

Regular Meeting  
Charleston Township Board  
September 28, 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, Kasson, Balkema and Kramer. Also in attendance: Jim Whitehead, Don & Ann Elzinga Pat Longfield, Larry A. Bolhuis, Phyllis Rose, Art Samson and Nelson Hiestand and Bruce Rolfe.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Motion by Kasson/Schug to adopt the agenda with the addition of 10d. MSU Fire Study. CARRIED  
Kasson/Balkema moved to approve the August 24, 2004 regular meeting minutes as presented. CARRIED  
Tabled action on disposition of minutes of August 24, 2004 closed session.

POLICE, FIRE, ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS:

6. Fran explained that the court had dismissed the William Blank bankruptcy filing. Kasson/Balkema **moved to solicit demolition bids to satisfy court action taken last year.**
7. Art Samson delineated the progress that has been made on updating the Land Use Plan and Map. He also explained the differences between the model Dark Sky ordinance and how it might be adapted to suit the township.
8. Don presented the minutes and fire report. Nelson Hiestand, Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Fire Board was available to answer questions by the Township Board. Motion by Balkema/Kasson to receive the fire report. CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING:

Balkema/Schug moved to recess the regular meeting and enter the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. to hear public comment on a Conditional Transfer of Property to the City of Galesburg (425 Agreement). CARRIED Fran explained that a 425 agreement is an alternative means to accomplish what the Galesburg-Augusta Schools sought through the annexation process. It also offers protection to the township in that the City of Galesburg could not initiate any future annexation requests for an agreed upon period of time. Individuals, however, would be able to request annexation into the city. He asked for public comment. Chuck argued that the annexation of the high school into the city would cause the City of Galesburg alone to assume expenses that everyone in the school district would benefit from and that the 425 agreement wouldn't stop the school or individuals from requesting annexation. Art Samson asked why we don't want to take our chances with the Boundary Commission. There being no more comment offered, Balkema/Kasson moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m. Balkema/Kasson moved to reopen the regular meeting. CARRIED Fran said that the odds of waiting it out instead of pursuing a 425 agreement were not in our favor. The Public Hearing demonstrates to the Boundary Commission that we are willing to compromise. Kasson/Balkema **moved to table action on a 425 agreement until Charleston received some positive response from the City of Galesburg.** Roll Call Vote: Balkema – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Kasson – Y; and Schug – Y. CARRIED Chuck suggested that it was time for the township to make a move as regards fire protection. He said that the current arrangement with the City of Galesburg was a continual source of agitation. Don and Nelson agreed with that assessment. They did not see any possibility of resolving differences and were tired of the continuing hostility they encountered from the City of Galesburg. Kasson/Balkema **moved to direct the supervisor to look at other means of fire protection with the possibility of Charleston considering alternatives to the Joint Fire Board Agreement.** CARRIED The supervisor appointed Don and Chuck to a subcommittee to explore the possibilities .

CITIZEN TIME:

Art Samson indicated that he was pleased with Chuck's motion and wondered if the Michigan State University Fire Study would be available for perusal. Fran answered in the affirmative. Don Elzinga wanted to know if anything was being considered to improve Pine Ayr. Fran said that it would cost \$80,000 to upgrade Pine Ayr to a public road with cul-de-sacs and the township would not be doing anything at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Balkema/Kasson **moved to table action on a plat road policy while the Board studies the available information.** CARRIED
- b. Balkema/Schug **moved that Charleston Township is not interested in pursuing a joint water agreement with the City of Galesburg at this time.** Roll Call Vote: Balkema – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Kasson – N; and Schug – Y. CARRIED
- c. Fran informed the Board that a court had ruled in favor of Charleston and the other townships and individuals who had brought suit against the Drain Commissioner last year for her interpretation of the Drain Code. Fran said that it was important to oppose the commissioner on the point because it was the principle of the thing and a precedent could have been set.
- d. Fran suggested that the Board look over the MSU Fire Study.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Kasson/Balkema **moved to set October 23, 2004 as the date for the Fall Trash Drop-off and to hire BFI to handle the trash.** CARRIED Fran said that he is exploring the possibility of a tire disposal along the lines of the trash drop-off.
- b. Fran indicated that discussions on conversion of the KVG landfill to a Type III landfill were being held. A Type III landfill would accept inert materials, construction and demolition waste, fly ash and similar materials.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fran reported that we have a commitment from the County for a non-specified amount of funds and \$3,000 from the Galesburg-Augusta School District for a preliminary appraisal of the Target property in preparation to oppose Target's appeal of their real estate property assessment. Fran noted that the state would not make up the \$60,000 yearly debt retirement losses to the G-A School District if the appeal is successful. He also reported that the School District suggested that if the township would drop its opposition to the annexation of the high school into the City of Galesburg, they would contribute to the tax appeal. A notice from the Galesburg Memorial Library indicated that David Lawrence had resigned as one of two township representatives on the library board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year to Date receipts: \$89,649.87, disbursements: \$165,143.78, transfers to savings to general fund: (\$4.45), General fund balance: \$105,502.38, Beginning balance was \$181,000.74, Received since August Board meeting \$25,824.82. Kasson/Balkema moved to accept the Treasurer's report for September as received. CARRIED

MEMBERS TIME:

No comments were offered.

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Balkema/Kasson moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk