

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING & 2005 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
November 28, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor John Gast at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Payne called the roll. Board members present were John Gast, Supervisor, Gloria Payne, Clerk, Betty Korcek, Treasurer, Terry Eichler, Trustee, William "Bill" Geukes, Trustee, Tom Carson Trustee and Fritz Wolf Trustee. Three visitors were present in the audience.

SET 2005 GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE

Supervisor Gast directed board members' attention to the 2005 general millage request to be levied at 2.3. After discussion, Clerk Payne suggested that the vote for this agenda item be taken after we close the public hearing for action.

At 7:55 p.m. the board moved out of the regular meeting and entered into the public hearing.

2006 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING/BOARD DISCUSSION

Supervisor Gast commented that the projected 2006 Lake Charter Township budget is prepared by using historical and projected funds. Capital improvements to infrastructure will be addressed to provide public service and updating/improvement into the future. The budget document presents information by fund and function.

At 7:10 p.m., it was moved by Payne seconded by Eichler to move into the Public Hearing to obtain public comment. All ayes, motion carried.

Public comment included Stewart Beach, Water Plant Superintendent asking, since hiring Brian Thomas full-time could his time be split between the water fund and the park fund. Clerk Payne indicated that for the amount of hours we are talking about, it can become cumbersome in bookkeeping. It was decided that since Dan Scheer helps out at the park, it would be an even trade.

Further, Superintendent Beach indicated that improvements that are done on the sewer system be taken out of the sewer account. Clerk Payne indicated that was fine, but that she would need to be informed when that happens.

Lastly, Superintendent Beach commented that he wondered why he was not receiving a 3% increase.

Mike Jasper asked in what newspaper, and when, was this Public Hearing published. Clerk Payne responded the Herald Palladium's Sunday, November 20, 2005 issue.

He asked why Superintendent Beach was not receiving a 3% increase. Why the police protection expense increased 4.5%. Why the legal expenses increased 300%. Why the Treasurer supplies expense increased. What improvements were going to be done at the Park? The Board should make sure we don't lower the lease payment rates at the Michigan State Police Post. Why James Gast, the Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector has a 4% increase.

The police protection expense increased 4.5% due to the cost of fuel and insurance. The increase to legal expenses is due to contracts that need renewing, the master plan rewrite, etc. The increase to Treasurer supplies is because we have Summer taxes and Winter taxes and the county generates the bills for us - that is their price. The Park improvements yet to be finished are the gazebo, the playscapes, the dugouts, the ceilings, doors and kitchen installments to the existing pavilions. Clerk Payne indicated she would look into why the Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector has a 4% increase.

Erna Linke indicated she would not make comment due to her report from last month being mangled up.

It 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to move out of the public hearing. All ayes, motion carried.

Board Discussion

Supervisor Gast commented that the projected 2006 budget reflects approximately a \$264,532.00 surplus.

Board members commented that the projected 2006 budget is self-explanatory, several meetings were held to put the document together, that it is a guideline and adjustments could be made at the end of 2006 if problems arose.

At 7:32 p.m., it was moved by Geukes seconded by Wolf to enter into the regular meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Carson to set the 2005 tax rate at 2.3 mills. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erna Linke asked how much the update of the master plan will cost. Supervisor Gast indicated that Williams and Works submitted a proposed work scope in the amount of \$9,600.00, less than \$10,000.00, with a completion date of November 2006. Further, we will be getting a commentary from Michigan State University with their recommendations. The Planning Commission needs to be kept on track. Since they charge approximately \$60.00 pr/hr, we can monitor the project and pay on "receipt of document" basis.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business and no further objection it was moved by Carson seconded by Geukes to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor