

## **Charter Township of Gun Plain**

### **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**January 20, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by supervisor Vandenberg at 7 PM, the following board members were present Shannon, Horton, Vandenberg, Pearson, Morehouse, Meert and Kopka.

Also present was approximately 12 guests.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### **Minutes**

Pearson motion to approve the minutes as written for December 4, 2014 and December 11, 2014. Horton seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Agenda**

Vandenberg motioned to approve the agenda with the following amendments, move Julie Shannon up before new business, number five year-end review, number six new hire, number seven reset public hearing for budget 2015/2016, number eight master plan reviews, number nine JBS. Old business item number three fireworks. Kopka seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Clerks report**

Meert presented the board with a listed checks written for the month of December 2014 and a list of the enterprise funds. Pearson motion to accept report as presented. Morehouse second. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Horton reported that the Chemical Bank checking account balance was \$963,880, the third CD was \$37,770 and the Raymond James investment balance was \$236,596. Pearson motion to accept the treasurers report as presented. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Open to the public**

Diane Barton (Wings of Hope) was present to introduce a new program.

Jarrod Austin submitted a petition and requests from residents on 108th Avenue between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> streets. The general consensus is the road is in very poor shape and has not been maintained properly, this road is a shared road with Otsego Township. The board thanked him for his report and comments.

#### **Julie Shannon**

Vandenberg presented Julie with an Essential Service Award from Michigan Works.

#### **Fire Truck**

Vandenberg explained recently Otsego Fire Departments aerial fire truck broke down and had some serious repairs, Vandenberg requested that the board donate \$1000 towards fixing the truck,

Vandenberg explained that Otsego fire department would respond with that truck if needed in Gun Plain Township. Kopka motioned to donate \$1000. Shannon seconded. Morehouse yes, Horton yes, Kopka yes, Meert yes, Vandenberg yes, Pearson yes and Shannon yes.

#### **Appoint Planning Commission and ZBA**

Vandenberg motioned to appoint Morehouse to fill the planning commission seat until 2016, Steve Curry a three-year term ending 2018. The following people were appointed for three-year terms ending in 2018 for the ZBA, Connie Haan and Jack Kellogg. Kopka seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Backhoe (Cemetery)**

Vandenberg explained that the backhoe is costing us more money to repair than it would to be to replace, Meert stated that the backhoe was at least 30 years old. Pearson motioned to approve the purchase of a new backhoe spending up to \$49,000.00. Kopka seconded. Morehouse yes, Meert yes, Vandenberg yes, Pearson yes, Horton yes and Shannon yes.

#### **Light at 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Taylor Drive**

Recently it came to our attention that the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Taylor Drive is in desperate need of a streetlight, Vandenberg looked into the issue and has recommended to the board that we place a streetlight at this intersection. Pearson motioned to move ahead with a streetlight. Kopka seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Yearend review**

A copy of the year in review 2014 is included in your package.

#### **New hire fire department**

Chief Meert recommended to the board to hire Brian Carpenter. Billy Shannon motioned to hire Brian Carpenter. Horton seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Set public hearing for budget 2015/2016**

The board set a public hearing for February 5, 2015 at 7 PM. For the budget for 2015/2016.

#### **Master plan review**

Vandenberg explained to the board and public that is time to revisit the master plan because it has been five years.

#### **JBS Resolution**

Vandenberg reported that the Michigan State Tax Commission is requesting a new resolution to amend the Industrial IFT.

Resolution 2015 – 1 amending industrial facilities exemption certificate for JBS Plainwell, Inc.

Vandenberg motioned to approve Resolution #2015 – 1. Horton seconded. Morehouse yes, Shannon yes, Horton yes, Pearson yes, Vandenberg yes, Meert yes and Kopka yes. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business**

### **Lake Doster water problem**

Currently the board is still waiting for the test results from Prein and Newhoff, however Vandenberg reported that currently the water is still clear.

### **Roads**

Vandenberg reported that he recently visited Van Buren County to observe some of the roads that they use the 1 inch road mix on within the last couple years, Vandenberg reported that after seeing the condition that the roads were in, he would not recommend that Gun Plain Township use this product. He suggested that the board move forward using the 2 inch asphalt, this means that the Township will not be able to do as many roads this year, however the quality and life of the road is more important. Next summer we will look at other roads that have used the 1 inch road mix to see if the quality of those roads are better. The board's decision for 2015 is to do Midlakes Boulevard, Fairway Ct, Hyders Meadow, James Street, Charles St., Gores Addition, Miller Road, Sir Knight and Clan Alpine. That is approximately 4.04 miles using 2 inch asphalt, in addition we will Chip seal 109<sup>th</sup> to 110<sup>th</sup>. The board asked Vandenberg to get more information pertaining to 10<sup>th</sup> St. on the width, will it be a 6 foot shoulder? Morehouse motion to approve the road plan for 2015. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Kopka motioned to have Vandenberg move forward to have an Allegan County Road Commission's engineer conduct a survey study on 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. Morehouse seconded. Motion carried.

The board also discussed having 8th Street declared a class a road instead of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The board is willing to pass a resolution requesting Allegan County Road commission consider our request.

### **Fire Works**

The Township board is looking into the Township fire Department doing the fireworks instead of having the City of Plainwell, the board ask Vandenberg to speak with city manager Wilson to see if they will help out with security.

### **Monthly reports**

The following reports were submitted fire reports, Deputy Bronson's report, water and sewer report. Morehouse motion to accept reports as presented. Pearson seconded. Motion carried.

### **Comments from board members**

Vandenberg reminded the board that next week is the MTA conference in Grand Rapids Michigan.

### **Open to the public**

County Commissioner Don Black submitted a written synopsis of last month's activities.

### **Adjournment**

Vandenberg motioned to adjourn 8:15 PM. Horton seconded. Motion carried.