



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join Treasurer Roberts in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Beutel called the roll, and the following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Barbara Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Zoning Administrator John Lovely, Fire Chief Chad Tackett and approximately nine members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Andrews, resident, stated he has lived for more than 20 years and is frustrated with the assessing department and Board of Review for changes in the value of his home.

Kathy Staufer, resident, asked for justice for former firefighter Koop.

Travis Bell, resident, asked the Board to consider waiving the interest rate for those financing their connection fees to make it more affordable for residents.

John Brack, resident, expects his septic system to last for a long time with two people living in his home. Connecting to sewer would run across the length of his property and require removal of trees, landscaping and irrigation.

Marcia Smell, resident, asked the Board to consider options like extension or deferment for residents experiencing financial hardship.

Jody Briggs, resident, stated the mandate is forcing long-time residents to connect at great expense or to move elsewhere.

Paulette Brack, resident, recapped the request of residents regarding the mandatory sewer connection ordinance to consider charging a sewer availability fee until septic systems fail.

Lisa Koop, resident, asked the Board made to allow former firefighter Koop to clear his name.

The Board stated it would be discussing the mandatory sewer connection at the January 23 Committee of the Whole.

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Planning Department Report

Zoning Administrator reviewed the December 2022 planning report. Upcoming considerations include an apartment development on N Ave asking for rezoning, and continued ordinance work on the Corners Business District, waterfront district and sign ordinance amendment. Initial discussions will begin at the January 10 Planning Commission Workshop meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp shared the Superintendent Report, which highlighted the following items:

Administration

- Interviews have been scheduled with finalists for the Trustee vacancy for January 16.
- Candidates for the Superintendent position will be reviewed at a special meeting on January 11.
- Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp is currently working on scheduling 2023 community events, including Shred/Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, April 22.

Parks

- Lighting upgrades and security cameras for Texas Drive Park are estimated to cost \$5,000-\$6,000, and staff is working with Katerberg Verhage on a proposal for other park items to come forward soon.
- The agreement has been signed with Ellen VanderMyde for the Texas Drive Park mural.

DDA



- The DDA has interest in meeting with Metro Transit to discuss public transportation to the Corners, which could potentially be a joint meeting with Board and DDA if there's interest.

Township Hall Project

- Steel is being delivered the week of January 9th with framing slated to begin January 18th.
- Progressive is hosting a subcontractor meeting on January 16th at the Township Hall.

Flood Mitigation

- EGLE has approved the draft permit for the lake level project. Supervisor Loeks and Prein & Newhof working on final clarifications before he signs it.
- FEMA has approved additional monies for the project. The total FEMA contribution for the lake level project is now \$1,679,475, an increase over the original allocation of \$772,275.
- The next Flood Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to approve the General Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of:

- Approval of December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes and December 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$70,328.77
- Payroll \$46,833.59, \$28,430.00, and \$73,326.19
- Township Hall Project – Change Order #004

BUSINESS

Tabled

New

Select Contractor for AV Services – New Township Hall

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that PAE went out to bid again for audio/visual and security services and only received back one bid, which was for the AV component only. Kerwin Electric is open to adding security, as they are already subcontracting with EPS. The total package come in significantly over the estimated budget at \$146,394.98, and staff has reviewed it to make some modifications to reduce the cost. Supervisor Loeks explained that a majority of this cost was being covered by contingency, and the township would be realizing some savings in other parts of the project

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to approve Change Order #005, accepting the bids from Automation Design & Engineering and Kerwin Electric for AV & security systems for the new township hall, and authorize Supervisor Loeks to sign the change order.

Texas Drive Park Swing Quotes

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp presented two quotes from GameTime and Katerberg Verhage for a new swing set at the Texas Drive Park. The old set will be removed, and swings will be relocated closer to the new play structure on the other side of the pavilion. Board members discussed including another bench near the play structure for parents to sit, as well as poured-in-place versus wood fiber.

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to accept the proposal from GameTime, with the bench option, for the installation of a new swing set at Texas Drive Park for an amount NTE \$40,000.

Authorization to Hire Fire Department Administrative Assistant

Fire Chief Tackett asked the Board to consider the hiring of Kaitlin Hyde as the administrative assistant for the Fire Department to assist with payroll, purchasing, and other administrative duties.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to approve hiring Kait Hyde as the administrative assistant for the fire department contingent upon a positive background



investigation.

Fire Department Strategic Plan Proposal

Chief Tackett stated he received proposals from three firms to develop and coordinate the Fire Department's strategic plan. He requested approval to utilize Fire Rescue Group Purchasing to hire Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), which is an arm of International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to approve ESCI to develop the strategic plan for the Fire Department, not to exceed \$18,000.

Authorize Agreement with SiteMed for Fire Department Annual Physicals

Chief Tackett asked for consideration to utilize SiteMed for Fire Department annual physicals, as LifeScan, which the department previously used, is not coming to Michigan this year for physicals. The annual purchase is not to exceed \$18,000 for all personnel, vaccinations, TB tests, X-rays and ultrasounds.

Board members discussed moving this request to the General Consent Agenda, as it's an annual, recurring expense, as long as it's within the budgeted amount.

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Boven, motion carried, approve the Fire Department to utilize SiteMed to perform the annual medical exams, vaccinations and testing for 2023.

Work Status Change for Firefighter Kris Smith

Chief Tackett stated that Firefighter Kris Smith took another position that will help her achieve her doctorate degree. She has been a great asset as a full-time firefighter and would like to remain with the department as paid-on-call.

Motion by Hammon, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to accept the resignation of full-time status for Kris Smith and to retain her as an on-call firefighter, effective January 26, 2023, wishing her the very best in the future.

Approve Posting for Full-Time Firefighter

With Firefighter Smith's work status change and the full-time position vacancy, Chief Tackett requested approval to post and begin the process to fill the Firefighter/EO position as soon as possible. He proposed opening the position to internal candidates first and post externally only if he received fewer than three applications or did not find a suitable replacement internally.

The proposed timeline included posting internally as soon as possible, to remain open for seven days, with a potential start date of February 7, 2023. If there is a need to open the position to external candidates, the potential start date would be closer to March 6, 2023.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to approve the posting and hiring for the open full-time Firefighter position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were none.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

There was no attorney present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Boven stated he's undergoing another procedure and may miss the January 23 meeting. He also clarified that the last time he voted on sewer fees that there were only 4,000 residents in the



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Township. There are now more than 18,000 residents and far more impacts on the groundwater and water table. There was also some discussion about Mr. Andrews' situation.

Treasurer Roberts clarified the state supports sewer systems over septic systems and will uphold the Township's connection ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Boven, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.

SUBMITTED: January 17, 2023
Clerk Emily Beutel
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: January 23, 2023, as submitted