

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

Wednesday, March 23, 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 and those listed in the Supplement
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3.** **Approval of Agenda**
Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve the agenda with the addition of Turtle Creek and an RFP for Engineering Services to Article 10 Discussion.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4.** **Presentations**
None
- Article 5.** **Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
1. Craig Meurlin-6333 Thornhills Ct-Re the January 2022 Disbursements report: Paid four different legal fees to different legal firms, including legal fees paid to the engineering firm Fishbeck. Manager Swayze advised that different firms are retained for different issues, including PFAS, and the Tax Tribunal cases. He will review the Fishbeck fees.
 2. Jeff Hughes-7250 Redbud Lane-Re deer cull: Population has noticeably increased. Deer-resistant plants and repellants are not working, an indicator that the herd is increasing and hungry. Reasons for this may be shorter winters, larger number of births, and reduced natural habitat. The Township should be concerned about disease (chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis, lyme disease-transmitted to humans) and starvation.
 3. Scot VanSolkema via Zoom-2570 Orange Ct-Re deer cull: Has seen many more deer eating plants, trees, etc. The deer do not belong in the village; the density is too much for this area.
 4. Ruth Thompson-Redbud Lane-Re deer cull: Experienced unbelievable damage from the deer - they're eating species unusual to their diet. It's dangerous for motorists and a nuisance.

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Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Receive and File Minutes
 - 1. Township Board – 3/9/22
 - 2. Thornapple River SAD Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes – 1/17/22
 - b. Receive and File Reports
 - 1. Treasurer’s Report – 2021 Tax Collection Report
 - 2. Treasurer’s Department Report – January 2022
 - 3. Cascade Fire Department Annual Report
 - 4. LGROW Annual Report
 - c. Receive and File Education Requests
 - 1. Todd Pell – Michigan IAAI Annual Arson School – Lansing, MI – May 23-26, 2022
 - 2. Doug Poolman – Michigan IAAI Annual Arson School – Lansing, MI – May 23-26, 2022
 - d. Receive and File Communication
 - 1. Liquor License Compliance Review – Exit 76 Corporation
- Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 7. Financial Actions

- a. Consider Approval of January 2022 Payables, Payroll, and Transfers
 - b. Consider Approval of January 2022 Financial Statements
- Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Treasurer Peirce to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 8. Unfinished Business

None

Article 9. New Business

- 019-2022 Consider the 2022 Spongy Moth Control Spray Program**
Manager Swayze advised that Gypsy Moths are now known as Spongy Moths.
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
- 020-2022 Consider a Contract for Aquatic Weed Management for Thornapple River**
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
- 021-2022 Confirm Township Manager Appointments for Department Head Positions**
Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 10. Discussion

- 1. Deer Cull
Manager Swayze presented information on deer cull with data from Meridian Township.
 - Trustee Koessel – Spoke with Jeff Hughes about his discussions with White Buffalo, Inc. They determine if there is over-population, and then they discuss

cost. They hunt the deer at night with silencers. They donate the meat when possible to charities. Disease would stop donation of meat.

- Supervisor Lesperance – This matter is on the Parks Committee agenda at the 4/19/22 meeting. Wants to make certain that the public has a chance to speak on this.
- Trustee Shipley – Asked if the DNR can provide guidance? Manager Swayze has the contact information. Would like to be involved.
- Trustee Noordhoek – Used to hunt deer, but does not anymore. Nature does a good job, and doesn't want to be involved in hiring people to shoot deer.
- Trustee McDonald – This is pervasive problem; we as a Township need to do something about it.
- Manager Swayze will reach out to the DNR to schedule an appearance at another meeting.

2. RFP for Engineering

Treasurer Peirce requested that the Board discuss RFPs for Engineering services because of the amount of money spent on these services in the past.

- Trustee Shipley – Interviews are beginning, and we should wait to see what skills are brought by the new person before starting an RFP.
- Manager Swayze – The Township should wait to see what strengths a candidate brings before proceeding. We could do a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) and have firms available on an as-needed basis depending on the project.
- Supervisor Lesperance – Four sections of pathway repairs cost the Township \$1.44M. The Engineer charged over \$700K. We should have an in-house Engineer, but also an RFP/RFQ.
- Trustee Noordhoek – Would like to see someone hired who can do most of the work previously performed by Engineering firms.

3. Turtle Creek

Trustee Shipley presented communication he received from residents. In 2013 PUD Amendments to the golf course, many uses were allowed. It appears that debris is being dumped in the creek, and it looks like a junkyard. This creek empties into Thornapple River.

- Manager Swayze has been working with EGLE; also, Road Commission may become involved if there is erosion.

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

1. Jeff Hughes-Re the deer cull: There is a large concern of deer infected with COVID. They are destroying the natural flora, though they will not eat garlic mustard. The deer population is increasing due to warmer winters and no natural predators.
2. Josef Huber-6778 Turnberry Dr. SE-Re the deer cull: Frustrating to see deer in his driveway. Through the HOA, hunting is now allowed. The residents are trying to pass something through the HOA to allow bow hunting.

Article 12. Manager Comments

1. Public Input Opportunities: A series of four Strategic Planning Workshops are scheduled. Focus groups are meeting 3/24/21 and 3/29/21, with two more in April. On 3/28/2021, the Fire Department is holding an Open House with staff and project managers of the Station #1 project available. There will be a Listening Session to review the Fire Station #1 project 6-7 pm just before the regularly scheduled Board

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meeting. All dates, times, and locations are on the Township website, as well as videos about the Fire Station #1 project.

Article 13. Board Member Comments

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked all in attendance, both in person and virtually. Bring your neighbors.
2. Trustee Noordhoek-Requested an update on police patrols and the money that was put back into the fund. Manager Swayze and Supervisor Lesperance met with the Kent County Sheriff's Department about high visibility patrols and hotel populations and activities. In the short term, they have a proposal for a certain amount of extra patrols. The long term solution might be another community policing officer. This will come to the Board April 13 for approval.
3. Supervisor Lesperance-Virgil Westdale, a 104-year-old resident, passed away recently. He was a highly decorated veteran and author. His unit was the first to enter Dachau to free prisoners. He was given the Congressional Medal of Honor. She would like to discuss creating a memorial of some kind.

Article 14. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Krissi Brott
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk