

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2014 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, Trustees Stan Eldridge, Jean Hall Currie, Mike Martin and Scott Martin

Members Absent: Treasurer Larry Doe

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters and Angela King

Supervisor Stumbo stated with the support of the Board, she would like to add to the Agenda under Other Business, the authorization for Stan Eldridge to continue his role at the Green Oaks Golf Course for the next 90 days. She explained this would allow time for a job description, salary and advertisement of the position to be brought back to the Board.

HOLMES/WENDELL PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated there had been ongoing discussion regarding Township owned properties being offered for sale to residents. The Clerk explained many hours of mowing was required for the Township to maintain those properties. She requested the Board's approval for establishing a pilot program and to send letters of inquiry out to residents. She stated OHM had been contacted to determine the cost involved. Clerk Lovejoy Roe provided a breakdown of the cost for a survey and new legal description which came to \$938.38 per parcel. She had asked Brian McCleery to figure out how much could be collected in taxes if the properties were owned by residents and it was determined an average of \$71.00 per year, could be assessed per parcel in new taxes. She asked for direction from the Board.

Trustee Scott Martin asked how much more property would be included and it was determined to be an average of 60 x 95 feet per parcel.

Supervisor Stumbo stated it was important to be consistent on this issue.

Discussion followed on buildable property procedures.

Arloa Kaiser asked for clarification on what the Township would be paying for.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she supported selling the vacant properties and wanted to get a policy in place so the Township didn't have the expense to maintain them.

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Trustee Scott Martin asked if every resident had to purchase or accept the extra parcels.

Jeff Allen, Residential Services Director explained that if everyone didn't want the property it would create an even more complicated process for maintenance.

Discussion followed on researching a policy or resolution, since no action could be taken until after the August election.

Arloa Kaiser asked if the lots could be sold for a token amount.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she wanted to bring back to the Board an actual Agenda item to authorize selling parcels or donating parcels to property owners. She said the Township would not spend the money for surveys if residents were not interested in acquiring the parcels. She explained she needed clarification from the Board if they wanted to sell or donate the properties on unbuildable lots.

Trustee Scott Martin questioned how many of the residential lots were rental properties, since that would make a difference, as well.

Arloa Kaiser asked if a resident acquired two of the extra lots, would that be considered a buildable lot and Clerk Lovejoy Roe explained it would not, since it was not accessible to the street. Clarification was given that a house could not be built but other structures such as a storage shed could be built.

Supervisor Stumbo agreed the Township had several lots that needed to be dealt with.

REVIEW AGENDA

Supervisor Stumbo briefly reviewed the board meeting agenda with additional comments on the follow agenda items:

Authorizations and Bids

Item #2 / Purchase of FTR Reporter System and additional shelving for File Room

Supervisor Stumbo asked the Board's consideration to accommodate the request of Mark Nelson, 14-B Court Magistrate at this time.

Mark Nelson provided a brief explanation regarding his request which would enable the Court to keep records of every court proceeding in a digital format and provided two quotes for shelving to accommodate storage of records for the next few years.

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Public Hearing

- A. Creation of Special Assessment District for Operation and Maintenance Cost of Neighborhood Security Cameras in the Lakeview/Sugarbrook Area**
- B. Creation of Special Assessment District for Operation and Maintenance Cost of Neighborhood Security Cameras in the West Willow Area**

Supervisor Stumbo provided packets for both areas. She recognized two West Willow residents in attendance. Supervisor Stumbo provided a brief overview and cost for the projects. She stated a special meeting would be called in two weeks to consider the creation of the Districts.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe had included two letters of support in the packet.

Supervisor Stumbo and Clerk Lovejoy Roe provided a list of other residents that had sent in their support: Mrs. Baird, the owner of two properties on Eugene, Donti Williams lived on Desoto, Jack Cross, had asked if it was only in the public right-of-way and Lena Mae Jones lived on Heather Ridge.

Trustee Stan Eldridge asked why the price was the same for operation and maintenance for the Lakeview/Sugarbrook/Wingate Area, which had more cameras, as it was for West Willow Area.

Jeff Allen explained they had offered a package deal for all the cameras in their bid.

Supervisor Stumbo and Mr. Allen explained that the Thurston Area had been included in the original bid as well but it wasn't quite ready for the public hearing.

Linda Mealing, Township Resident asked if the pricing for Thurston was included in the West Willow cost and it was not.

Lawrence Johnson, Township Resident said he didn't understand how the cost had been arrived at a per household basis since Wingate Condominiums made up about 25% of the households in the West Willow Special Assessment District. He felt they would get one camera at the entrance and basically subsidize the rest of the cameras in the neighborhood. He asked why the Sugarbrook Area just south of I-94 had been excluded.

Supervisor Stumbo said there was no direct benefit to them and would they would possibly be included in the Gault Village area if cameras were installed there.

Consent Agenda

No discussion

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Supervisor Report

No discussion

CLERK REPORT

- **AUGUST 5, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION**-Planning, training and organization for the election is well underway. Voters can request absentee ballots up until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2014 but must vote at the Civic Center on Monday the day before the election. The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, August 2, 2014 from 9AM – 2 P.M. for voters wishing to vote absentee. Please call 734.484.4700 or email klovejoyroe@ytown.org to request an absentee ballot. Ypsilanti Township will host election inspector certification training conducted by Washtenaw County Clerk's office on Monday, July 10, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and also on Thursday, July 24, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Clerk Lovejoy Roe has been conducting Electronic Poll Book Training for the August 5th election. Absentee ballots were mailed out on July 8th. Requests for ballots are being processed daily by the Clerk's office.
- **WAY FINDING-YPSILANTI ANN ARBOR VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU**-On Friday, May 16, 2014 Clerk Lovejoy Roe along with Parks & Recreation Director Art Serafinski attended a meeting of the Way Finding group from the City of Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti Ann Arbor Visitors and Convention Bureau, the City of Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority and others to continue to proceed with the sign locations and design for the planning part of a grant. This process is supported by a grant that includes working with a consultant to establish sign locations and to design the signs for tourists visiting the Ypsilanti area community.
- **REIMAGINE WASHTENAW GOLF SIDE CHARRETTE MEETING**- Supervisor Brenda Stumbo and Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe attended a meeting on June 17, 2014 with representatives from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County Planning and consultants to begin planning the Charrette that is being organized for the Golfside Dr. and Washtenaw Ave. nodes located in both the Charter Townships of Pittsfield and Ypsilanti. The Charrette process was explained and scheduling was presented to the attendees. A presentation was made by a target market analysis professional in regards to the type of housing needs by specific lifestyle clusters that are located in Washtenaw County. This analysis is approved by the State of Michigan and is crucial to attracting new emerging populations to Washtenaw County and specifically to this area. This planning process is supported by the HUD grant the county received for economic development along the Washenaw Ave. corridor. The focus is to develop a plan for housing and commercial corridors for the Washtenaw and Golfside area that will attract and keep the college graduate lifestyle cluster and others including senior clusters to live in this area of the county to spur economic development and long term sustainability in the Washtenaw Avenue corridor.
- **WASHTENAW COUNTY CLERK'S MEETING**- On Wednesday, June 18, 2014 Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe attended the quarterly Washtenaw County Clerk's meeting held at Superior Township Hall. A presentation on how to train election inspectors was given by Terry Bennett, Canton Township Clerk. Several vendors presented new election equipment and technology that the State of Michigan may make available to municipalities for use by the year 2016. Washtenaw County presented information to the clerks in regards to updates and requirements for the upcoming Primary Election on August 5, 2014.
- **URBAN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**-Clerk Lovejoy Roe attended the monthly meeting of the Urban County Executive Committee on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

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The Urban County Executive Committee approved the coordinated funding program for 2014-2015. This program funds \$4,321,494 of human services throughout Washtenaw County. The Committee also approved a substantial amendment to the 2013 action plan for funds for Habitat for Humanity.

- **WASTE MANAGEMENT MEETING**-Residential Services Director Jeff Allen, Treasurer Larry Doe and Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe met with representative from Waste Management to discuss the current contracts and ways to save future expenses related to the contract on Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe provided a brief update on the removal of the lights on Grove Road by DTE. She said installation of the overhead lights would begin in four weeks and the permit for the underground work had not yet been approved by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. She stated she had informed DTE that the Township was not happy about the delays and had asked the residents in the area to keep their porch lights on.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the Primary Election was underway and issuing of Absentee Ballots had begun July 8th. She stated AV ballots would be available until 4:00 on Monday, August 4, 2014 and the Clerk's Office would be open on Saturday, August 2, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for Absentee voting.

TREASURER REPORT

No report

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Scott Martin suggested leaving Stan Eldridge in the current position at the Green Oaks Golf Course through the end of the season, November 2014, to give a longer time to gather criteria for the posting. He stated they would hire someone for a month and then have to pay them a salary for the rest of the year and he felt it would be wiser to take a closer look at the situation.

Supervisor Stumbo asked Trustee Eldridge if he already had a draft of the job description.

Trustee Eldridge stated he did have one done but he had not shared it with Larry Doe or Karen Wallin, yet.

Attorney Report

A. General Legal Update

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1397 Crestwood

Attorney Winters stated the Board had shown wise judgment and vision when they were made aware the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act had been passed. Supervisor Stumbo, Planning Director Joe Lawson, Attorney Angela King and OCS Director Mike Radzik had taken steps to insure that our residential neighborhoods would not be inundated with Grow Operations. He explained the Township Board had passed a zoning ordinance that went into effect May 2010 which stated any Medical Marijuana Grow Operation would have to be located in a commercial/industrial district.

He presented an update regarding the legal battle that had ensued on this issue regarding the residence at 1397 Crestwood. He stated the Court ruled June 20, 2014 that the Township Ordinance was not in conflict with the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act.

Planet Aid Lawsuit

Attorney Winters reported there had been much fanfare with the filing in Federal Court by the operators of Planet Aid, claiming the Township had required Planet Aid to adhere to the Township Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Winters stated the judge had refused to grant Planet Aid a Preliminary Injunction against the Township and the Temporary Restraining Order had been dissolved. He reported the Township was active in enforcing the rules for all donation bins.

