

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

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
7:00 P.M.

- Article 1.** Supervisor Beahan called the meeting to order.
Present: Supervisor Beahan, Treasurer Peirce, Clerk Slater, Trustee Koessel,
Lewis, Shipley and McDonald.
Absent: None
Also Present: Manager Swayze, Interim Fire Chief Rowland, DDA/ED Director
Korhorn 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 McDonald and supported by Trustee Koessel to
approve the Agenda as presented. Discussion followed regarding the public
comment sections of the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations/Public Comments (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
- Article 5. Approval of Consent Agenda**
- a. Receive and File Various Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular/Township Board Minutes for 4/12/17.
 - 2. Regular Planning Commission Minutes for 3/20/2017.
 - 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes for 3/14/17 and 4/11/17.
 - b. Receive and File Reports
 - 1. Building Department Monthly Report for March, 2017.
Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee
McDonald to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried
unanimously.
- Article 6. Financial Actions**
- a. **Consider Approval of March, 2017 General/Special Funds.**
Motion was made by Trustee Shipley and supported by Treasurer Peirce
to approve the March, 2017 General/Special Funds. Motion carried
unanimously.
- Article 7. Unfinished Business**
- Article 8. New Business**
- 019-2017 a. Public Comments – Cascade Community Gathering Space
Plan.**
DDA/ED Director Korhorn reviewed the Gathering Space Plan.
DDA/ED Director Korhorn also provided feedback from other
communities. Discussion followed within the Board.
Public Comments included the following:
Ron McGowan, 1400 Dewberry Place, also owns property on
Thornapple River Dr., had concerns with skate park in front of
NOTO's and the Library. Also had concerns regarding parking.
Amphitheatre is too small.
Diane Cutler, Branch Manager-Kent District Library, would like
to endorse this project as being a very sound and solid project.

b. Consider Approval of the Cascade Community Gathering Space.

Discussion among the Board Members included the following:

Trustee Lewis:

- Thanked DDA and the people that volunteered.
- Could justify the “want” but was still struggling with the “need”. Still felt there was an incredible “need” for a new Township Administration Building.
- I am going to vote against it...I am for the thoughts and the concepts, but I am more for the idea the Township needs more growth.

Trustee Koessel:

- It’s a nice project...tend to agree with resident regarding the locality of the skate park. They tend to be more within a “park” area.
- I think tonight sets the tone for what we want to see that property used for in the future.
- I am concerned about the DDA’s prioritization of things.
- Need to focus on all the vacancies within the Township before we focus on building a park.
- Not 100% convinced that is where a park ought to go.
- At this point I am not in favor of this project at this time, it may be something in the future.

Trustee McDonald:

- I am totally in favor of it. I think it is a great idea. It is not a park...it is intended to be a gathering space, a community asset.

Supervisor Beahan:

- I think it will be an economic driver.

Clerk Slater:

- I feel the community is not ready to talk about the Township Hall again...I do believe it’s needed, but I feel it has left a “bad taste in their mouth.”
- If we did something for the community like this gathering space, people would come to it and they would enjoy it. They would have a good attitude about it and maybe later would be more receptive to building a Township Hall.

Treasurer Peirce:

- It’s a community development...not an economic development necessarily.
- I see the DDA as doing economic development not community development. I do not see this as a proper project for the DDA.
- I don’t see the revenues and expenditures in the fund balance of the DDA being able to support this project.
- I think it would take the Township to have to guarantee it.

Trustee Shipley:

- I am in favor of having something for our young people. This Township for years has been prejudiced against young people (in my opinion). I think that they sorely need some place like a skate park.
- I like the idea to have phased costs.

- I think the Township needs to go forward with some plan for a gathering place. Maybe not right here. Maybe develop other small projects...like a skate park, or an amphitheater.
- Perhaps many of these comments are “wrong time, wrong” place today.

Motion was made by Trustee McDonald and supported by Clerk Slater to approve the Community Gathering Space Plan as proposed. Motion failed.

Ayes - 3 Nays – 4 (Shiple, Koessel, Peirce and Lewis)

020-2017 Consider Approval of the Cascade Charter Township Agreement for Business Community Research with Cobalt Community Research.

Manager Swayze reviewed the tasks of an ad-hoc committee that had been put together to look at evaluating and making recommendations regarding the 3-Year pilot program for linehaul bus service along the 28th street corridor.

Motion was made by Clerk Slater and supported by Treasurer Peirce to approve the Cascade Charter Township Agreement for Business Community Research with Cobalt Community Research in the amount of \$7,124.00 with ½ coming from DDA and ½ funds coming from the General Fund. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Ayes – 6 Nays – 1 (Shiple)

021-2017 Consider Approval for an Air Pack Fill Station Project.

Manager Swayze reviewed the need for the air pack fill station at Station #2. Interim Chief Rowland addressed the Board in regards to the need for the filling station. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee McDonald to approve the Air Pack Fill Station Project at a cost of \$42,700. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Representative Thomas Albert was present to introduce himself to the Board and update the Board with a Legislative Update on what is going on in Lansing.

Lori Wisner, 1017 Skyevale was present to address the Board regarding an issue within the Cemetery. Supervisor Beahan advised Mrs. Wisner to contact Manager Swayze to set up a meeting to discuss her issues.

Diane Cutler, Library Branch Manager wanted to remind the Board regarding the last in the series Give Peace a Challenge...the last presentation is tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

Ryan Roe, Community Policing Officer was present to update the Board on issues going on in Cascade Township.

Article 10. Manager Comments

Manager Swayze offered the following comments:

- Reminder we have a 5k going on this weekend. It’s coming from the YMCA down Burton St. That road will be closed for approx. an hour and a half starting around 8:00 a.m.
- We are starting to push public information about our cleanup day. Clean up day area has been moved this year. It has been moved from what was

formerly the Road Commission Building in Ada to the Forest Hills Central High School.

- Thornapple River Dr. extension project is going well. We are currently 1.5 to 2 days behind right now (approx.). Still anticipating that the project will be done well within the 10 week time frame.

Article 11. Board Member Comments

Trustee Shipley offered the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for attending.

Trustee Koessel offered the following comments:

- Is the newsletter all set to go for June? (Manager Swayze stated the deadline is May 10) He wondered if we were going to publicize in the newsletter the roads we have selected for resurfacing.
- Have we gotten any feedback from the Kent County Road Commission regarding the letter we had sent to them regarding the intersection at Thornapple River Dr. and Cascade? Manager Swayze responded that we had not.

Trustee Lewis offered the following comments:

- Just wanted to “tip the hat” to the old Planning Commission member who took a lot of “guff” while they were going thru some of the meetings requiring developers to provide landscaping with their developments. Cascade is a beautiful place to live in today because of it.

Supervisor Beahan offered the following comments:

- Went to a graduation ceremony at Station #2 at the Fire Dept. It was for the South Kent Fire Academy. One of our firefighters, Jim Walker, in conjunction with the Byron Center Fire Dept. helped run the program. He congratulated the Fire Dept. on hosting this Academy and is looking forward to more collaborate efforts like that in the future.
- Thank you to Diane Cutler for getting the World Affairs Council here in Cascade.

Manager Swayze asked for Chief Rowland to approach the Board and fill them in on a call that they ran last night.

- Last night the guys got to deliver a baby. (Firefighter Walker and Firefighter Bolt) It was a baby girl.

Article 12. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Biegalle
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Susan B. Slater, Clerk

Robert S. Beahan, Supervisor