

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2010 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo, Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe, Treasurer Larry Doe, Trustees Stan Eldridge, Jean Hall Currie and Mike Martin

Members Absent: Trustee Dee Sizemore

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters and Angela King

1. REVIEW AGENDA

Supervisor Stumbo began reviewing the agenda with further discussion on the following agenda item:

2ND READING RESOLUTION NO. 2010-16, ORDINANCE NO. 2010-409, AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ANIMALS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CODE

Angela King, Township Attorney provided a brief summary of the details surrounding the ordinance. She said she had met with the Huron Valley Humane Society regarding the dramatic increase in the intake and euthanasia of pit bulls in the last four years. Attorney King stated the interest of the Humane Society was to decrease the over population of pit bulls and they proposed an ordinance requiring sterilization. She stressed they were not against the breed but only wanted to prevent having too many pit bulls that required daily euthanasia. She said free sterilization was also proposed. Attorney King said the majority of the court cases involved pit bulls that were at large and dog bites.

Supervisor Stumbo said a sunset provision had been discussed so the Board could look back to see if the ordinance was effective. She asked if the Board supported the addition of a sunset clause. Supervisor Stumbo stated an exemption for health or age related issues was also discussed.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated an email from Stephanie Feldstein suggested an ordinance that would require spay/neutering for all dogs that were in violation of the ordinances. She said she understood that most are not against the ordinance but they objected to it being breed specific.

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Trustee Martin stated his position was diametric to what had been presented and the facts he had were contrary to what was being told to the Board. He said he did not understand how the facts could be as polar as they appeared. Trustee Martin reviewed information he obtained from animal organizations, residents, people that worked at shelters and on the internet. He said pit bulls were becoming a breed recognized by dog show breeders but it was not a legitimate breed because there were a lot of different dogs that made up the classification of a pit bull. Trustee Martin further stated he had done a walk through at the Humane Society and it was heartbreaking. He said he wanted to work with some of the organizations to develop a more comprehensive ordinance around vicious dogs, leash laws, backyard breeders and dog fighting. He said some believed this ordinance was a viable solution but he thought it was a kneejerk reaction that would only pacify people's feelings for a short time. Trustee Martin said he had done research on the Prsao Carino that was basically a bull terrier on steroids and it may be the next choice for dog fighters. He stressed that every community that had tried mandatory spay/neutering had abandoned the ordinance because it could not be enforced and it was too costly. He explained that he wanted to do something but he wanted something that would impact the community in the full spectrum of what was causing the problem. Trustee Martin said he supported the Humane Society, both financially and emotionally but he felt they were on the wrong side of the issue because it was not just pit bulls that were aggressive or violent.

Supervisor Stumbo explained the ordinance was not about aggressiveness, it was about the euthanasia of pit bulls. She said the intent of the ordinance was very clear. Supervisor Stumbo said her visit to the Humane Society helped her understand the issue and she trusted their recommendation.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she was in favor because not only did the ordinance require spay/neutering but it was also free. She said if all the groups involved worked together, maybe funds could be raised to provide free spay/neutering to all breeds. Clerk Lovejoy Roe stressed that Ypsilanti Township had a vicious dog ordinance and she felt it was important to educate the deputies.

2. RE-IMAGE WASHTENAW PRESENTATION – JOE LAWSON

Joe Lawson, Planning Coordinator began by explaining that approximately two years ago, a group of stakeholders along Washtenaw Avenue corridor, which included the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, Pittsfield Township, the City of Ann Arbor and business owners came together to get an idea of how the redevelopment should proceed. The corridor was constructed and designed in the 1950's and 60's. He explained there was a joint action committee that worked on ideas for the corridor. Mr. Lawson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Re-Imaging of Washtenaw Corridor (the presentation is available in the Clerk's Office).

3. OTHER DISCUSSION

Supervisor Stumbo stated a request had been received from Art Serafinski, Recreation Director for Board approval and acceptance of the Helen McCalla Trust Grant, in the

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amount of \$4,000. She asked could the item to be place on the agenda under Other Business and the Board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk