township clerk commented she has worked with Bob and he had said more than once how much he enjoyed working with Janet and Denise. They all worked hard and this was a wonderful place to work.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to approve the following budget amendment in the General fund. **MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES** Stephan, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Cushway

5/9/2017	GENERAL FUND					
ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	BUDGET	AMENDED AMOUNT	NEW BUDGET	AMENDED BALANCE
GENERAL FUND						
101-528-728	POSTAGE CLEANUP DAY	\$ 478.38	\$ 300.00	\$ 179.00	\$ 479.00	\$ 0.62
from					\$ -	\$ -
101-101-728	POSTAGE TWP BD.	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (179.00)	\$ 221.00	\$ 221.00

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION was made by J. Peek supported by G. Todd to approve payment of the following bills: **MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES** Stephan, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Cushway,

GENERAL FUND 4/6/2017–5/9/2017 #12881- # 12920 \$ 134,515.46

SEWER FUND 4/14/2017- 5/9/2017 CK #3522 - # 3533 \$16,158.31

Janet Clark, Township Clerk 5/9/2017 – 8:27 P.M. meeting adjourned