

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

Wednesday June 8, 2016
7:00 P.M.

- Article 1.** Supervisor Beahan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Supervisor Beahan, Clerk Bell, Treasurer Peirce, Trustee Lewis, Koessel, Goldberg and McDonald.
Absent: None
Also Present: Manager Swayze, Assessor McCarty 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)**
Chris/Kathy Taylor, 6027 Champagne Ct., addressing the Board regarding the new Township Hall proposal specifically not having the information sent out to residents. Luxury far beyond necessity.
Chad Stabler, (% Gary and Pamela Sage, 1755 Beard Dr.), had concerns regarding the proposed Township Hall...not good stewardship of tax dollars.
Frank/Irene Drew, 1730 Mont Rue, very much opposed to a brand new building and it is not needed. Loves the old building.
Bob Merkler, 7160 Burger, posed questions to the Board...who was on the feasibility study and what the cost for the new fire station is going to be.
Jim Sweetman, 1780 Beard Dr., reviewed Cascade Connections and until recently did it mention a “feasibility study”. Should be up for vote.
Tom Ippel, 2861 Cascade Springs, disappointed that we have been left out of the conversation regarding the proposed Township Hall.
Joan Artis, 3065 Bannockburn Dr., had concerns with Township “drop off” debacle. Regarding the proposed Township Hall...just want to see smiling faces when she comes in.
Grace Lesperance, 2573 Cascade Springs Dr., it’s easy to spend other people’s money...and in this case its “you guys” proposing to spend a lot of our money.
Stephanie Hoffer, 2802 Burrwick Dr., stated a lot of the “dissent” that we have been hearing is clearly a lack of communication by the Township. Also stated several “benchmarks” that have shown the Board is being “responsible” stewards of the township monies.
Tom Koster, 1930 Boxthorne Ct., has there been a public hearing with questions answered by the Board.
Kevin Furmaga, 6080 Champagne Ct., agree with much of what has been stated...a large part of this has been a communication problem.
Trustee McDonald stated that he knew where the residents were coming from as he was in their shoes in 2001 regarding the Camel Back Bridge. We hear you and get the message.
Trustee Goldberg also stated he too very much appreciate what he has heard tonight. It’s been a frustration that we haven’t had more public input to this point. From what I am hearing, it’s because people are just not aware of what’s going on. Certainly some of that blame falls on us. Your input is good, glad we have it and hope to get more and we will try to do a better job getting out the word and getting more input.
Dan Hill, 7684 Kirkwall, my frustration is the lack of communication.
Nick Katsavelas, 2985 Burrwick Dr., addressed the question/answer sheet put out by the Township.

Julie Beezhold, 6783 Forest Valley Dr., people are very frustrated. Appalled by the Feasibility study...would like to see "efficiencies" explored further.

Irene Drew, 1730 Mont Rue asked that the voters decide if there is a new township hall needed.

Tom Ippel, 2861 Cascade Springs, is there some limit on how much the Township Board can spend without them needing to be a vote of the people.

Frank Dozema, 1674 Mont Rue Dr., clearly there is a communication problem.

Article 5. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Receive and File Various Meeting Minutes
 1. Regular Township Board Minutes of 5/25/16.
 - b. Receive and File Reports
 1. Building Department's Monthly Report – May, 2016.
 2. Fire Department's Monthly Report – April, 2016
 - c. Education Requests
 1. Todd Stevenson/Clem Bell – WMD Radiological/Nuclear course for Hazardous Material Technicians – October 3-6, 2016 – Nevada National Security Site.
 2. Roger McCarty – IAAO Conference – August 28-31, 2016 – Tampa FL. Total amount not to exceed \$1,000.
- Motion was made by Trustee Lewis and supported by Trustee Goldberg to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 6. Financial Actions

- a. **Consider Approval of May 2016, Payables, Payroll and Transfers.**

Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee McDonald to approve the May 2016 Payables, Payroll and Transfers. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Consider Approval of Pay Draw #8 for the Museum Garden Project.**

Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee Koessel to approve the Pay Draw #8 for the Museum Garden Project.

Article 7. Unfinished Business

Article 8. New Business

- 042-2016**
- a. **Public Hearing – A Request for Approval of IFT Exemption Certificate for a New Facility for Bradford White.**

Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Lewis to move into public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. Assessor McCarty reviewed the request. No public comment heard. Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee Koessel to reconvene into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Consider Approval of IFT Exemption Certificate for a New Facility for Bradford White at 5005 Kraft Ave.**

Motion was made by Trustee Goldberg and supported by Trustee Lewis to approve the IFT Exemption Certificate for a New Facility for Bradford White at 5005 Kraft Ave. for (4) years. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

043-2016 Consider Acceptance of FY 2015 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Doug Vredevelde the Townships auditor gave a presentation for the fiscal year audit. The Township has a clean unqualified opinion which is a good thing and what you hope for in an audit. Motion was made by Trustee Koessel and supported by Clerk Bell to accept the FY 2015 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

044-2016 Consider Approval of the Kent County Road Commission Preparing and Approving a MDOT Transportation Alternative Grant for a Pedestrian Pathway Crossing on the Burton Street Bridge over I-96.

Manager Swayze reviewed the potential grant opportunity to fund a separated pedestrian bridge at the I-96 overpass. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Treasurer Peirce and supported by Trustee McDonald to approve the County to prepare the grand request.

Aye – 4

Nay – 3 (Bell, Goldberg, Koessel)

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

Grace Lesperance, 2573 Cascade Springs Dr., wondering if Township could purchase the property next to ACE Hardware to keep it woods...open space. What is the status of the expansion of Leslie Tassell Park.

Article 10. Manager Comments

Manager Swayze offered the following comments:

- The playground at the Rec Park is completed. Finished it a day and a half early. We had a tremendous turn out for the Community build. Thanked Clerk Bell for all his help. The next phase to the project is pouring the rubber surface and this takes approx. (2) weeks. We are trying to coordinate with the donor Claude Robinson to make sure he can attend some type of opening. We want to have it open before the 4th of July weekend.
- Separate from the Township Hall project, the DDA is working on a conceptual planning project for the open space at Jacksmith and 28th St. They are having their first public input meeting this June 14th at the Wisner Center from 6-8 p.m. This will be the first of 2 public input sessions. We also have a survey on line.

Article 11. Board Member Comments

Supervisor Beahan offered the following comments:

- Would like to make a comment regarding the public comment policy that we have. When most of the present board members started we did not have a policy for public comment. And there wasn't an opportunity in the meeting for someone to address the Board and make their comments. We thought about it and a number of years ago we instigated a public comment section for the meeting. Not only at the start of the meeting but at the end of the meeting. I looked at other government bodies have and tried to develop on that would be appropriate for this venue. One of the things that most of them had (and that we didn't put on) was no cheering, comments or applause. Because what it really does is it intimidates other people that are in the audience speaking that would like to speak against something maybe that is against the majority that are talking. I think it also adds to the mob mentality and makes it more of a reality show. We

didn't think we needed to put that in. Most communities...if they have a public comment policy they request no applause. When Trustee Lewis made the comment regarding applause it was "in-line" and "appropriate" for him to request. We want to hear resident's comments.

Treasurer Peirce offered the following comments:

- The big take away I took from this meeting (and I wish some of our other commenters had stayed for the entire meeting) is that we did not do a very good job in communicating about the new Township Hall. We will do our best to address this and change it and make sure it is transparent to our residents.
- I have been a CFO and a general counsel of three companies ...one of which was a New York Stock Exchange public company, so I have a little background on finance. I took this job not for the money. If you know what we get paid...its peanuts. We are probably one of the lowest paid Township Boards in the County and one of the best managed and governed townships in the State. I take exception to any thought that we were doing this for self-grandiose plans or we are trying to build a monument. The four trustee do not even have offices in the Township Hall. Rob, Clem and I are part-time...my furniture I think comes from the Korean War. I am proud of that...I want the tax payers to see that I am not spending a lot of money on "stuff. I want you to believe that our intentions are as good as they can be... we are conservators of your finances. This is one of the best professional boards I have served on.

Trustee Lewis offered the following comments:

- Thank you Rob for clarifying my "mistake" in offering the idea that the audience hold their applause.
- This job as being a Trustee...coming to meeting and talking to "blank chairs" gets boring really quick. Many of our meetings nobody shows up. I am so happy to have you here. We really take care of our dollars and try our very best to look out for the residents. I am proud as punch as to what this Board has done for your tax dollars and taking care of it.

Trustee Koessel offered the following comments:

- I pay taxes just like all of you do. What I think is really important for you to understand...I don't disagree with the communication thing...Jack said it best "you folks have no idea how many hours this Board spends, it is not just this meeting. There are committees...we probably had 3-4 public meetings on the issue at hand. Going back to the day we had the discussion ...regarding the feasibility study. The current Township Hall is 50 years old, there are limits what can be done to it. I think the Board made a fiscally responsible decision...my whole career has been finance. I don't take what I do lightly when it comes to the financial spending of the Township monies. This Board does want to hear residents input...it's good to have people come here and see what we do.

Clerk Bell offered the following comments:

- Hats off to all three of you guys. I wish the people that left were here to hear that. I'm new here...I've been on the Board for 2 months. I have the water right behind my ears. What I do bring is construction...and if we do go forward, you will have my eyes looking at every single number. I appreciate the candor. We need it more...everyone needs it, you may not want to hear it, but there is a right thing and what you're hearing.

Trustee Mc Donald offered the following comments:

- I appreciate all the input and I really like to responses here...I wish the others that left were hear to hear.

Trustee Goldberg offered the following comments:

- I agree with much of what has been said. Happy to talk with anyone who wants to talk with me or any other board member after the meeting or any other time would be happy to answer questions at that point.

Article 12. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Biegalle
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Clem Bell, Clerk

Robert S. Beahan, Supervisor