

Regular Meeting  
Charleston Township Board  
January 26, 2010

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: Fran Bell, Don Balkema, Art Samson, Brenda Schug and Linda Kramer. Also in attendance: Chuck & Shirley Kasson, Sue Jefferson, Kay Walker, Kim Murray and Donna Kowalewski.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MINUTES:

There was a motion by Balkema/Samson to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business, e. Unwanted Medications Task Force. CARRIED Samson/Balkema moved to approve the December 15, 2009 regular meeting minutes as presented. CARRIED

POLICE, FIRE, ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTS:

6. No zoning report.
7. There was no Planning Commission meeting in January. Art Samson resigned as Chairman of the Planning Commission. New State law does not allow the Township Board representative to the Planning Commission to chair the Commission.
8. Don Balkema asked for and Schug/Kramer **moved to approve the Fire Board administration of the latest FEMA grant.** CARRIED Don reported that the Fire Board had finally recovered \$1100 from Swift Trucking for an accident on I-94 in December 2006 due to a letter sent by Township Attorney Craig Rolfe. The Fire Board had sought an opinion from Attorney Rolfe on whether the Fire Board was an authority or not because the FB status impacted what type of audit should be done. Attorney Rolfe clarified that the Fire Board is not an authority. Because the initial letter regarding the current budget that was sent to the City of Galesburg lacked a signature, a second letter has been sent. Schug/Kramer **moved to receive the fire report for December and January.** CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Battle Creek Tax Increment Finance Authority claim for tax exempt status was rejected in a letter to the Authority by Attorney Rolfe. The properties in question are on the tax rolls for 2010 and Attorney Rolfe reminded the City of Battle Creek of the necessity to obtain the constitutionally and statutorily required approvals of Charleston Township before extending any City municipal infrastructure to any property within the boundaries of Charleston Township, or otherwise asserting municipal jurisdiction of any kind over such property.
- b. Lt. Wally Kipp presented a yearly report of calls for service in Charleston Township and answered questions.
- c. The Township Board asked questions and offered concerns about the possibility of a District Library. One of the concerns pertained to a provision in Section 5c2 about the location of the Library in the City of Galesburg in perpetuity. Another concern was the need to exclude those township residents in the Village of Augusta who are a part of the McKay District Library. The Township Board did not have a problem with having four township representatives on the District Library Board. Given Charleston Township's SEV, the township would contribute three quarters of the library budget if the 1.5 mils are approved. The District Library Committee is considering putting a millage question on the August primary ballot.
- d. Fran reported that Justin Edward Harper had been convicted of Destruction of Property - Utility in the hydrant vandalism of April, 2009. He will be sentenced to restitution and community service in March.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Balkema/Kramer **moved to adopt 2010 Poverty Guidelines.** Balkema – Y; Kramer – Y; Bell – Y; Schug – Y; and Samson – Y. CARRIED The guidelines determine who might be eligible for an exemption from paying their property taxes.
- b. Samson/Balkema **moved to reappoint Sue Balkema and Don Kramer to the Planning Commission, and to reappoint Mary Phillips and Michael Dennis to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms.** CARRIED
- c. Balkema/Samson **moved to ask the attorney to draw up an ordinance that authorizes the Board to make a health insurance benefit group plan available to current elected township board members and to require any participating person to pay all premium expenses.** CARRIED
- d. Fran reported that MTA will be offering two programs in March at the Fetzer Center: How To Understand, Evaluate & Negotiate Contracts and ZBA: Roles and Responsibilities to any board or commission member who is interested in attending.
- e. Fran presented information on an Unwanted Medications Task Force that is working on a collection model for Kalamazoo County.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Fran reported that the Kalamazoo County Road Commission will host a presentation by Sgt. James Campbell of the Michigan State Police for local officials on “Setting Realistic Speed Limits” on February 23, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the KCRC basement meeting room at no cost. There will be a reception to honor the Tuesday Toolmen on February 25.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Year to Date receipts \$189,922.54, disbursements: \$282,220.49, transfers from savings to general fund: (\$3,369.22), General fund balance: \$116,441.63, Beginning balance was \$212,108.80, Received since December Board meeting \$20,084.18. Balkema/Samson moved to accept the Treasurer’s report for January as received. CARRIED

READING & DISPOSITION BILLS

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

CITIZEN TIME:

No comments were offered.

MEMBERS TIME:

Don requested the figures for the cost of the legal opinion and the letter the township attorney provided for the Fire Board, so that the Fire Board can reimburse the township. Linda presented a list of six budget adjustments. Balkema/Samson **moved to adjust the budget for the following accounts: Newsletter (\$151), Cemetery Lot Buyback (\$100), Cemetery Maintenance (\$46), Riverside Cemetery (\$90), Zoning Administration (\$100), and Geographic Information Systems (\$779) with the \$1266 coming from the Contingency account.** CARRIED Fran reported that Chris Balkema, Art Pursel and Chuck Kasson will attend Board of Review training.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Balkema/Samson moved to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. CARRIED

Linda Kramer, Clerk