

**MINUTES OF THE
CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
7:00 P.M.

- Article 1.** Supervisor Beahan called the meeting to order.
Present: Supervisor Beahan, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustee Koessel,
Lewis, McDonald and Shipley.
Absent: None
Also Present: Manager Swayze, Code Enforcement Officer Fast and those listed
in Supplement #1.
- Article 2.** Supervisor Beahan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Article 3.** Motion was made by Trustee Lewis and supported by Trustee Koessel to approve
the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations/Public Comments (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
Supervisor Beahan clarified each public comment section in the Agenda:
- The first listed be related to only Agenda items.
 - The second listed shall be items relating to any other comments.
- Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecuting Attorney – re: Medical Marijuana
Legislation.**
Essentially what the Legislature has done is drop it into
municipalities/townships laps into what you want to do with the new law.
Mr. Becker continued to explain/discuss Public Act 281.
- Article 5. Approval of Consent Agenda**
- a. Receive and File Various Meeting Minutes
 1. Regular/Closed Session Township Board Minutes for 3/22/17.
 2. Regular Planning Commission Minutes for 3/6/2017.
 - b. Receive and File Communications
 1. Letter to Steven Warren, Kent County Road Commission – re:
Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive Intersection.
 2. Letters from Charter Communications – re: Channel Lineup
 3. Letter from Regis – re: Rebate Check
 - c. Education Requests
 1. Jeff Knowles – Columbia Southern University – Legal Aspects of
Safety and Health.
 - d. Receive and File Reports
 1. DDA 2016 Annual Report
 2. Treasurer’s Report for January 2017.
- Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Shipley to
approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 6. Financial Actions**
- a. **Consider Approval of March, 2017 Payroll, Payables and Transfers.**
Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Shipley
to approve the March, 2017 Payroll, Payables and Transfers. Motion
carried unanimously.

b. Consider Pay Draw #1 for the Thornapple River Dr. Utility Extension Project.

Motion was made by Clerk Slater and supported by Trustee Lewis to approve the Pay Draw for the Thornapple River Dr. Utility Extension Project in the amount of \$26,923.50. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Consider Pay Draw #1 for the Thornapple Hills Drain.

Motion was made by Trustee McDonald and supported by Trustee Lewis to approve the Pay Draw for the Thornapple Hills Drain in the amount of \$102,546.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 7. Unfinished Business

Article 8. New Business

017-2017 Consider Request for Additional Use of Burton Park Entranceway Easement.

Manager Swayze reviewed the request received back in the Fall from the Merestone Group on behalf of the property owner at 6081 Burton St. (commonly known as the Tassell Estate). Mr. Kooistra is looking for permission from the Township as a property owner to upgrade the private drive to private street standards. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Trustee Shipley and supported by Trustee McDonald to approve the request from Merestone Group to allow for the upgrade to the Burton Park private drive to private street standards, subject to the conditions recommended by the Infrastructure Committee and an agreement memorializing said conditions to be approved by the Township Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

018-2017 Consider Approval of Contract with Hamilton Helicopter Inc. for Gypsy Moth Suppression Services.

Manager Swayze reviewed the program with the Board. Motion was made by Trustee McDonald and supported by Clerk Slater to approve the contract with Hamilton Helicopter Inc. for Gypsy Moth Suppression Services to spray 433 acres at a cost of \$27,647.05. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 9. Public Comments on any other matters. (limit comments to 3 minutes)

Tom Richardson, 3438 North Applecrest Ct. ,”I have been a resident of Cascade for 15 years. Recent events within the Fire Dept. have raised serious questions regarding my faith in the Board of Trustees. While the only knowledge I have of this situation is from press reports, what I know from them is very troubling. Without going into any detail, what happened is a horrendous failure of oversight of the Fire Explorer Program. According to press reports, one member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Shipley, in his former role as Deputy Chief ‘had direct oversight of the program’. It is troubling to me that an individual that failed to responsibly oversee the Fire Dept. Explorer program and who refuses to acknowledge this failure is one of seven people in charge of governing the Township. I no longer have trust in Mr. Shipley’s ability to carry out the duties of his office. Thus, I believe the future of the Township would best be served by Trustee Shipley resigning his position.”

Brandon Sinclair, 8080 Ritz Pine Dr., (Cannon Township) wanted to introduce himself. “As of a month ago, I was hired by the Attorney General Bill Schuette as his West Michigan constituent relations representative. If there are any issues inside the Township that we could help you with, I would like to be a resource.”

Larry Tietsma, 6560 Tanglewood, asked the difference between Regular and Closed Session minutes. Supervisor Beahan/Manager Swayze offered an explanation.

Nick Katsarelas, 2985 Burrwick Dr., had several items to address to the Board:

- Comment made by Trustee Koessel at the March 22nd meeting regarding a resident in attendance that had made a reference to a 7.5 million dollar estimate for the Township Hall. Trustee Koessel had questioned the veracity of the 7.5 million dollar figure. Trustee Koessel responded to his concerns.
- Are the minutes recorded electronically? Clerk Slater responded that they were. Are the minutes verbatim? Clerk Slater responded that they were a “summary.” If I wanted to receive a recording of a particular meeting, I could do that. Manager Swayze stated that he could FOIA the recording within (2) weeks of the meeting as we do not keep the minutes after they have been approved.

Article 10. Manager Comments

Manager Swayze offered the following comments:

- The Thornapple River Dr. extension project has started. Traffic was backed up Monday morning as people were finding their way around. We have asked the KCRC to look at the timing of the left hand turn lane at Cascade Rd. and 28th St. This project should take around 10 weeks.
- April 24th we will be having our first public meeting for the Community Panel for the Pathway Millage.
- Sandra will be working on Redevelopment Ready Communities with the Township. She has invited a member from the MDEC to come to the next Township Board meeting.

Article 11. Board Member Comments

Trustee Shipley offered the following comments:

- Would again like to thank everyone for coming to the Board meeting tonight.

Trustee McDonald offered the following comments:

- Ben brought up the pathway system. There are a couple of areas on the causeway that have a high level of flooding and it has caused erosion and damage on the embankment and we had to spend several thousand dollars in repairs. Might check with B&G and talk with the Road Commission, we might need another drainage area there.

Supervisor Beahan offered the following comments:

- Would like to thank Jan Holtz for her dedication for the last number of years and her fairness in all the writing she has done.

Trustee Lewis offered the following comments:

- Also wanted to thank Jan for her fairness in all of her writings regarding Cascade Township.

Article 12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Treasurer Peirce and supported by Trustee Koessel to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Biegalle
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Susan B. Slater, Clerk

Robert S. Beahan, Supervisor