

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

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Wisner Center

2870 Jacksmith Dr SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

AND

Virtual Zoom Meeting

7:00 P.M.

HYBRID FORMAT

- Article 1.** Supervisor Lesperance called the meeting to order.
Present: Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustees Koessel, McDonald, Shipley and Noordhoek
Absent: None
Also Present: Township Manager Swayze, Development Director Korhorn, Mary Ann Sabo and Hunter Zuk-Sabo P.R., Attorney Mike Homier-Foster Swift, Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty, Planning Commissioners Ralph Moxley and Scott Rissi, Deputy Douglas-Kent County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Clerk Brott, and those listed on the Supplement
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3. Approval of Agenda**
Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations**
- a. Update on Burton Park Oak Wilt Issue
Chair Wanty presented and answered questions.
 - b. Round Hill Subcommittee of Planning Commission Recommendations
Planning Commissioners Moxley and Rissi presented the findings and answered questions. Considerable discussion.
- Article 5. Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
- 1. Jeff Dionne-2984 Thornapple River Dr-Re Round Hill, the former Planning Director selectively enforced rules. When he has reported the abandoned house falling down the hill, he was referred to Kent County who then referred him to the Township. Criticized the lack of oversight and connection between departments.
 - 2. Cherie Grunske-3056 Thornapple River Dr-Water comes down the hill beside her property. She has pictures of the muddy, silty water. When she reported this, she was referred to the Kent County Road Commission. Re uninhabited house, it cannot be inhabited because it cannot have septic. Nothing has been done about it.
 - 3. Jennifer Puplava via Zoom-2180 Spaulding-Chair of DDA-Re appointments to the Board, thanked the Supervisor for listening to concerns.

Township Board Minutes

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Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Receive and File Minutes
 - 1. Township Board – 12/15/21
 - 2. Public Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – 11/17/21
- b. Receive and File Reports
 - 1. Treasurer’s Report – List of Current Depositories and Investments
 - 2. Treasurer’s Department Report – November 2021
 - 3. Cascade Inspection Services Report – December 2021
- c. Receive and File Education Requests
 - 1. Krissi Brott – MAMC Basic Institute – Mt. Pleasant, MI – March 20-25, 2022
 - 2. Jon Snyder – Intro to Anatomy and Physiology; Fire Service Career Development (2 courses) – Lansing Community College
- d. Receive and File Communication
 - 1. None

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 7. Financial Actions

- a. Consider Approval of November 2021 Financial Reports
- b. Consider Approval of November 2021 Payroll, Payables, and Transfers

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Koessel to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 8. Unfinished Business

128-2021 Consider Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions

Supervisor Lesperance presented the Board, Commission, and Committee appointments for 2022. Considerable Discussion.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Noordhoek to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Appointments, including the addition of Stephen Stephan and Gordon Reynolds, and excluding Gary DeWitt who no longer wished to serve. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Board of Review Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Planning Commission Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Parks Committee Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Noordhoek to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Thornapple River Special Assessment District Ad-Hoc Committee additional Appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve Supervisor Lesperance’s Township Board Standing Committee Appointments. Motion failed by 3-4 roll call vote. In favor-Supervisor Lesperance, Trustee Noordhoek, and Trustee Shipley. Opposed-Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustee Koessel, and Trustee McDonald.

Article 9.

New Business

001-2022 Public Hearing on the Proposed Model Stormwater Ordinance for Cascade Township

Manager Swayze presented and answered questions.

Trustee McDonald exited the meeting at 8:58 pm and returned at 9:01 pm.

Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to open Public Hearing.

Motion carried unanimously. No comments made.

Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to close Public Hearing.

Motion carried unanimously.

002-2022 Consider Request to Approve Resolutions for Grand Rapids Triathlon to Close Public Streets on June 11 – 12, 2022 (Roll Call)

Director Korhorn and John Conkling, co-owner of Tris4Health/Michigan Endurance Holdings, LLC, presented and answered questions.

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

003-2022 Consider Streetlight Request and Resolution for 30th Street and Wycliffe Dr. (Roll Call)

Director Korhorn presented and answered questions. Considerable discussion.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Clerk Slater to approve. Motion carried 6-1 by

roll call vote. In favor-Supervisor Lesperance, Treasurer Peirce, Trustee Koessel, Trustee McDonald, Trustee Noordhoek, and Trustee Shipley. Opposed-Clerk Slater.

