

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2009 SPECIAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silent prayer was observed.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo, Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe, Treasurer Larry Doe, Trustees Jean Hall Currie, Stan Eldridge, Mike Martin and Dee Sizemore

**Members Absent:** None

**Legal Counsel:** Wm. Douglas Winters and John Hancock

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Trustee Currie, supported by Treasurer Doe to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session. The motion carried as follows:**

|                |            |                  |            |                |            |                  |            |
|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Martin:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Eldridge:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Currie:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Sizemore:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Stumbo:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Roe:</b>      | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Doe:</b>    | <b>Yes</b> |                  |            |

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:01 p.m. for the Board to go into Executive Session and the Board returned to the meeting at approximately 1:25 p.m.

- 1. Proposed Tentative Contract with Firefighters Local 1830 – This agenda item will be discussed in Executive Session prior to taking action at the Special Meeting**

**A motion was made by Trustee Currie, supported by Trustee Sizemore to approve the proposed tentative contract with Firefighters Local 1830. The motion carried unanimously.**

- 2. Authorize three full-time officials to meet and discuss the possibility of contracting for Fire Chief services with the City of Ypsilanti**

**A motion was made by Trustee Sizemore, supported by Clerk Lovejoy Roe to authorize the three full-time officials to meet and discuss the possibility of contracting for Fire Chief services with the City of Ypsilanti.**

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Trustee Eldridge stated he felt the Township should hire a Fire Chief but was open to the idea of exploring different options. He asked the Board to consider other municipalities such as Superior Township and Pittsfield Township and to also consider a professional services contract.

Supervisor Stumbo stated there had not been a lot of discussion other than a meeting with the captains where it was mentioned that other alternatives for the fire chief may need to be reviewed. The issue needed to come to the Board first because if they were not interested in pursuing other alternatives, any discussion would be a waste of time.

John Hancock stated a legal opinion had been provided to the Board and there were two issues involved. First there was nothing in the Township Act or the Civil Service Act that stated the Township had to have a fire chief and second, nothing could be done without approval from the Board.

Trustee Martin asked if the two candidates were not acceptable or if it was the Board's intention to pursue a more economical process.

Supervisor Stumbo explained the fire chief vacancy had created the opportunity to explore possible collaboration with other communities. She stated the fire chief salary, including benefits was \$132,000 annually and felt the Board had an obligation to research other options, not only to reduce costs but to explore the possibility of working collaboratively with other communities. Supervisor Stumbo stressed this was not a merger with the City or any other community.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated it would be important to meet with the leadership staff at the fire department to obtain their input on what would be needed if the Township opted to contract for fire chief services.

Scott Brodie, Firefighter stated that with the current fire department fund balance, \$132,000 to have a full-time fire chief did not seem like a lot. He questioned if they were unhappy with the candidates on the fire chief eligibility list.

Supervisor Stumbo stated they had not met either candidate and an opinion had not been formed either way. She clarified it was not a matter of picking one of the two candidates on the list because the Civil Service Act was clear that the candidate receiving the highest overall score would be selected.

**A friendly amendment was made by Trustee Eldridge to include other neighboring municipalities, as well as the possibility of professional contracting. The friendly amendment was accepted.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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**3. Authorize Trustee Stan Eldridge to act as Fire Commissioner for a 120 day interim period, at a salary of \$500 per week**

John Hancock explained state law recognized the ability to appoint a Board Member as fire commissioner and also authorized the Board to pay for those services apart from the duties as Trustee. The Michigan Township Association outlined the duties recommended for the position of fire commissioner. He recommended the Board pass a resolution that referenced pay and authorized the duties of the fire commissioner.

**A motion was made by Clerk Lovejoy Roe, supported by Trustee Currie to authorize the three full-time officials and the attorney to develop a resolution that would allow the Township to hire a fire commissioner in the interim, not to exceed 18 weeks with specific duties outlined in the resolution, at a salary of \$500 per week.**

Trustee Eldridge requested permission from the Board to abstain from voting because of his involvement and possible financial gain.

**A motion was made by Clerk Lovejoy Roe, supported by Trustee Currie to allow Trustee Eldridge to abstain from voting on the issue before the Board. The motion carried as follows:**

|                |            |                  |                |                |            |                  |            |
|----------------|------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Martin:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Eldridge:</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Currie:</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Sizemore:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Roe:</b>    | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Doe:</b>      | <b>Yes</b>     | <b>Stumbo:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |                  |            |

Supervisor Stumbo stated the resolution would be brought to the Board at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 under Other Business. She read the original motion and called for a vote.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk  
Charter Township of Ypsilanti