

Regular Meeting
Charleston Township Board
August 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, Kasson, Schug, Balkema and Kramer. Absent: None. Also in attendance: Don & Ann Elzinga, Art Samson, Phyllis Rose, Larry A. Bolhuis, and Nelson Hiestand.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Motion by Balkema/Kasson to adopt the agenda as presented. CARRIED Balkema/Kasson moved to approve the July 27, 2004 regular meeting minutes as presented. CARRIED Balkema/Kasson moved to approve the ClosedMeeting minutes as presented. CARRIED

POLICE, FIRE, ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS:

Fran updated the Board on the actions he has taken in regards to the Roger Mason property. Last month the Board had voted to give Roger ninety days in order to get his garage repaired. Chuck reported that a suggestion had been made to write the Land Use Plan in a general way and refer to the Land Use Plan Map for specifics. The Planning Commission is still working on the update to the Land Use Plan. Chuck also explained that the Planning Commission had obtained a model Dark Sky Ordinance from the Internet. However, it was copyrighted so some investigation will be done to ascertain if the model can be used as a resource for our own version. Chuck added that the Commission had composed a list of questions for the attorney based on his recommendations for updating the Right to Farm ordinance to bring it into compliance with the state law. Nelson expressed some frustration with his inability to clarify his responsibilities as opposed to the responsibilities of other participants in the Galesburg-Charleston Joint Fire Board and the Fire Department. He reported that the Fire Department had received a \$6,000 donation from Pfizer Corporation and a \$1480 donation from Eaton for fire hose for the new fire truck. He is looking into the benefit of raising insurance deductibles as a means of saving money for the Fire Department. He also reported that the City of Galesburg had received a \$5,000 donation from Meijer that they will apply to their share of the new fire truck. In ongoing discussions with the City of Galesburg regarding the funds Charleston has received from cost recovery accidents on I-94, the City would like to see those funds go directly to the Fire Board as their new ordinance states. Kasson/Balkema **moved that Charleston Township was receptive to the proposal, but wanted to have something in writing from the City of Galesburg to consider.** CARRIED Kasson/Schug moved to accept the fire report for August. CARRIED

CITIZEN TIME:

Nelson Hiestand offered to resign from his position on the Planning Commission if he is elected to the Township Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Kasson/Balkema **moved to table action on the cost recovery ordinance #96 pending the receipt of information from other townships with similar ordinances.** CARRIED
- b. Fran informed the Board that Galesburg-Augusta Schools were receptive to the idea of Charleston Township pursuing a 425 agreement with the City of Galesburg which would allow the annexation of

the high school into the city with the agreement that the city would not initiate any more annexations for a set number of years. Fran appointed himself, Chuck Kasson and Brenda Schug to meet with the City of Galesburg to discuss a 425 agreement.

- c. Kasson/Balkema **moved to table action on a plat road policy.** CARRIED
- d. The Target tax appeal item was moved to the end of the meeting as a closed session is necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Brenda and Linda expressed an interest in attending the MTA Fall District Meetings. **Kasson/Balkema moved to authorize board members to attend the MTA Fall District Meetings on Thursday, September 16, 2004 at the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek.** CARRIED Kasson/Balkema **moved to authorize board members to attend the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Meeting on September 13, 2004 at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo.** CARRIED Fran reported a proposed 9-1-1 fee increase and continued efforts to resolve loose ends with the Metro Act payments.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Year to Date receipts: \$63,476.05, disbursements: \$98,353.89, transfers to savings to general fund: (\$4.45), General fund balance: \$146,118.45, Beginning balance was \$181,000.74, Received since July Board meeting \$2,183.59. Kasson/Balkema moved to accept the Treasurer's report for August as received. CARRIED Kasson/Balkema **moved to authorize Brenda to put \$100,000. of Sewer & Water funds into a CD and to put \$50,000. from the General Fund into a CD and move it to the capital improvement fund. Both CDs will be at Keystone Bank** CARRIED

MEMBERS TIME:

Chuck suggested that the Board explore alternatives to current fire protection arrangement. He thinks that the problems are unending and that a service like fire protection should not be so difficult and time-consuming to administer. He suggested that perhaps a fire district would make more sense and thought that, regardless of what else happens, the Joint Fire Board Agreement needs to be changed. Fran indicated that he would be meeting with the City of Galesburg on their water project and that William Blank had filed for bankruptcy again. He also said that he was waiting for information from Life ems before agreeing to a three year contract with them to provide ambulance service as the designated 9-1-1 provider for the township. Linda reported that 25% of the township turned out for the August 3rd primary election and that the new equipment worked well.

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS

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

Kasson/Balkema moved to recess the regular meeting and go into closed session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss the Target property tax appeal. CARRIED Kasson/Balkema moved to recess the closed meeting and return to the regular meeting at 9:08. CARRIED Kasson/Balkema **moved to continue with opposition to the Target property tax appeal and dedicate \$25,000 for the supervisor to dispense as he sees fit as our initial contribution to the effort while we pursue involvement by the other taxing units.** Roll Call: Balkema – Y, Kramer – Y, Bell – Y, Kasson – Y, Schug – Y. CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Balkema/Kasson moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk