

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
September 19, 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 to the Flag.

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; Fritz Wolf, Trustee and Trustee Tom Carson. Twelve visitors were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & AGENDA AMENDMENTS

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes - Regular Board Meeting August 15, 2005. It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to approve the August 15, 2005 board meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Jasper inquired why Baroda/Lake Township Police Chief Gary Ruhl was expressing his delight in moving into his new office of the Public Safety Building.

Supervisor Gast responded that he was not aware of any developments regarding a new Public Safety Building. He asked all board members if they had been made aware. All board members indicated that were not aware of a new Public Safety Building.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

It was moved by Eichler seconded by Korcek to approve the August 2005 bills totaling \$211,502.69. All ayes, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE PACKET

Supervisor Gast read a letter from Berrien County Commissioner Don Gast thanking him for the use of the Lake Charter Township Hall for their recent Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The following information was included in board members packets: MTA Faxes; Lake Township Water Filtration Plant monthly report; Lake Charter Township Utility Board meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Planning Commission minutes; Lake Michigan Mailers postage savings statement; Galien River Sanitary Sewer District Authority meeting minutes, project status update; Twin Cities Area Transportation Study Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting minutes; Growth Alliance meeting minutes; Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce meeting minutes; Medic I meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes.

Letter from Berrien County Drain Commissioner Roger Zilke regarding chemical brush and cattail applications/treatments. Letter from State Representative John Proos regarding Legislative Update; MTA Fall District Meeting schedule.

REPORTS

B. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended Joint City of Bridgman/Lake Charter Township meeting;
- b. Attended the Galien River Sanitary District Authority meeting;
- d. Met with Prein & Newhof;
- e. Attended Medic One meeting;
- f. Attended Police Services meeting;
- g. Attended 911 Advisory meeting in Niles;
- h. Attended Cook Plant licensing renewal ceremony;
- i. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- j. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- k. Attended CEO meeting at Benton Township;
- l. Met with Reliable Disposal regarding 2006 bidding.

B. Clerk's Report

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended Joint City of Bridgman/Lake Charter Township meeting;
- b. Attended Cook Plant licensing renewal ceremony;
- c. Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting;
- d. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- e. Attended Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting;
- f. Met with Township Attorney regarding Chikaming Water Agreement.

C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a. Attended Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting;
- b. Attended Berrien County Treasurer's meeting;
- c. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- d. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- e. Attended Joint City of Bridgman/Lake Charter Township meeting;
- f. Attended Cook Plant licensing renewal ceremony,

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Wolf reported the Planning Commission approved a rezoning request and a special land use.

E. Water Superintendent's Report

Water Superintendent Beach reported water plant personnel is doing much needed maintenance work. The project on Snow Road is progressing. Six water main breaks are being repaired. Met with an engineer regarding membrane filtration.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported the sewer expansion project is 85% complete. The system is scheduled to go on-line September 29, 2005. Payment in the amount of \$413,999.23 was approved.

G. Police Department

Trustee Eichler reported the police car is in service. The department secretary has resigned and the job has been posted. 72 applications were received. Interviewing will be held within the next month.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Trustee Eichler reported Fire Truck #20 needs a pump due to water leaking in the air compressor. The cost to repair is approximately \$5000.00 - \$6000.00. Mike Essig has been placed on the Fire Department Roster. Water training at Weko Beach was held. The Fire Department is in need of five sets of new bunker gear. Twenty-three fire calls were dispatched in August with a response time of 5.91 minutes.

VIII. Park Report

Trustee Wolf reported the disc golf course has been utilized regularly. A donation of \$3,000.00 from 5/3rd Bank has been received. The funds for the remaining nine (9) holes will be donated in the near future. The concrete for the gazebo will be poured in the next week. We are waiting for Larry Ott to provide the dimensions of the gazebo.

J. Library Report

Lillian Svitil reported no meeting was held. It is scheduled for September 20, 2005.

K. Utility Committee Report

Supervisor Gast reported Snow Road water main replacement is progressing. Proposals from Prein and Newhof, and Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber regarding the water plant upgrade have been submitted. West Michigan Internet Service has inquired regarding placing a wireless antenna on our water tower.

AGENDA ITEMS

Snow Road Waterline Billing

Supervisor Gast introduced Larry Merritt of Merritt Engineering who informed board members that the Snow Road water line is on schedule with 32% complete.

Trustee Eichler inquired what could be causing all the main breaks, have the pipes been tested? Are they using enough sand to bury the pipes? Why are we the only ones with main breaks? Could research and testing be done on what the problem is?

