

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2013 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 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

REIMAGINE WASHTENAW PRESENTATION.....NATHAN VOGHT

Nathan Voght, Washtenaw County Economic Development Specialist introduced Neil Billetdeaux , from Smith Group, JJR, who presented a Power Point presentation on the public study regarding the right-of-way corridor scenarios for the ReImagine Washtenaw project. Mr. Billetdeaux explained the most popular was a dedicated transit option that would include four lanes with a wide median from US 23 extending into Ypsilanti with three lanes, a center turn lane and on-street parking. He briefly discussed the proposals regarding transit.

Trustee Eldridge questioned the traffic volumes on Washtenaw and expressed his concern that a “road diet” would slow traffic rather than move traffic along. He asked if each municipality would have an opportunity to deviate from the recommendation of the plan.

Mr. Billetdeaux explained the overall goal of ReImagine Washtenaw was to reduce traffic volumes, address safety issues and work with developers to accomplish a viable economic corridor over time. He stated these were the final recommendations from the planners that would be used for the public presentation on December 11, 2013.

Supervisor Stumbo asked for details on the difference of the existing corridor and the proposals.

Mr. Billetdeaux explained the width of Washtenaw Avenue would not change with the addition of bike lanes and a narrow median, which would allow for safer crossing at traffic signals. He further explained lane widths would decrease from twelve or fourteen feet currently to eleven feet, allowing an additional ten feet for public access.

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Trustee Eldridge asked if each municipality would have an opportunity to deviate from the recommendations.

Mr. Billetdeaux explained the goal was to get everyone in agreement with the recommended right-of-way cross sections but certain things could be adjusted.

Joe Lawson, Planning Director explained that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) had jurisdiction over Washtenaw Avenue and the Township would have an agreement with them regarding maintenance. He stressed the most important part of the project was the width of the right-of-way.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE, REIMAGINE WASHTENAW.....BRAD STRADER

Brad Strader, LSL Planning provided a zoning review and recommendations regarding transit improvements. He presented a right-of-way plan, design guidelines and draft ordinance language. He said it was the goal to achieve continuity along the whole corridor.

Mr. Lawson said the parcels along Washtenaw Ave. were unique concerning size and shape so they offered specific challenges in preparing an ordinance. He offered the idea of making districts along the corridor for consistency as well as for character and identity.

Trustee Eldridge asked who would be responsible to oversee signage, specifically for advertisement purposes at each of the super stops for public transit along the corridor.

Nathan Voght responded that The Ride would oversee signage issues at bus stops.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said many envisioned the super stops as being actual commercial developments with shops and private/public partnerships.

Discussion followed regarding ownership of the stops and maintenance issues.

Arloa Kaiser, Township Resident voiced her concern regarding the cost of the project and the idea of forcing traffic to slow down.

Supervisor Stumbo explained that grant money was being utilized for this part of the project, not Ypsilanti Township funds.

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Larry Krieg, Township resident and member of the Planning Commission felt the Township should not be overly concerned with finances but should show that we care enough to make things look nice to attract future development and encourage people to stay in our area.

Discussion followed regarding MDOT involvement in the project.

RE-CONSIDER PROPOSAL.....ANGELA BARBASH

Angela Barbash, Township resident presented an overview of this new business, outlining a dual approach of building support for an eco-system of local investing and deploying community capital in Ypsilanti Township. She explained the proposal included the area of Ecorse Road, a small part of Ford Boulevard and E. Michigan Avenue, the engagement of key stakeholders, decision makers and residents that wanted to be involved in starting and/or investing in businesses in those areas.

Ms. Barbash explained crowd funding campaigns had been funded by donations, but a lot of people would like to own or invest in local businesses. She said an estimated 5.2 billion dollars had been moved to local projects and businesses from international markets. Ms, Barbash stated a lot of the turnover in businesses could be solved by increasing the customer base, retaining some of the capital and raising awareness.

Trustee Eldridge asked for references, whether things could be added or deleted from the proposal and for clarification on additional costs.

Ms. Barbash referred to ongoing work for Washtenaw, Adrian and Berry Counties, addressed concerns and explained they would focus on main-street businesses.

DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHIPPING SERVICES.....JEFF ALLEN

Jeff Allen, Residential Services Director briefly reviewed proposed changes to the chipping services.

Treasurer Doe supported the changes in the chipping services.

Trustee Eldridge supported the idea of changing the services and suggested continuing special pick-up if a bad storm should occur and treating an oversize pile the same as obtaining extra trash tags.

Discussion followed and the final proposed changes are as follows:

- Brush pick-up for April and May (every other week)
- No brush collection during the months of June, July and August
- Brush pick-up for September, October and November
- Brush piles must not exceed 10` long, 4` high, and 4` wide.

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DISCUSS COMPOST SITE EQUIPMENT NEEDS.....JEFF ALLEN

Jeff Allen, Residential Services Director presented the need to purchase a loader for the Compost Site to handle more materials and requested accepting sealed bids.

Carl Rowsey, Compost Site Operator was introduced to the Board by Jeff Allen.

Supervisor Stumbo voiced her appreciation to Mr. Rowsey for a job well done and asked him if this was the proper equipment for a compost site.

Mr. Rowsey explained this was not the proper piece of equipment for wind rows, which was still needed, but was a necessary piece of equipment to load and move the material that comes in, especially since much larger volumes were being dealt with.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk