

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

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

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 McDonald, Shipley and Noordhoek  
Absent: Trustee Koessel (excused)  
Also Present: Township Manager Swayze, Deputy Clerk Brott, and those listed in the Supplement
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3.** **Approval of Agenda**  
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve the agenda with the addition of a Discussion item about tree and plant program and the removal of a Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4.** **Presentations**  
None
- Article 5.** **Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**  
None
- Article 6.** **Approval of Consent Agenda**
- a. Receive and File Minutes
    - 1. Township Board – 4/13/2022
  - b. Receive and File Reports
    - 1. Sabo PR First Quarter 2022 Report
  - c. Receive and File Education Requests
    - 1. Oxana Sourine – 2022 MMTA Advanced Institute – Midland, MI – May 15-18, 2022
    - 2. Jennifer Genter – IAAO Annual Conference – Boston, MA – Q August 28-31, 2022
    - 3. Holly Benedict – IAAO Annual Conference – Boston, MA – August 28-31, 2022
  - d. Receive and File Communication
    - 1. Liquor License Compliance Review – M&M Golf Properties, LLC
- Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Township Board Minutes

April 27, 2022

**Article 7. Financial Actions**  
None

**Article 8. Unfinished Business**  
**027-2022 Consider Pathway Project and Crossing on Cascade Road between Kenrob and 36<sup>th</sup> Street**  
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Clerk Slater to remove item from table.  
Motion carried unanimously.  
Considerable discussion.  
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Noordhoek to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Article 9. New Business**  
**028-2022 Consider Approval of the Township Stormwater Ordinance**  
Clerk Slater advised that an address correction should be made on the draft ordinance.  
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**029-2022 Consider Modification to the PFAS Interim Water Solutions Project**  
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Article 10. Discussion**

1. Egypt Creek Landscaping Zoning Problem Update-Supervisor Lesperance requested that this issue be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Manager Swayze met with Supervisor Lesperance, Attorney Homier, and Planner Hilbrands to discuss ways to address the items against Township ordinances. EGLE does not plan to address the wetlands issue at this time, so Attorney Homier is looking at what authority the Township has in this matter. A cease-and-desist letter went out this week to the business owner. Treasurer Peirce, Clerk Slater, and Supervisor Lesperance saw the property firsthand after the last meeting. Supervisor Lesperance said that if the business has expanded the scope and use of the non-conforming use, it is a violation. Trustee Shipley would like to see the Township take swift action.
2. Worm Farm Zoning Problem Update-The Township's Attorney has issued a cease-and-desist letter, and the business owner has agreed to stop their operation. The Planning Commission formed a subcommittee to determine where the use can be allowed. Planner Hilbrands is doing more research, as this is not something the Township has faced.
3. Trustee Shipley would like to start a program in 2023 giving residents an opportunity to purchase quality trees and/or plants native to the area. It was suggested that the Parks Committee and Pathways Committee be a starting point. Other municipalities participate in similar programs that have been well received. Manager Swayze suggested that the Township partner with Land Conservancy. Trustee McDonald would like to see a citizen-led committee led by a staff member so as not to take away from the work of the Parks Committee.

**Article 11. Public Comments – Any comments...whether it is on the Agenda or not. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**

1. Brian Holcomb-3415 Glenstone Ct-Thanked the Board for their attention to the problem with Egypt Creek Landscaping.
2. Joe Gindzin-3420 Glenstone Ct-Re Egypt Creek Landscaping: Appreciates those members of the Board who stopped by the neighborhood. He wasn't expecting such quick action.
3. Wendy Sturm-2570 Hunter Green Ct-Re Worm Farm: Asked for clarification. Re Tree Purchasing Program: Supports it and asked if a tax incentive could be given to participating businesses?
4. Jeff Hughes-7250 Red Bud Lane-The Burton Park commitment is to protect the flora and fauna, per the ordinance. If we have too many deer, they will overgraze and get rid of flora. Invasive species will then take over. Supports ideas by Trustee Shipley for a tree program. He recently met a Kent County worker who collects the deer carcasses in the county; Thornapple River Drive is a busy area for him.
5. Scot VanSolkema-2570 Orange Ct-He is glad to hear that the Township is taking steps to fix the Egypt Creek Landscaping issue. He suggests that if tickets and citations do not work, perhaps Building & Grounds staff could clean it and put a lien on their taxes. Is the Zoning Administrator position still available? It is showing open on the website, but he received an email that the position has been filled.

**Article 12. Closed Session**  
Not needed.

**Article 13. Manager Comments**  
1. On May 11, the Fire Department will hold an open house from 6PM-7PM. This is an opportunity for the public to see the proposed project for Fire Station #1. Postcards were sent to all residents.

**Article 13. Board Member Comments**  
1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked all in attendance, both in person and virtually.  
2. Trustee McDonald-An ordinance was put in place 15 years ago for setbacks and landscaping requirements. This is an opportunity for businesses to create attractive landscapes.  
3. Trustee Noordhoek-DDA could offer a program to businesses to plant more trees. He asked about the refund to the police millage transfer. Manager Swayze advised that it will happen on April 28. It will be recorded as an expense of the 2022 budget.

**Article 14. Adjournment**  
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Clerk Slater to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Krissi Brott  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

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Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

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Susan B. Slater, Clerk