Mr. Merritt responded that other municipalities have had main breaks, for example, Chikaming and St. Joseph Township, as well as Lincoln Township. Sand is not important with the bagging of pipe. Pipes break due to clay and soil that is up against the pipes. The installers are doing a good job on the bedding. A piece of the ductile pipe can be analyzed.

It was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to approve pay order #1 in the amount of \$88,162.18 to Kalin Construction for the Snow Road Water main replacement Project No. 20404. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Korcek to approve Merritt Engineering Invoice No. 86142 in the amount of \$7,898.00 for the engineering services on the Snow Road Water main replacement. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Payne to table Merritt Engineering Invoice No. 86031 in the amount of \$19,500.00 for engineering services on the Snow Road Water main replacement for the period of December 12, 2004 through May 21, 2005 to receive an itemized bill. All ayes, motion carried.

2005 Tax Rate

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a copy of the tax rate request form, together with a listing of the estimated 2006 income. This form can be amended. The proposed millage rate for 2005 is 2.3 mills for general operations. Trustee Carson indicated with the water line upgrades we are projecting

and the increased cost of steel, it was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to set the 2005 Lake Charter Township tax rate at 2.3 mills. All ayes, motion carried.

Resignation of Beth McNeil, Recording Secretary

Supervisor Gast read a letter from Beth McNeil who indicated that due to the time constraints of owning a business, she can no longer remain as Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission. It was moved by Geukes seconded by Wolf to accept the resignation of Beth McNeil as Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission and hire another individual. All ayes, motion carried.

Fire Department Bunker Gear

Supervisor Gast presented board members with a quote from Moses Fire Equipment, Inc., for five sets of Janesville Commando turnout gear in the amount of \$1,157.75 per set. These prices quoted are plus freight. It was moved by Eichler seconded by Korcek to purchase five sets of Janesville Commando turnout gear from Moses Fire Equipment for \$5,732.75 plus freight. All ayes, motion carried.

Fire Department Membership Amendment

Supervisor Gast tabled this agenda item so the Fire Department Bylaws can be amended and then the township board can act on the recommendation of the Fire Chief.

Fencing Quotes for New Ball Field at Lake Charter Township Park

Supervisor Gast brought before board members three proposals for fence at the new Lake Charter Township Park ball field. Wiltse Fencing \$7,350.00; Cal-Pro Fence Company \$8,320.00 and Custom Fence Company \$9,985.00.

It was moved by Wolf seconded by Geukes to accept the bid of Wiltse Fencing in the amount of \$7,350.00 for fence for the new Lake Charter Township ball field, with a deadline date of December 1, 2005. Superintendent Stewart Beach will handle the Miss Dig information. All ayes, motion carried.

Generator Maintenance Agreement

Supervisor Gast asked board members to review the MacAllister generator maintenance agreement which includes transfer switch inspections for the five generators Lake Charter Township has. It was moved by Payne seconded by Geukes to enter into the Generator Maintenance Agreement with MacAllister Power Systems for \$8,721.00 for the first year and \$4,646.00 for years 2006 and 2007. All ayes, motion carried.

Set 2006 Budget Workshop Dates

Supervisor Gast reported that he set Thursday, October 6, 2005 and Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., for the 2006 Budget Workshop meeting dates.

FPO Proposal and Pilot Study Proposal

Supervisor Gast presented to board members two Water Treatment Plant Facility Process and Operations (FPO) Assessments for Membrane Filter Treatment proposals, one from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., in the amount of \$29,500.00 and the other from Prein and Newhof in the amount of \$34,559.00.

After discussion, it was moved by Wolf seconded by Geukes to accept the proposal from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., due to the vast amount of experience they have had and the vast amount of work performed in similar water plants such as Lake Charter Township's. All ayes, motion carried.

After discussion, it was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to conduct a U.S. Filter pilot trial study of the Lake Charter Township water plant filtering system with a machine plumbed into our system to

monitor and study the water, in the amount of \$10,000.00. This includes freight to move the unit, three days of training and a complete water analysis. This \$10,000.00 could be applied if we decide to purchase the new filtration system from U.S. Filter. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lillian Svtil asked if basketball hoops could be placed at the park.

Loren Berndt indicated that basketball hoops were at one time placed at the park and were destroyed.

Lillian Svtil asked why we are paying someone to open and close the park.

Supervisor Gast responded its \$2.00 per day for Doug Hartzler, a convenient neighbor, to open and close the park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for October 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further objection and no further business it was moved by Carson seconded by Korcek to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor