

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

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Wisner Center

2870 Jacksmith Dr SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

AND

Virtual Zoom Meeting

7:00 P.M.

HYBRID FORMAT

- Article 1.** Supervisor Lesperance called the meeting to order.
Present: Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustees Koessel, McDonald, Shipley and Noordhoek
Absent: None
Also Present: Township Manager Swayze, Deputy Clerk Brott, Planner Brian Hilbrands, Chief Magers, Attorney Leslie Abdoo, Michelle Adams of Plante Moran, Brianne Pitchford of Triangle, and those listed on the Supplement.
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3. Approval of Agenda**
Supervisor Lesperance advised that discussions about the dam are not on this meeting's agenda in order to have a larger discussion that focuses on long-term solutions and includes the formation of a committee of interested parties.
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve the agenda.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations**
a. None
- Article 5. Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
1. Chuck Whitley-5030 Sequoia Dr.-Thanked Supervisor for clarifying why the revenue sharing for the dam was not in the minutes. Working with the Township is a shared interest.
- Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda**
a. Receive and File Minutes
1. Township Board – 09/01/21; 09/08/21
2. Personnel & Finance Committee – 08/11/21
3. Public Safety Advisory Committee – 08/18/21
b. Receive and File Reports
1. None
c. Receive and File Education Requests
1. None
d. Receive and File Communication
1. None
Motion by Clerk Slater, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of the date in Article 4 of the Personnel & Finance Committee

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minutes that “fees should be implemented January 1, 2022.” Motion carried unanimously.

Article 7. Financial Actions

- a. Consider Approval of August 2021 Payroll, Payables and Transfers
- b. Consider Approval of August 2021 Financial Reports
- c. Consider the 2nd Quarter 2021 Budget Amendments

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve the August 2021 Payroll, Payables and Transfers, and the August 2021 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Koessel to approve the 2nd Quarter 2021 Budget Amendment Resolution. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Article 8. Unfinished Business

None

Article 9. New Business

099-2021 Consider Amendment to Riebel Development PUD Ordinance for the Construction of a New Car Wash and Coffee Shop (6390 and 6420 28th Street)

- a. Public Hearing for Amendment to Riebel Development PUD Ordinance for the Construction of a New Car Wash and Coffee Shop (6390 and 6420 28th Street)

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Koessel to open Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. No comments made.

Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee Shipley to close Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consideration of an Amendment to Riebel Development PUD Ordinance for the Construction of a New Car Wash and Coffee Shop (*Roll Call*)

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Koessel to approve including staff recommendations. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

100-2021 Consider a Resolution Establishing the Ad Hoc Laraway Lake Special Assessment District No. 1 Committee specifying its Duties and Covering Other Matters (*Roll Call*)

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Koessel to approve.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

101-2021 Consider a Resolution Establishing the Ad Hoc Thornapple River Special Assessment District No. 1 Committee, specifying its Duties and Covering Other Matters (*Roll Call*)

Manager Swayze emphasized that the Ad Hoc should read “residents” not “homeowners.”

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve including the caveat that at least one member of the committee is chosen by the Cascade Thornapple River Association’s Board of Directors.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

102-2021 Consider an Agreement to Purchase Property at 2965 Wycliff Drive SE with Unity Spiritual Community Church

Considerable Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve with the following Purchase Agreement amendments: The buyer will pay the title insurance which will be changed from \$100K to \$300K; seller covers cost to split lots.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

103-2021 Consider an Award for Construction Manager Services for Fire Station #1

Considerable discussion. Chief Magers and Brianna Pitchford took questions.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve the award for Construction Manager Services to Triangle Associates.

Motion carried unanimously.

104-2021 Consider Authorization for Foster Swift to Execute Engagement Agreement with Plante Moran for Financial Audit

Considerable discussion. Attorney Leslie Abdo from Foster Swift and Partner Michelle Adams from Plante Moran's Forensic and Valuation Services answered questions from the Board. Both advised that this would be a targeted audit of the four items requested to be audited to find out if processes were followed.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Noordhoek to approve with a cap of \$30K. Motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote. In favor-Supervisor Lesperance, Treasurer Peirce, Trustees Koessel, McDonald, Noordhoek, and Shipley. Opposed-Clerk Slater.

105-2021 Findings from Member McDonald, as discussed in prior Board meetings as "Best Practices." How can we define and execute more effective township governance? Review of potential Board education and training or workshops focused on More Effective Township Governance

Considerable discussion. Trustee McDonald submitted several options for training, including Michigan Township Association (MTA) webinars/seminars and Larry Merrill, an independent consultant. No action was taken.

Article 10. Public Comments – Any comments...whether it is on the Agenda or not. (limit comments to 3 minutes)

1. Craig Meurlin-6333 Thornhills Ct.-Trustee McDonald's presentation did not include the needs of residents who should be included. Not only Board and staff should get what they want. He listed findings of his audit of Township funds. Assistant Manager Fast is paid partially by the police fund. Is Assistant Manager Fast's time spent doing police work? Believes that her salary is not listed on the correct budget line.
2. Ken VanDerKolk-2200 Leyton-Is there a Parks Department Director? He requested two handicap accessible kayak launches. Is Thornapple River Drive property going to have anything done to it? Supervisor Lesperance and Trustee McDonald addressed his questions and shared the history and long-term vision.
3. Craig Meurlin-Additional comments about the Round Hill audit. Believes the processes are very flawed re development.
4. Scot VanSolkema via Zoom-2570 Orange-Asked how much tax money goes to the school district? Advised that the School Board's meeting packet is not as thorough as the Township's Board packets. He is happy about the purchase of the church on the hill property.
5. Lori Gottlieb via Zoom-7100 Cascade Rd.-Re the Strategic Plan, how will the Township involve the community? Supervisor Lesperance advised that a short form will be sent to residents soon and the website will also be open for comments, and invited her to come to the Advisory Committee meetings at the Township Hall. Ms. Gottlieb asked if Parks and Rec are maintaining the Thornapple River? Supervisor Lesperance advised that a committee will be formed to look into it. Ms. Gottlieb

asked how a citizen gets an item on the meeting agendas? Supervisor Lesperance advised that an email could be sent to her or Manager Swayze. Ms. Gottlieb asked how to nominate someone to serve on the SAD committee? Manager Swayze said that a short form will be sent to residents.

6. Scott Rissi-7238 Cascade Rd.-Believes that the Township Hall budget was either \$2M-\$2.5M. Urged the Board to not focus too much on the past; focus on the future. He likes the new timer. Cascade Thornapple River Association offered to purchase a dock in the past, but the Board voted it down.

Article 11. Manager Comments

None.

Article 12. Board Member Comments

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked all in attendance. He has received numerous questions and complaints about pathways. A time study is needed by a consultant to make certain the Township is running smoothly. Trustee Noordhoek agrees. He stated the previous DDA Chairperson did not recommend the bus route. Re the property mentioned in public comments, the fence was put up to keep the public off of the parcel. Trustee Koessel advised that it was part of an agreement with those who own parcels next to the property.
2. Trustee Koessel-Would like a resolution to thank Steve Peterson for his service. Trustees Shipley and Noordhoek disagree.
3. Supervisor Lesperance-We have great staff and great residents. It will all be right. The Board serves the residents, and the staff serves the Board. The goal is transparency and accountability.
4. Trustee McDonald believes that Steve Peterson should be recognized by the Board. It is derogatory to state that the Board is stagnant; we have done a lot of good things of which we are proud.
5. Treasurer Peirce-95.72 percent of the summer taxes have been collected as of September 22, 2021.

Article 13. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Krissi Brott
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk

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