

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
JOINT YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP/YPSILANTI CITY MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Brenda L. Stumbo at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive,

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

Members Absent: Trustee Mike Martin

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

BOARD MEMBERS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS INTRODUCTION

Supervisor Stumbo introduced the Ypsilanti Township Board and department heads present at the meeting.

Mayor Schreiber introduced Ypsilanti City Council member present.

HISTORY/OVERVIEW OF POLICE COMMITTEE – TRUSTEE STAN ELDRIDGE AND MAYOR PAUL SCHREIBER

Trustee Eldridge provided an overview of the historical nature of Township's contract services and the development of the relationship with the City of Ypsilanti. He explained the police service contracts were on a two-year cycle and since 2004, the cost of police services had risen 92%. Trustee Eldridge said there were concerns about the Township's lack of involvement with cost containment, philosophy of policing style, hiring and placement and lack of information. He stressed there was no oversight and no accountability with the current contract. Trustee Eldridge gave a brief overview of the creation of the joint police committee. He further clarified that it was not the intention of the committee to reduce or cut police services in either community but to sustain the current number of positions. Trustee Eldridge said the committee was at the point to receive comments from the community, to have discussions with the respective boards and to determine if there was a desire to continue at a more in-depth pace. He stressed a joint police services would be a partnership, in an effort to work collaboratively as neighbors in the Eastern half of the county. Trustee Eldridge said it was the hope of the committee that the City Council and Township Board would approve a further, more detail, unbiased study by a third-party consultant.

Mayor Schreiber said when the Township approached the city regarding the concept of a joint police services, he felt it was worth discussing and evaluated it based on three criteria - sustainability, accountability and commonality. He said in order to remain sustainable, it was necessary to remain open-minded and explore opportunities to cooperate. Mayor Schreiber stated that in regards to accountability, the Ypsilanti Police Department was a well-respected, well-trained department that worked closely with the residents and was accountable to the City Council. He further stated in terms of commonality, Ypsilanti Township and the City had much in common, as well as a history of successfully collaborations. Mayor Schreiber said considering all the factors, an independent analysis to examine the possibility of a police authority was warranted.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
TOWNSHIP BOARD/CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 2**

Attorney Winters provided a brief history regarding contracting with Washtenaw County and he felt the City and Township were at a crossroad. He thanked the committee members for their cooperation and dedication.

Attorney Barr echoed the comments of Attorney Winters. He said on behalf of the City's legal department, they were excited about the opportunity and anxious to help from the legal perspective.

Police Chief Walker said these were challenging time and this was an opportunity that would benefit both communities. She stated the Ypsilanti Police Department had been in existence for 150 years and she was in favor of a partnership.

Mike Radzik, Office of Community Standards Director said he said excited about hearing from an independent consultant on the prospects of a collaborative effort.

**RECOMMENDATION – ED KORYZNO AND STAN ELDRIDGE
RETENTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/CONSULTANT**

Ed Koryzno, City Manager stated that after much research, the committee found no basis that would prohibit the creation of a joint police department. The committee felt a more detailed, independent analysis was required in order to pursue the concept. Mr. Koryzno said it was the committee's recommendation that the Township Board and City Council approve the request for a proposal to study the creation of a joint police authority from the consultant that prepared the 2007 study and to share the cost equally. He stated the committee also asked that the respective boards consider the request at their next regularly scheduled meeting on September 21, 2010.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that no action would be taken at the meeting but would like the residents to let the respective boards know if they supported the creation of a joint police authority.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk Lovejoy Roe questioned if the proposals would be brought back to each board for consideration.

Angela Barbash, West Willow Neighborhood Watch said she would like to know what the historical context was for the City Police Department in terms of controlling cost and accountability within their own department.

Carol Blackburn gave accolades to the City of Ypsilanti and she said she was in favor of investigating the possibility of a joint venture.

Arloa Kaiser thanked the Police Services Committee for the work that had been done on the issue.

Bill Stewart stated he felt there had been a decline in service and a lack of accountability for the service Ypsilanti Township received. He said he wanted the study to have true independence.

Kat, Lakeshore Apartments said she recommended a test community be done to see how it would work and then it could be expanded.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
TOWNSHIP BOARD/CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 3**

Lee Toosen said he had concerns but was happy about the collaboration that was overdue. He stressed it was a win-win for both side.

Rebeccas Kennedy stated she was discouraged with the current services and would like more options.

Samantha Adkins-Towlers said she was an Augusta Township resident where there were no police services. She further stated she owned a company in Ypsilanti Township and she was in favor of a joint authority.

Maude Abraham questioned what would happen to the deputies currently contracted to the Township. She said she was not yet sure where she stood on the issue.

Mayor Schreiber thanked Ypsilanti Township Board for holding meeting . He said the City and Township were currently involved in other areas, as well as YCUA and the District Library. He said he looked forward to working together.

Ms. Barbash asked if there could be a workgroup, in addition to the independent analysis that would include citizens from the City and Township that would be involved in the decision making process.

Supervisor Stumbo said it was the goal of the committee to include residents from both communities.

Tim Neil questioned why the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department was not being held accountable.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe explained a Police Services Millage was on the November ballot and if the millage failed, the Township would have to cut additional deputies. She encouraged residents to get involved and vote in November.

Supervisor Stumbo said she felt this was the right thing to do and it was the right time to proceed. She said this was a big decision, with the number one issue being public safety and she would support it.

Mr. Toosen stated the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township needed someone who cared and under the leadership of Chief Amy Walker, they would have a person who cared.

Ms. Kennedy clarified that the Washtenaw County Deputies do care about our community and she was not placing blame on them.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor
Charter Township of Ypsilanti

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti