

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2022 WORK SESSION**

Clerk Jarrell Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda Stumbo and Treasurer Stan Eldridge
Trustees: John Newman II, Gloria Peterson, and Debbie Swanson

Members Absent: Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe and Trustee Jimmie Wilson

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments given.

AGENDA

- 1. RECYCLE GRANTS DISCUSSION.....MICHAEL HOFFMEISTER**
- 2. HURON ST. AND DTE LIGHTS.....MICHAEL HOFFMEISTER**
- 3. AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO**

RECYCLE GRANTS DISCUSSION.....MICHAEL HOFFMEISTER

Michael Hoffmeister, Residential Services Director, spoke about three grants the township will be receiving to pay for recycling carts for residents. Mr. Hoffmeister stated there would be marketing to residents in regard to the carts and recycling. He added they are hoping to start delivering the carts in May or June.

Treasurer Eldridge asked about issues with the new can and residents who may have trouble maneuvering them. Mr. Hoffmeister stated residents would be able to request a smaller cart.

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Trustee Newman asked about residents who are already renting a recycling cart. Mr. Hoffmeister answered that they are still working that out but residents who are renting now will not have to pay in the future.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she would like to see a plan in place for rolling out the carts before the grants are approved.

HURON ST. AND DTE LIGHTS.....MICHAEL HOFFMEISTER

Michael Hoffmeister, Residential Services Director provided an update to the streetlights on Huron St. that will be partnership with the City of Ypsilanti. He stated that twenty nine (29) streetlights will be in phase one and twenty one (21) streetlights in phase 2. Mr. Hoffmeister stated the DTE agreements will come back to the board.

Trustee Swanson asked about banner boards for the streetlights. Mr. Hoffmeister agreed that is a great idea.

Discussion continued on the pathway that is being constructed and how it will benefit citizens that are traveling the area.

Mr. Hoffmeister reviewed the intergovernmental agreement the City of Ypsilanti for maintenance of the trail. He added the city will be responsible for snow removal and the township will be responsible for mowing.

Trustee Swanson asked about having an area that is not mowed to allow plants to grow. Mr. Hoffmeister responded that they do have a map from MDOT outlining what areas can be mowed.

Trustee Newman asked about an electrical mower. Mr. Hoffmeister responded they had just viewed some at a trade show that are supposed to last an 8 hour work day, depending on the size of the grass. He added that they are more expensive up front but would make up the extra cost.

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AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Stumbo stated she had given changes to the minutes to Clerk Jarrell Roe.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Winters stated he would give the attorney report during the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1st READING OF RESOLUTION 2022-03, PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2022-499, TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP FIREWORK ORDINANCE

Supervisor Stumbo discussed the change to the ordinance to include the Juneteenth holiday. She stated that this had been discussed at a previous work session and the request for this had been motivated by residents who had asked last year about fireworks for the holiday. Supervisor Stumbo stated that the Juneteenth holiday would be observed the same that New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are observed.

Fire Chief Eric Copeland asked if the Juneteenth holiday would always be on a specific day of the week. Supervisor Stumbo replied that the holiday can fall on any day of the week.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE UPDATED RECREATION DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION AND APPROVE INTERIM DIRECTOR, JOHN HINES, TO THE POSITION OF RECREATION DIRECTOR

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Karen Wallin, HR Manager stated that the needs of the Recreation Department were reviewed and it was decided to reopen the Recreation Director's position with some updates.

Trustee Eldridge asked if the position would report to the Residential Services Director or to the Supervisor. Ms. Wallin answered that it would be a combination.

Trustee Eldridge expressed concern about the job title and having a director report to a director. Supervisor Stumbo stated there would be instances where the Recreation Director would step in for the Residential Services Director if necessary. Ms. Wallin added that the job description could be updated to report to the Supervisor.

Discussion continued regarding the different departments that are supervised by the Residential Services Director.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that she thought it was important to keep the Recreation Director title so that residents would know who to contact for that department.

Trustee Peterson confirmed that all issues would ultimately come to the Supervisor if a director was not available to handle it.

Trustee Peterson asked if this job was posted. Ms. Wallin stated that he was appointed as interim Recreation Director and had all the qualifications that would be required for the position.

Trustee Swanson stated that she is concerned about communication and the working relationship with the Park Commission with a change in representatives. Supervisor Stumbo stated that Mr. Hoffmeister would still be available to attend meetings and act as liaison.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP CDBG APPLICATION FOR 2022

Mike Hoffmeister, Residential Services Director stated that these CDBG funds will be directed toward Appleridge Park to replace play items and the walking area.

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REQUEST TO FORMALLY APPROVE FORBES STAGING SITE AT 1600 DAVIS

Attorney Winters stated that Clerk Jarrell Roe had been talking to EGLE about using the property at 1600 Davis. He added that site will have to be restored from any damage and insurance has been provided.

REQUEST TO APPROVE A LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1830 AND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI TO APPOINT STEVE WALLGREN AS TEMPORARY FIRE MARSHAL

Eric Copeland, Fire Chief, detailed the history of the updates to the Fire Marshal position.

Chief Copeland stated that Steve Wallgren expressed interest in the Fire Marshal position in October 2020. He added that at this time he has attained certification in Fire Inspection I and Plan Review and that he is ready to test for Fire Inspection II. Chief Copeland said that Steve Wallgren has been moved to forty hours per week and has been working with Dan Kimball for training.

Trustee Peterson asked how long until the certifications will be completed. Chief Copeland said he would be ready to take the tests this month. Trustee Peterson confirmed that the union was supportive of moving Steve Wallgren into the position temporarily until he has his certifications. Zac Roland, Local 1830 President, answered that the union is in support.

Ms. Wallin added that she expects Mr. Wallgren to have his final certification within the next four weeks.

Budget Amendment #14

Supervisor Stumbo reviewed the budget amendment.

Other Business

There is no other business.

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Board Member Updates

Supervisor Stumbo discussed a meeting that was held with AAATA about their millage proposal and said there is another meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 17. She added this tax increase would be for the township, City of Ypsilanti and the City of Ann Arbor.

Supervisor Stumbo discussed how this millage proposal had been discussed during a presentation by the president of AAATA during a previous work session. She detailed how the board expressed they would not be in favor of a millage increase at that time.

Attorney Winters talked about provisions that are in place in the current agreement the township has with AAATA. He stated that the first provision indicates that both the township and the AAATA would have discussions and negotiations for items that are disputed for a financial reason and other reasons listed in the agreement. Attorney Winters stated that he didn't believe AAATA should have rolled out this millage plan without discussion and negotiations with the municipalities.

Attorney Winters stated that this might be an appropriate time for the board to issue a strongly worded resolution against the millage increase being requested by AAATA. He added that a resolution would be the best way for the board to convey their collective opposition to the millage increase.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he did not believe the AAATA was hearing the opinion of the board on the millage increase. He added that it may be best for the township to withdraw from the contract with the AAATA and utilize ala carte services in the same manner as Pittsfield and Superior Townships.

Trustee Newman stated that he was in agreement with Treasurer Eldridge and did not want to see the residents imposed with this tax increase after all the hard work by the township to keep taxes at the same level.

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Supervisor Stumbo stated that there is a petition being circulated about the zoning amendment at Kroger and that they have been going door to door. She stated an intent to submit to file the petitions was filed with the Clerk's Office and the petitions are due within 30 days, which would be March 26.

Supervisor Stumbo stated there have been requests made to get more information about the language on the petitions but nothing has been submitted.

The Work Session meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**