Clark East Towers

Attorney Winters provided an update that HUD had approved the installation of 80 security cameras at Clark East Towers. Mr. Winters stated the security cameras would be a helpful tool, but in his opinion an on-site security presence was also needed.

Supervisor Stumbo received a letter from a resident at Clark East Towers stating their rent had been increased \$7.00 a month and she wondered if that increase was a result of the camera installation. She stated the window inspection had not occurred to date.

Attorney Winters said the inspections would not take place until an agreement was reached.

Supervisor Stumbo and Attorney Winters reported the residents were pleased with the security measures that had been implemented.

1289 Duncan

Attorney Winters stated this property had been declared uninhabitable and the Certificate of Occupancy had been revoked by the Office of Community Standards. He reported the residents had violated an order to have the property cleaned professionally by putting a dumpster on the property and starting the process themselves.

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1417 Gattegno

Attorney Winters reported he had received confirmation from the insurance company that the Withholding Funds would be remitted to the Township and then the demolition process would begin.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2ND READING RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13, PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2014-436, PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY SCHOOL TRUANCE (FIRST READING HELD AT APRIL 15, 2014 REGULAR MEETING)

Supervisor Stumbo stated this item was tabled at the May 20, 2014 Regular Meeting. She said Attorney Angela King was present to answer any questions. Supervisor Stumbo stated that after meeting with the School Districts and the Sheriff, the Ypsilanti Community School Board had sent a resolution of support for the current proposed ordinance. She stated the biggest change was lowering the upper age range of a student from 18 years of age to 13 years of age. She reported on the process for this proposed ordinance which sought compliance in order to keep the children in school.

Attorney Angela King explained cases were only referred to the Court after the school has exhausted every possible avenue at their disposal. She said the goal of the Court was compliance and the very last resort would be any punishment.

Supervisor Stumbo explained a lot of discussion had taken place regarding the sentencing phase, which could be deferred or determined to be community service, possibly in the particular school in which the offense had taken place, in order to send a message to the students. She felt this was a tool which could effectively be used.

Trustee Eldridge asked why the age was lowered to age 13.

Attorney King explained this ordinance's focus was really on the parents, and the reasoning was that once a child was over the age of 13, the student themselves from age 14 and over, would be subject to penalties under a State law, which invokes jurisdiction from the Juvenile Court to get both the student and the parent in the courtroom.

Supervisor Stumbo explained the statistics that had been reviewed showed the younger students were more at risk.

Trustee Eldridge stated the bottom line was up to the School District and it's leaders to enforce the Ordinance. He asked if foster parents were included in the Ordinance. Discussion took place regarding whether or not to amend the Ordinance to include foster parents.

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Discussion followed on the students and parents appearance in Court under the State law and the Ordinance.

Linda Mealing, Township Resident voiced concern over not including the older students in the proposed Ordinance.

Mike Radzik, OCS Director explained the new Ordinance addressed parental responsibility for chronically absent children. He stated the Truancy Ordinance already in effect in the Township addressed the truancy of the older teens and if required to go to Court, a parent must appear with them.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if we adopted the Ordinance, what process would be followed if someone over the age of 13 continued to be truant.

Attorney King stated the school would be responsible to initiate through the Sheriff's Department, a petition in Juvenile Court for violating the State Law requiring school attendance.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if the school's already had the authority to take matters of school truancy to the Juvenile Court system and Attorney King agreed they did.

Supervisor Stumbo acknowledged the School Board members in the audience.

David Bates, President of the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education introduced Maria Sheler-Edwards, a Board Trustee. Mr. Bates stated he appreciated the conversation regarding the proposed Ordinance and planned to raise the questions dealing with foster parents with the School Board. He said the whole objective was to make sure kids were in school. He realized this was a highly charged issue but appreciated the Township's partnership in trying to find ways to help these kids stay in school. Mr. Bates agreed with Clerk Lovejoy Roe that the School Board was not getting the necessary support from the other court and wanted to move this to a local level. He stated their commitment was to work with the parents in order to gain compliance, not prosecution. He said the School Board appreciated the Township's effort on this issue and offered support.

Maria Sheler-Edwards, School Board Trustee thanked the Township Board for their cooperation and hard work on this issue.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if Mr. Bates or Ms. Sheler-Edwards were aware why the age was requested to be lowered from 17 to 13 years old.

Laura Lisiski, Superintendent of Ypsilanti Community Schools stated the reason they had requested that change was because once a student reached the secondary level in their own education, the student shared in the responsibility of attending school and knowing their education was important.

Trustee Eldridge stated his appreciation for the School Board members for their presence and support on this issue.

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**2. REQUEST OF JOE LAWSON, PLANNING DIRECTOR TO APPROVE YPSILANTI
TOWNSHIP 2014 MASTER PLAN (TABLED AT MAY 20, 2014 REGULAR MEETING)**

Supervisor Stumbo stated Joe Lawson would present a slide show at the Regular Meeting.

No other items were reviewed at this point in the Work Session

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk