

Regular Meeting
Charleston Township Board
February 24, 2004

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Supervisor who led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Roll was called and members present were: Bell, Schug, and Kramer. Absent: Kasson and Balkema. Also in attendance: Larry R. Bolhuis, Larry A Bolhuis, Don & Ann Elzinga, Patsy Longfield, Ann Ward, Nelson Hiestand and Phyllis Rose.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Motion by Schug/Kramer to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED Schug/Bell moved to approve the January 27, 2004 regular meeting minutes as presented. CARRIED

POLICE, FIRE, AND ZONING REPORTS:

6. No Zoning Administrator report.
7. Nelson Hiestand summarized the proceedings of the February 18, 2004 Fire Board meeting. He also submitted a letter he had written to Fire Chief Garry Henson concerning insurance billings.

CITIZEN TIME:

Larry R. Bolhuis submitted a FOIA request for assessing records for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 as well as Board of Review findings for the same years.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Lt. Wally Kipp was supposed to present his quarterly Sheriff's Department Report. His report was postponed due to a previous engagement.
- b. The Board scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. to work on the 2004/2005 budget.
- c. The Board agreed to meet with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission at a regular board meeting in April or May to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern involving transportation issues.
- d. Kramer/Schug moved to approve the request of William Graham for a boundary adjustment with the provision that the township would receive something in writing that Lot 18 would be used for ingress and egress only. CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fran reported that the township would receive a check in the amount of \$20,859.79 from proceeds from the sale of timber from the Kalamazoo County portion of the Fort Custer Military Reservation to be used for improvement of the county roads within the township. Fran also presented a letter from the Parks Foundation requesting a letter of support for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway to be included in their grant application to the Michigan Department of Transportation. After some discussion and input from

residents, Kramer/Schug moved to send a letter of support for the concept of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway, but maintained that an alternate route must be found through the township from the route originally proposed, before we could offer township board support for that portion of the project.

CARRIED Fran reported that he had received a letter from the Steering Committee Against Illegal Drain Assessments requesting financial support in their dispute with the County Drain Commissioner.

Charleston Township is a party to the lawsuit because part of Big Marsh Drain #2 is located in the township. The township also was requested to sign an agreement of intergovernmental cooperation in defense against illegal drain assessments. Schug/Kramer moved to authorize the supervisor's signature on the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement in Defense Against Illegal Drain Assessments. CARRIED Schug/Kramer moved to approve the expenditure of \$1000 to be sent to the Steering Committee to continue litigation with the Drain Commissioner. Fran said that the Household Hazardous Waste Center had reported a double-digit increase in the usage of the center.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year to Date receipts \$162,978.80, disbursements: \$207,437.06, transfers from savings to general fund: (\$0.94), General fund balance: \$45,595.68, Beginning balance was \$140,143.41, Received since January Board meeting \$2,470.44. Kramer/Bell moved to accept the Treasurer's report for February as received. CARRIED

MEMBERS TIME:

Linda presented the 2004-2005 budget for the Cable Access Center for board approval. Bell/Schug moved to approve the Cable Access Center 2004-2005 budget. Linda also reported that Comcast Cable had completed their upgrade and that Comcast requested a six-month extension of the franchise agreement in order to start negotiations with the Cable Commission for a new contract. Schug/Bell moved to approve the extension of the terms of the existing agreement for six months while the parties work to complete the renewal process. CARRIED Brenda informed the board that taxes were done and that settlement would be coming up on March 15. Fran reported that he had attended an awards ceremony at Eaton. He also said that he had gone to Lansing on Thursday, February 19 to attend a boundary hearing for the annexation of the Galesburg/Augusta High School into the City of Galesburg. A public hearing will be held on May 6, 2004 and the township plans on notifying residents in the area. Fran also apologized to Phyllis Rose for comments he had made in a letter to the editor that complained of inflammatory headlines by the media instead of researching a real story. He had not meant to single her out. He was referring to the media in general. Apparently, the Kalamazoo Gazette has assigned a reporter to the Galesburg recall effort. Phyllis is a contract reporter that attends local meetings and reports on those meetings.

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS

Bell/Schug moved that the bills be allowed and that warrants be drawn on the treasury for their respective amounts. CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Schug/Kramer moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk