

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2012 WORK SESSION**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo 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, Mike Martin and Scott Martin

**Members Absent:** None

**Legal Counsel:** Wm. Douglas Winters

**1. DTE SMART METER DISCUSSION**

Molly Lumpert Coy, DTE Regional Manager for Southern Washtenaw, Lenawee, Monroe and Southern Wayne Counties, (filling in for Paul Ganz) introduced Robert Sitkauskas and Brian Moccia who were there to make a presentation on the AMI technology regarding Smart Meters.

Mr. Sitkauskas provided a Power Point presentation of the Smart Meters (see attached). He addressed the most common concerns:

- Radio Frequency: Was well within the FCC safety margin requirements. He gave several instances of items we already use within those limits.
- Privacy: DTE had the same data for over 100 years. DTE had been diligent and would continue to be diligent to protect that data. The meter itself only contained that particular meter number and usage of power for that location.
- Safety & Health Issues: DTE felt there was no merit. They were going moving forward with the installation but were developing an “opt out” option to address any concerns. Customers would be responsible for the program cost to opt out.

Arloa Kaiser, Township resident, asked why the opt-out option ended on March 16, 2012 and voiced her displeasure at having to pay for that option.

Linda Dewitt, Township resident asked if it would be possible to bring back the postcard meter read option.

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John Holeton, Shelby Township, felt clarification was necessary that Smart Meters were not mandatory in Michigan. He said DTE had submitted scientific consensus to the Michigan Public Service Commission that with certain radio frequency signal strength, there could be negative health effects.

Mr. Sitkauskas agreed that there was not a mandate on the meters, however DTE as a utility, had a mandate to provide the most affordable, efficient and quality level of service. He said he would have to look at the particular study Mr. Holeton spoke about to answer it. Mr. Sitkauskas felt DTE's studies showed the radio frequency was not high enough to affect health, but would offer the "opt out" program.

He provided answers to frequently asked questions about the meters, their installation and the information they provided.

Trustee Mike Martin voiced his concern that the cost of the "opt out" could be prohibitive. He asked if information could be hacked. Mr. Sitkauskas hesitated to say it was impossible, but stated that it was highly unlikely and reminded him that the only data from the meter was the actual usage and meter number. Mr. Martin asked if the radio frequency was high enough to reach a neighboring home. Mr. Sitkauskas said he would never say it could not, but again the frequency was quite low.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if the frequency increased when the remote was read.

Mr. Moccia said it increased slightly, for approximately 80 seconds in duration, for a total of two reads in a twenty-four hour period. He said baby monitors actually have a higher output of radio frequency than the Smart Meters.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if it would be better for both DTE and their customers to stop installation until the MPSC had reached their decision.

Mr. Moccia said the meters fell within the guidelines the FCC had set and the benefits of installation, such as the outage protection alone would change the whole model for service restoration and allow better management of the electric grid, making it more efficient. He said this outweighed the cost incurred in the "opt out" scenario. He said they had delayed installation in some instances.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if residents could currently "opt out" and if there was a charge to do so.

Mr. Sitkauskas said if a customer chose to opt-out, they should call 800-477-4747 and they would be contacted by DTE to determine the course of action.

Trustee Eldridge said some residents had meters that were installed when they were not at home and asked if they could be removed.

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Mr. Sitkauskas said they would remove the meter if the customer called but they may eventually be charged for opting out.

Treasurer Doe asked how many meter readers would be displaced due to the installation of the new meters and since meter readers were no longer needed, if that would lower the electrical costs.

Mr. Sitkauskas explained the union contract readers had already taken up other jobs inside the company or on their own and there were no planned lay-offs. He said all the costs would be figured and the savings would be applied within DTE and then to the customers.

Mr. Sitkauskas said that each customer would receive a letter regarding installation.

## **2. REVIEW AGENDA**

Supervisor Stumbo said there would be an Executive Session to discuss the issue regarding Joseph Kasberg and Clark East Towers vs. Ypsilanti Township at the end of the Board Meeting.

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she still needed Election Workers.

### **New Business**

The Liquor Control Commission met to consider the request from Las Dos Fuentes. They had decided to approve the request with stipulations, contingent on an agreement the Attorney was working on.

## **3. ADOPT-A-COUNTY ROAD PROGRAM DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Stumbo said she and Sandy Andresen had been talking about the problem concerning litter in our community. Ms. Andresen had forwarded a proposal concerning the adopt-a-road program. Supervisor Stumbo explained they had to request approval from the Washtenaw County Road Commission since they had control of our roads. She said approval of the Township Board was needed to purchase the signs for this program.

Ms. Andresen said the Park Commission was disappointed that no communication had been given to them that the Road Commission had such a program.

Arloa Kaiser asked if the money could come from the Park Commission for the purchase of the signs. Supervisor Stumbo said they could look into that.

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**4. DTE SMART METER DISCUSSION**

Additional discussion followed on the Smart Meters.

Trustee Mike Martin asked how many meter reads a year there would be on a home that “opted out”. Mr. Sitkauskas said a reading would take place on a monthly basis.

Trustee Mike Martin then asked if the “opt out” would have to be based on more than a personal desire. Mr. Sitkauskas explained the details were being discussed and nothing had been formulated at this time.

Trustee Mike Martin asked how many jobs this would eliminate in the State of Michigan. Mr. Sitkauskas said that the meter readers were being reskilled to install the meters and no one had been eliminated.

Supervisor Stumbo told Mr. Sitkauskas that the information he had provided needed to get to our residents. She asked what DTE did in a community that had a moratorium.

Mr. Sitkauskas said they had continued to install the meters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk