

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 4:58 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Stumbo, Clerk Lovejoy Roe, Treasurer Doe,
Trustees: Eldridge, Jarrell Roe, Ross-Williams, and Wilson

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

1. PROCLAMATION HONORING THE SALINE TWIRLETTES

Clerk Lovejoy Roe read the Proclamation honoring the 2019 Saline Twirlettes Baton Twirling Team who competed at the Grand Nationals Baton Twirling Championship and earned a position on the 2020 Team USA World. The Proclamation was presented to members of the Saline Twirlettes by the Township Board and photos were taken (see attached).

2. 2020 BUDGET REVIEW

a. FUND 230 – RECREATION

Angela Verges, Recreation Services Manager, stated she was happy to be working with the new Residential Services Director, Mike Hoffmeister. She said he has suggested some fresh ideas for the Recreation Department and she said she was excited about the new changes they are implementing. She said they have already made changes this fall by focusing on marketing, working on forming relationships in the community, and sponsorships. She said some of the staff have attended PTO meetings this fall at area schools speaking with them about the programs offered at the Community Center. She said they would also highlight some of the programs offered at the Community Center this winter on the Winter Tax Bill which will go out to residents in December 2019. She said the Recreation Department brought in about \$7,000.00 in revenue from the Rosie the Riveter Craft Show and the Wake Board Competition over the summer.

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Supervisor Stumbo asked if the mobile app was up and running yet. Angela Verges stated they would be here in November to get the department up and running with the app.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she was concerned that we are budgeting revenue higher in 2020 than what it appears will be collected in 2019.

Supervisor Stumbo stated youth sports year to date was \$56,000.00 but it was budgeted \$69,000.00. Ms. Verges stated they would be getting revenue in from basketball registration. She said they receive most of those funds in December for the season that begins in January. She said dance would do the same.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said that between the revenue and the expenditures at the Parks we only cleared \$4,000.00. She said that was a small amount of revenue for all the work it is and for the additional staff. She suggested initiating the same system the state parks instituted by having people purchase their passes ahead of time and if they come to the park without a pass a Park Ranger would require them to pay.

Mike Hoffmeister, Residential Service Director stated they are hoping to send more park rentals to the parks where they are staffing gate attendants. He said they are also considering using credit cards at the gatehouses.

Trustee Jarrell Roe suggested sending out exit surveys to see why participants are not returning to the community center.

Ms. Verges stated they have a volunteer who is working towards a Masters' Degree in recreation and she has been putting together a survey which will ask questions about what programs residents like and suggestions for future programs.

Trustee Ross-Williams suggested advertising to lease out the baseball fields.

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Trustee Eldridge stated that Recreation is requesting just under \$480,000.00 for the 2020 Budget to come from the BSR Fund. He said it is about 61% of the revenue that they were expecting. He asked if the funds were budgeted based on the revenue they know they can bring in, wouldn't that be a more appropriate way to do it. He said recreation looks like it would bring in about 38%. Trustee Eldridge said he would like to budget what they think they can make not what they are borrowing from another fund.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that historically Recreation, Golf Course, Compost Site, and 14B Court were in the General Fund but she said they are now budgeted independently so they could track them better. She said she sees Recreation and Parks as a service to our residents. Supervisor Stumbo stated Recreation was asking for less than they did last year. She said the BSR Fund is for bike paths, sidewalks, recreation and roads so the BSR Fund includes Recreation.

Ms. Verges said they want to continue to provide quality programs to residents, especially keeping the cost low enough so all our residents who want to participate can do so. She said if they do not have the funding through the BSR Fund they may not be able to provide that service.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she feels having the gate attendant at the Parks is also a safety issue. She said she liked the idea of taking credit cards as payment.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe indicated the attendants are at the gatehouse and could be checking on the entire park instead of just being at the gatehouse.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated she has seen improvement with marketing for the programs that are offered at the Community Center.

**b. FUND 584 – GOLF COURSE/GREEN OAKS TAVERN LICENSE
APPLICATION**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated they put the tavern license on the agenda because Kirk Sherwood needed to know if the board supported seeking a license before moving forward.

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Mr. Sherwood stated it was more expensive to get a liquor license as opposed to a beer/wine license. He said he would only want a beer/wine license at this time.

Trustee Eldridge asked if the patrons could bring in their own alcohol.

Mr. Sherwood said it would be stated on the gate because it was a state law that they would not be allowed to bring their own alcohol.

Trustee Eldridge suggested getting the full license so if down the line we would like to have a full service bar it would already be in place.

Mr. Sherwood stated if we have a tavern license and we have a beverage cart on the golf course and have a bar in the community center it would be considered one bar. He said that was not the case if we have a Class C liquor license.

Trustee Jarrell Roe asked about the quality of beer and wine and agreed with Trustee Eldridge to apply for the full service license.

Mr. Sherwood stated he would sell what the golfers were interested in as long as it was beer or wine.

Treasurer Doe asked if you had a Class C license and sent a beverage cart onto to golf course was that another \$300.00 for the year.

Mr. Sherwood said it would be for a year. He said if you had a beverage cart and a bar in the community center it would cost an extra \$600.00 for the year with a Class C license, but it would be no additional charge for a Tavern license.

Supervisor Stumbo suggested we should get a Class C license so when we have events at the community center it might attract more events if we were able to provide a full-bar.

Mr. Sherwood said this was the best year he has had since he became the Superintendent at the Golf Course. He said he has had help from Robin Castle-Hine and Mike Hoffmeister. He said his projection was to have about 26,000

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rounds of golf this year and currently they have had 26,280 rounds. He said as of today the golf course made \$550,000.00 in revenue this year. He said they are up \$65,000.00 in revenue from last year. He said he had an excellent staff this year who have helped in making it a great year for Green Oaks. He said that currently this year they have not used the \$125,000.00 that was added to their account in February from the BSR Fund. He said as of September they are up \$9800.00 without it. He said they would probably dip into it by December. He said the Golf Course is headed in the right direction.

Trustee Eldridge stated that Mr. Sherwood was doing a great job at the Golf Course but he said his concern has always been whether the Golf Course would ever take in enough revenue without having to be subsidized from BSR. He said he has never hoped that the Golf Course would close only that it would stand on its' own.

Treasurer Doe stated they are up \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 from 2017 and that was a direct reflection from the hard work from the entire staff at the Golf Course.

Trustee Eldridge stated he would suggest the Golf Course put an electronic sign out in front and the Board should look into it and take the money to pay for it from a different budget.

All the Board Members agreed Kirk Sherwood should apply for a Class C License.

c. FUND 236 – 14B DISTRICT COURT

Magistrate Nelson stated their revenues have declined due to a down turn in tickets and cases being file by the Sheriffs' Department and the State Police. He said their civil filings were up a little but they were still staying flat. Magistrate Nelson stated on the expenditure side they were staying flat on the line items they have control over.

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Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the Court had a transfer from fund balance and a lot of that was for operations. She said she wondered what their plan was for operating in the future to reduce the \$125,000.00 expenses over revenue.

Magistrate Nelson stated it all comes down to revenue because their expenditures, as far as personnel goes, was ran as tight as they could. He said they no longer receive a grant that they had received for many years for a Probation Officer that they split with the 15th District Court. He said they were replacing it with a full-time Probation Officer, which would benefit the Court, but it would be an additional expense for the Court budget.

Trustee Jarrell Roe said she saw on the monthly report that drunk driving tickets were up. She wondered why that happened was there more drunk drivers or just better patrolling by law enforcement.

Magistrate Nelson said he did not know why it spiked in one month and said he would have to speak to the Sheriffs' Department. He said drunk driving has increased over the years. He said if the drivers end up being charged they would not come to the court for several months.

Trustee Jarrell Roe asked if he had any conversations with the Sheriff about budgeting.

Magistrate Nelson stated he had talked with Lt. Marocco.

Supervisor Stumbo stated the goal has always been making the community safe not trying to write speeding or drunk driving tickets. She said she has authorized hiring additional law enforcement officers but they have not hired anyone at this time. She said they hoped to have them hired by January 2020.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if the board would agree, they could move the Public Defense expense as well as the Prosecution expense into the General Fund.

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated that last year we authorized some improvements to 14B Court and she asked Magistrate Nelson what else they needed. Magistrate Nelson

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said they need to purchase security screening equipment and would be bringing that back to the Board when they were ready.

Trustee Wilson asked if there were potential grants that would help pay for the screening equipment.

Magistrate Nelson stated the grants that he had found so far were for law enforcement which they did not qualify for but he would continue to the investigate grant funding.

d. FUND 252 – HYDRO

Mike Saranen, Hydro Director stated revenue was up about 25% and the expenditures were down. He said this year they split a position between Hydro and Safety work with Human Resources. He said they created a new full time position for a Hydro Operator. He said in 2020 the 5 year inspection report must be completed and replacement of a PLC which was like the brain for the generators would be scheduled.

Supervisor Stumbo stated the transfer from the General Fund was the dollars that were escrowed by DTE when the contract with DTE was negotiated. She reported DTE was releasing \$80,000.00 a year from the escrow account. She said DTE would pay that amount back each year for the next 9 years. She said it was transferred from the General Fund but it was actually revenue generated from Hydro over the years.

Mike Saranen stated this year they did a cost estimate for Ford Lake Park on two sites that have shoreline instability. He said part of the Hydro's license agreement required that every 5-6 years they do a survey of all the shorelines around Ford Lake. He said on the township property we need to show due-diligence to help reduce shore erosion and help protect the land around the lake from wave action. He said he would go over the report with the Supervisor and see how the Township wanted to plan for the future abatement of the erosion.

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The Work Session adjourned at 6:49PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti