

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

Wednesday, April 13, 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, Chief Magers, Scott Hogan-Foster Swift, Vanessa Walstra-KDL, Warren Creamer-Municipal Financial Consultants Inc (MFCI) via Zoom, Deputy Clerk Brott, and those listed in the Supplement
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3. Approval of Agenda**  
Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Clerk Slater to approve the agenda with the revision of Article 9, 023-2022 regarding the reinstatement of the Pathway Ad Hoc Committee being moved to Article 10, Discussion, as it doesn't require Board action. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations**
- a. Fire Department Promotion Ceremony  
Chief Adam Magers and Cascade Charter Township Firefighters celebrated a retirement and promotions.
  - b. Cascade Library Refresh Project  
Vanessa Walstra-KDL, Melissa Malburg-Progressive AE, and Ken Brandsen-Progressive AE presented a plan to update the Cascade Library and its grounds.
- Article 5. Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
1. Tom Richardson-3438 N. Applecrest Ct-Re Pathways: From a survey of residents taken by the Pathway Committee before it was dissolved, the two dominant values were safety and fitness. Presented heat maps from the fitness app Strata.
  2. Wendy Sturm-2570 Hunter Green Ct-Is in support of the library remodel and outdoor space. It is used a lot for the community. There would be a good amount of volunteer support.
- Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda**
- a. Receive and File Minutes
    1. Township Board – 3/23/2022

Township Board Minutes

April 13, 2022

- b. Receive and File Reports
  - 1. Treasurer’s Department Report – February 2022
  - 2. Building Department – March 2022 Report Summary
- c. Receive and File Education Requests
  - 1. Bill Benoit – COCM 2022 Spring Conference – Bay City, MI – May 16-18, 2022
  - 2. Ron Sabin – COCM 2022 Spring Conference – Bay City, MI – May 16-18, 2022
  - 3. Aaron Newton – MMTA 2022 Basic Institute – Mt. Pleasant, MI – April 24-29, 2022
- d. Receive and File Communication
  - 1.

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

**Article 7. Financial Actions**

- a. Consider Approval of February 2022 Financial Reports
- b. Consider Approval of February 2022 Payroll, Payables and Transfers
- c. Consider Approval of March 2022 Payroll, Payables and Transfers

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

**Article 8. Unfinished Business**

None

**Article 9. New Business**

**022-2022 Consider an Appointment to the Planning Commission**

Supervisor Lesperance appointed Joe Engel to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

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

**023-2022 Consider Reinstatement of the Pathway Ad Hoc Committee**

(Moved to Discussion Section/Art. 10 per Board vote in Approval of Agenda/Art. 3.)

**024-2022 Consider a Kent County Road Commission Work Order for Pre-Engineering Services for Snow Ave. Road Paving**

Considerable discussion.

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

**025-2022 Consider Agreements for Bond Counsel and Financial Advisory Services for Fire Station #1 Bonding**

Warren Creamer-MFCI answered questions via Zoom.

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

**026-2022 Consider Additional Funding for Kent County Sheriff Department Additional Services**

Considerable discussion.

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

**027-2022 Consider Pathway Project and Crossing on Cascade Road between Kenrob Dr. and Pine Park Dr.**

Considerable Discussion.

Motion by Treasurer Peirce, seconded by Trustee Shipley to table the item. Motion carried unanimously.

**Article 10. Discussion**

1. Reinstatement of the Pathway Ad Hoc Committee (Moved to Discussion Section/Article 10 per Board vote in Approval of Agenda/Article 3)  
After considerable discussion, the Board decided it is needed.

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

1. Brian Holcomb-3415 Glenstone Ct-Re Dumping at Egypt Creek Landscaping, formerly Centennial Golf Course: Not a good neighbor (loud music and bright lights at very late hours), dumping causing the flood plain to erode, disregard for other residents and wildlife, not being used for the intended purpose. Hopefully the Township can do something.
2. Joe Gindzin-3420 Glenstone Ct-Re Dumping at Egypt Creek Landscaping: Received a threatening letter in 2021 from Egypt Creek Landscaping claiming adverse possession. The company is clearcutting trees and they are terrible neighbors.
3. Robert Kramer-3590 Meadowood Trails-Resides on the opposite side of Egypt Creek Landscaping, and all the lights shine into his house. Concrete blocks have been shoved into the river, and Turtle Creek is now stopped up because of their dumping. The non-conforming use PUD was for the golf course and should be revoked. As a resident, he has to follow a set of rules, but it seems not this business owner.
4. Anne England-3415 Glenstone Ct-Re Dumping at Egypt Creek Landscaping: Presented pictures to the Board of her property before Egypt Creek Landscaping bought the land, and after they purchased and started dumping in the Creek. It is devaluing homes, and the elevation has changed in the neighborhood. Wants to have their non-conforming use PUD revoked.
5. Richard Marshall-7465 Sheffield-Re Dumping at Egypt Creek Landscaping: Does not live in the neighborhood but drives by it and it looks disgusting. Re Additional Funding for Kent County Sheriff's Office: How will they be held accountable? Manager Swayze advised the Township receives a quarterly report which is made available on the website. Can a volunteer group help with code enforcement?
6. Scott Rissi-7238 Cascade Rd-Re Additional Funding for Kent County Sheriff's Department: Can some of the extra policing hours occur at night? Re Pathways: Extending the pathway from 36<sup>th</sup> St to Pine Park would be safer than a median and is only 1,200 feet more.
7. Piotr Szczepanski-1460 Hillsboro Ave-Thank you for starting the Pathways Committee again.
8. Tom Richardson-Re Pathways: Continued his comments and presentation of the heat map from the Strata app.

9. Jeff Hughes-7250 Redbud Ln-Re deer in Burton Park: Some people are feeding the deer, which is a misdemeanor. The deer overpopulation must be addressed. Re Library Presentation: Perennials will be destroyed by the deer.

**Article 12. Manager Comments**

1. Two more focus groups will be held: 4/14-Growth Management & Preservation, and 4/21-Road Safety & Streetscapes, both 6:00-7:30 pm at the Wisner Center and via Zoom.

**Article 13. Board Member Comments**

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked all in attendance, both in person and virtually.
2. Treasurer Peirce-The Board should receive the Forensic Audit Report in advance of presentation.

**Article 14. Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Treasurer Peirce to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Krissi Brott  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

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Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

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Susan B. Slater, Clerk