

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

Wednesday, November 17, 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, Building Dept. Director Brian Wilson, Deputy Clerk Brott, and those listed on 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.
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)**
1. Craig Meurlin-6333 Thornhills Ct-In financial matters, what does “complex” mean-difficult or a location? The Township Manager should have his own department in the budget separate from the Supervisor. Asked that projects be listed on the website with the target finish date, costs expected, and updated each step so that citizens can see this information.
 2. Mary VanderVeen-7550 Alaska Ridge & Molly Miller-1490 Briarcliff-Re the Election Commission, how was Jack Lewis involved in the 2020 election if he was unwell? They are frustrated that Trustee McDonald was appointed after the State of Michigan sent a letter to him regarding his actions during the 2020 election. They would like to know the truth. Clerk Slater responded that the Election Commission’s work is done well before the election and Jack Lewis was well during that time.
 3. Suzanne Ward-2052 Tall Pines-Someone who is compromised should not serve on the Election Commission. Does not want her taxpayer money to go toward Manager Swayze’s trips to conferences touting the Great Reset. Frustrated because she asks questions but never receives answers. Supervisor Lesperance responded that the forensic financial audit will be ready by mid-December 2021.
 4. Kate Doezema-5625 Alaska SE-Asked for an update on the internet access. Supervisor Lesperance responded that the Township is still pushing Comcast because

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of a price hike, and the Township is waiting on County funds. Manager Swayze advised that the Township is working with an attorney.

5. Keely Shay-MI Resident/Former Alaska Ridge Resident-CARES Funds could have gone to Comcast, but the Board voted to use the funds for Dominion Voting Systems and other things. Asked Clerk Slater for a list of duties and rules for the Election Commission. Would like to know why the results from Precinct 9 were sent to the County later than other Precincts after the 2020 election. She would like an audit.

Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Receive and File Minutes
 1. Township Board – 11/3/21
- b. Receive and File Reports
 1. Treasurer’s Department Report – September 2021
 2. Cascade Inspection Services Report – October 2021
- c. Receive and File Education Requests
 1. Krissi Brott – 2022 International Institute of Municipal Clerks – Little Rock, AR – May 22 – 25, 2022
- d. Receive and File Communication
 - 1.

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

Article 7. Financial Actions

Considerable Discussion. Trustee Noordhoek asked questions about the police millage voted on by citizens and used partially for a Township staff member salary instead of the totality being used for 24-hour police patrol.

- a. Consider Approval of October 2021 Payroll, Payables and Transfers
- b. Consider Approval of October 2021 Financial Reports

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Koessel to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 8. Unfinished Business

- a. None

Article 9. New Business

117-2021 Consider Amendment to Inspection Services Agreement with Vergennes Township to Include Building Permits

Director Wilson presented and answered questions.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

118-2021 Consider Special Assessment Warrant Resolution for the Year 2021 (Roll Call)

Manager Swayze presented and answered questions.

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

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Article 10. Discussion Topics

a. Organizational Staffing/Structure Study

Trustee Shipley explained the need for a staffing/structure/time study for the Township staff. Considerable discussion ensued about the need for an assistant for Manager Swayze in a support role. In addition, the discussion moved to filling two empty positions at the Township with candidates who will fit the needs of the residents and Township projects, while also supporting Manager Swayze. Trustee Noordhoek agrees support staff is needed for Manager Swayze, and that someone with an engineering background should replace Director Peterson. He does not believe the Township should hire another manager-type position. Supervisor Lesperance would like to see someone with project management background in Director Peterson's vacated position. Trustee Shipley suggested that promoting from within is the best option. Manager Swayze advised that he plans to bring a new organizational chart to the Board.

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

1. Craig Meurlin-The Township does not have the staff right now to champion the residents and cross-manage projects. Even though the 2020 audit is finished, the money meant for the police millage can be put in the correct fund. Asking questions at Board meetings and not getting answers is frustrating to residents and does not lead to trust.
2. Keely Shay-How do we demand a re-vote for the Election Commission appointment? Supervisor Lesperance responded that it is up to Clerk Slater's discretion. Trustee Koessel advised that the vote was done and it would not be brought up again.
3. Suzanne Ward-If the Board's vote on the Election Commission is final, why isn't the vote on the police millage final?
4. Molly Miller-She doesn't think that taking money from the police millage is legal. The citizens voted on it. She would like Manager Swayze to speak to Township counsel about it.

Article 12. Manager Comments

1. Kent County Road Commission is hosting an open house at the Wisner Center on December 8, 2021, from 5:30–7:30 p.m., to discuss the Cascade Road expansion. A notice will be mailed to residents affected, and it will be on the website.
2. In August, the Board approved a petition to consolidate five (5) drains in Hidden Hills. The Board of Determination approved the consolidation.
3. Re PFAS, the City of Grand Rapids will obtain a physical survey for water main installation. The Road Commission is holding off on street repairs in this area due to this project. There will be community meetings to answer resident questions.

Article 13. Board Member Comments

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked all in attendance, including those participating via Zoom. Where is Sabo, the Public Relations agency? Manager Swayze advised that Hunter Zuk, our Sabo representative, was at the last Strategic Planning meeting.
2. Trustee McDonald-Jack Lewis was a mentor to him. He was lucid and understood what was happening, including during his time on the Election Commission.

Article 14. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Noordhoek to adjourn. Motion carried

unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Krissi Brott
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk