

**MINUTES OF THE CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Article 1. Supervisor Beahan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Supervisor Beahan, Trustee Goldberg, Fox, Koessel,
Lewis, Treasurer Dood and Clerk Goodyke.
Also Present: Manager Cousins, Fire Chief Sigg, Attorney Dick
Wendt and Grand Rapids Press Reporter Wilson.

Article 2. Supervisor Beahan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Article 3. Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee
Koessel to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried
unanimously.

Article 4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Receive and File Various Meeting Minutes
 1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of 03/11/2009.
 2. Kent County Road Commission Minutes of 02/24/09.
 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes of 02/10/2009.
- b. Receive and File Communications
 1. Letters from Comcast re: Changes impacting customers.
 2. Letter from Debbie Stabenow re: Zoning Regulations for cellular towers.
 3. E-Mail from Diane Cutler re: Library Information
- c. Receive and File Various Reports
 1. Fire Department Monthly Report for February, 2009.
 2. Fire Department Annual Report for 2008.
- d. Education Requests
 1. Doug Poolman – IAAI Annual Arson School – Mt. Pleasant, MI May 12 – 15, 2009.

Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee
Goldberg to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion
carried unanimously.

Article 5. Financial Actions

- a. Consider Approval of Public Utilities Funds for February,
2009.
Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by
Trustee Fox to approve the Public Utilities Funds for
February, 2009. Trustee Koessel inquired about the
Inspections Department Budget. Motion carried
unanimously.
- b. Consider Approval of General/Special Funds for February,
2009.

Motion was made by Clerk Goodyke and supported by Trustee Goldberg to approve the General/Special Funds for February, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Consider Approval of 2009 Budget Adjustments. Manager Cousins reviewed the proposed Budget Adjustments. Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee Fox to approve the 2009 Budget Adjustments for the following funds:

- General Fund
- Cemetery Trust
- Police Fund
- CCT Open Space
- Improvement Revolving Fund
- DDA Fund
- Building Inspection Fund
- A. Homeyer Open Space Pres.
- Maracaibo Shores – Roads

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- d. Consider Pay Application #4 of the Cascade DDA Lights and Sidewalk Construction Project on 28th St. Manager Cousins reviewed the Pay Application. Motion was made by Clerk Goodyke and supported by Trustee Koessel to approve Pay Application #4 of the Cascade DDA Lights and Sidewalk Construction Project on 28th St. in the amount of \$72,539.20. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 6. Public Actions (None)

Article 7. Public Comments

Article 8. Unfinished Business (None)

Article 9. New Business

021-2009 Consider Approval of 2009 Mowing Program for Township Properties.

Manager Cousins reviewed the request for proposals that were sent out for mowing for 2009. This included:

- Cascade Rec. Park
- 30th Street Cemetery
- Snow Avenue Cemetery
- Whitneyville Cemetery
- Jacksmith Avenue Lot (north of the Library)
- Thornbrook Avenue lot (west of the Library parking lot)

Four bids were received. A leaf pick-up bid was also asked for separately. The recommendation by administration is to use Thornapple Lawn Care for our mowing for the next two years. They were the firm that came in with the 1.5% increase for 2010, and that we not do anything with the leaf pick up and handle that in the fall. We have already taken care of our Spring leaf pickup in

house. Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Clerk Goodyke to accept the bid of Thornapple Lawn Care in the amount of \$1,515.00 per cutting with 1.5% increase for 2020 as recommended by staff, and reject all bids for the leaf pickup. Treasurer Dood asked being Thornapple River Nursery was a Cascade business, could we go back and ask them to meet the quote that Thornapple Lawn Care gave us. Trustee Goldberg responded that he wouldn't want to pronounce it as a legal matter, but he would say that as a practical matter, I don't like going that way. Because it discourages others from bidding in the future on Township services if they think that all that is going to happen is that somebody else will in effect leverage off of their bid. It does not seem fair to me that when you put out a request for proposals, you get bids and on a quality and price basis comes out a certain way. If your intention is to limit it to Cascade businesses than you ought to make that a part of your bid spec and then you will get bids from Cascade businesses. Discussion followed. Motion was carried unanimously.

022-2009 Consider Resolution to Approve and Authorize the Execution of a Contract of Lease toward the Issuance of Bonds for the Open Space Property Purchases.

Manager Cousins stated the Building Authority met on Tuesday and adopted the Resolution for the acquisition and improvement. Attorney Dick Wendt explained the execution of contract Resolution. The Resolution is a companion resolution to the one that was adopted by the Building Authority yesterday morning. The Building Authority adopted the Bond authorizing resolution authorizing the issuance of Bonds to acquire the property and to enter into a contract of lease with the Township. How this works is that the Building Authority actually borrows the money and while the loan is outstanding, title to the properties that you have acquired and will acquire will be in the name of the Building Authority and then you enter into a contract of lease so that in effect the Township is "renting" the facilities from the Building Authority and the Building Authority receives semi-annual payments from the Township equal to the principle and interest payments on the Bonds. In the Resolution we talk about issuing bonds in the amount not to exceed 4.6 million dollars. That is higher than we actually will end up, but we wanted to leave ourselves with some flexibility there because as some of you know, these bonds are issued with premiums and discounts. But the number we are looking at right now is \$4,375,000. The projections that have been done indicate that over the life of the bond issue the life of the millage will be able to comfortably cover that debt service. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Goldberg to Approve the Resolution to Authorize the Execution of a Contract of Lease toward the Issuance of Bonds for the Open Space Property purchases. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Approval of Township Board Goals for 2009.

Trustee Koessel suggests that goal #2 be stricken from the 2009 Board Goals. Trustee Koessel didn't feel the goal had a lot of substance and he wasn't sure what the Board would do with it. Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee Fox to adopt the proposed 2009 Board Goals without #2 under Board Goals and included in the motion would be the remand to the committee's and the remand to the Manager items that are listed under Board Goals. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 10.

Manager's Comments

Manager Cousins offered the following comments:

- After the snow storm this coming Saturday, when that melts we will getting the speed trailer out. We will coordinate with Jason and Joe. Grand Rapids Township, Ada and Cascade went together and bought a speed trailer.
- Bond ratings we had our meetings yesterday and today. At the end of each day we asked the rating personnel to fill us in on what happens next. We talked about when. We expect to hear back from both agencies by April 9th. Two weeks from tomorrow. That should come pretty quick. That will allow us to get out our preliminary offering statement with all the details in it and hopefully early May after we have had a community meeting for information purposes for residents to be able purchase. The sale should happen. But both groups said that they were impressed with what they say yesterday and today. As you may not be aware when you go to the rating agencies with these meetings they have...it opens the door right away. They can keep the rating the same, they can lower your rating, or they can raise it. Both of them said they saw nothing that would cause them to even think about lowering.
- Remind everyone that State Representative Justin Amash will be here at our next meeting. I don't have a firm date yet for Senator Hardiman. Hopefully, the end of April. County Representative Parrish has been a regular attendee. I will also be in touch with her to select another date.
- The Infrastructure Committee was planning on meeting on the 31st, but we either need to do it Monday or Wednesday. Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 a.m. was the consensus.

Article 11.

Board Member Comments

Treasurer Dood offered the following comments:

- Thank you for all your hard work. I know Dick was very gracious.
- I will be gone for the next meeting. It is Spring Break.
- Given the economic difficulties that everybody is going through right now, as we are doing RFP's should there be any preference placed on Cascade businesses?

Trustee Goldberg stated that he agreed with that, I had mentioned to Bill after we finished the discussion on the item that we approved today. That we ought to at least give ourselves in the bid documents the discretion to afford a preference should we so desire. I wouldn't want to say we would do it or wouldn't, but I would like to have the discretion within the bid documents to make that preference.

Supervisor Beahan stated that we do that in our investment policy and we stress that.

Trustee Goldberg stated that it is a factor and we will give it what weight that we as a group think it right. But I think if we are going to do that, we owe the courtesy to the bidders of letting them know that ahead of time.

- Oxana is in Russia. She will be back about the third week in April. Debhra will be kept very busy in the next 3-4 weeks.
- A couple of things that came up today. One of the questions was whether or not we had a formal debt policy. Or a formal fund balance policy. I can probably think of reasons to have those and reasons not to have those. I would suggest that we get the Finance Committee together and spend some time talking about that.
- We are starting to look forward to the Bolt property and what we want to do with that. I know that it is to be minimally improved. Just want to put forth a strong preference that I have that there is a good bathroom facility there. I think that it is more important for a good bathroom facility at that park...even more so than the park here because the park here is so much closer to town and it is a smaller park and I think in general while there might be more people accessing that park, I think they will be there for a shorter period of time. Whereas the Bolt property, you could go out and go cross country skiing for a couple of hours. The schools could take a school group out there literally spend the whole day at the property. I just wanted to put forth that I have a strong preference that there be a bathroom facility maintained on the property.

Trustee Koessel offered the following comments:

- I have complained several times about the house on Laraway Lake Dr. This morning we actually had a meeting with Rob, myself, Steve, Sandra, Butch and Bill. We talked about the ordinance as it exists today and some potential opportunities to maybe have changes in it. But before we do any of that, we decided to have Sandra take a look at what other communities do relative to that. Come up with some potential changes that may be positive or negative. We are going to take a look at what some of the other communities and see what the impact they would have on certain properties around here. Eventually there will be a visit paid to that particular homeowner once

again, and have some discussion. Right now our ordinance doesn't prohibit the number of vehicles that can be stored on a side yard. It only addresses how far from the side lot line they can be. The concern that we raised is that you could have snowmobiles, trailers...you could have a camper, boat, car. You could have four vehicles stored. The reason why it has become so apparent here, it is such a wide open lot on a corner where everybody sees it. Anyway, finally we had a chance to meet and had a lot of discussion. At least we have some opportunities to have some resolution. Not only for this site, but for future sites.

- Thanks to everyone that worked with Dick on this whole bonding issue. Enjoyed the lunch today, Bill.

Trustee Lewis offered the following comments:

- First of all, I am awfully happy that we have approved our goals tonight. The Planning Commission approved the Master Plan last night. We didn't want to get it to fast, before we got our goals, beings it was one of our goals.

Clerk Goodyke offered the following comments:

- April 15th we are going to have Justin Amash and Bill Hardiman and Sandi Parrish all here at a breakfast at 7:30. They will each give a 10-15 minute presentation of their assessment of how things are going at their level of government. This is the Cascade Business Association. We will have a question and answer time and I think it would be good to get the whole picture of how the State and County is assessed by the three of them. It will be here at the Wisner Center.
- Also, on Saturday the National Passport people are promoting a passport day. Denise and Carol will be working Saturday at our office to issue passports. The reason for this is that the deadline for sea and land entry into the United States from any place in the Caribbean, Canada or Mexico goes into effect June 1, 2009. This Saturday from 10:00 – 3:00.
- There will be a Shredding Day at Brann's.
- I want to say that it was fun riding around with Rob and getting a half century prospective on our Township or more. He did a great job in narrating the talk as we went along.

Trustee Fox offered the following comments:

- I like Marjie will not be in attendance at the next Board Meeting.

Trustee Goldberg offered the following comments:

- I would like to express my surprise that all these legislators would be willing to show up and take the heat on April 15th.

Article 12.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Fox and supported by Trustee Dood to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Biegalle
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Ron Goodyke, Clerk

Robert Beahan, Supervisor