004-2022 Consider Township Participation in National Opioid Settlement

Manager Swayze presented. Township Attorney Homier and Manager Swayze answered questions and advised.

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

005-2022 Consider Amendments to the Township Committees Policy

Trustee Koessel presented and answered questions. Township Attorney Homier answered questions and advised. Considerable discussion.

Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve Supervisor Lesperance's Governance Committee appointees. Motion carried 6-1 vote. In favor-Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustees Koessel, McDonald, and Shipley. Opposed-Trustee Noordhoek.

Recess

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to recess. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:40 pm.

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee Koessel to reconvene. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened at 9:49 pm.

006-2022 a) Public Hearing to Consider the Removal of a Member of the Planning Commission Pursuant to MCL 125.3815 (9)

Trustee McDonald presented the written charges against Planning Commissioner Meurlin.

Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee McDonald to open Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commissioner Meurlin made a statement: The charges do not meet malfeasance nor misfeasance. The charges were brought because some members of the Board are trying to remove him because they don't like him. Mentioned that if his statements are considered malfeasance and/or misfeasance, statements made by Clerk Slater about violating the Open Meetings Act and the 2020 Election should be considered the same way. He has a desire for transparency.

1. Ralph Moxley-1757 Hillsboro-Planning Commissioner and Round Hill Subcommittee; In support of Mr. Meurlin.
2. Chris Noordyke-3720 Oak Bluff-Planning Commission Chairperson; In support of Mr. Meurlin.
3. Brittany Martin-668 Adaway-Outside door is locked.
4. Jennifer Pupilava via Zoom-Not in support of Mr. Meurlin.
5. Cherie Grunske-His comment on December 6 was not good, but what he has done for the Township is good.
6. Scott Rissi-7238 Cascade Rd-Mr. Meurlin's actions are unbecoming, but he has brought a lot to the Planning Commission.
7. Keely Shay via Zoom-In support of Mr. Meurlin.
8. Brittany Martin-In support of Mr. Meurlin.
9. John DeVries-7352 Grachen-In support of Mr. Meurlin

Three letters were read by Clerk Slater regarding the matter. Karen Kania, 1975 Watermark Dr., and Steve Parker, 1609 Laraway, requested that Mr. Meurlin be removed. Vicki Monterusso, 6647 Tanglewood Dr., supports Mr. Meurlin. Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to close Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Consider the Removal of a Member of the Planning Commission Pursuant to MCL 125.3815 (9)

Planning Commissioner Meurlin tendered his resignation during his rebuttal statement. Township Attorney Homier advised and answered questions. Considerable discussion. Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to accept Planning Commissioner Meurlin's resignation. Motion carried by 4-3 vote. In favor-Treasurer Peirce, Clerk Slater, Trustees Koessel and McDonald. Opposed-Trustees Noordhoek and Shipley, and Supervisor Lesperance.

Article 10. Discussion
None

Article 11. Public Comments – Any comments...whether it is on the Agenda or not. (limit comments to 3 minutes)

1. Ralph Moxley-Planning Commissioner; Willing to serve on Parks Committee.
2. Keely Shay via Zoom-Thanked Mr. Meurlin for his service. Asked Trustee Koessel who drafted the policy change and whether or not he consulted with other Board members and/or Township Counsel.
3. Brittany Martin via Zoom-The damage to the public has been done. The letter in the packet from Clerk Lyons should be posted online ASAP.

4. Keely Shay via Zoom-Quoted Albert Einstein: The only thing worse than ignorance is arrogance.

Article 12. Manager Comments
None

Article 13. Board Member Comments

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked everyone for coming.
2. Trustee Noordhoek-Asked about the status of the progress report from Sabo, current police patrols, and if the money had been refunded to the Police Fund.
3. Supervisor Lesperance-PFAS Community meeting January 13, 2022, then on February 3, 2022.

Article 14. Adjournment
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Clerk Slater to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 11:12 pm.

Krissi Brott
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk