

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

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

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 Korstange, Trustees Koessel, McDonald, Shipley and Noordhoek  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Interim Township Manager Andrzejewski, Fire Chief Magers, Planning Director Hilbrands, Human Resources Director Murawski, Zoning Administrator Smith-Jacoby, 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 Trustee McDonald to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4.** **Presentations**  
**a. Fire Department Promotions**  
**b. Parks and Recreation Director Update – Tassell & Memorial Parks**
- Article 5.** **Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
1. Pete Buurstra-8695 Laurel Ridge Dr-Re Wormies: Concerns about possible odor and increased traffic; the Ordinance is clear that the Planning Commission/Township have the responsibility to regulate.
  2. Mike Hemmingsen-8475 Laurel Ridge Dr-Requested the Board table the Wormies issue for 30 days. Suggested a third-party study be done on the impacts on property values.
  3. Cheryl Schuch-8609 Laurel Ridge Dr-In support of a 30-day table of the issue. Residents have a personal financial investment. Concerned about health hazards to residents; also a bus stop is in the same place as Wormies' proposed driveway.
  4. Darcy Afman-8717 Laurel Ridge Dr-Requests 30-day extension; is opposed to Wormies. Thinks it will impact her well, and is concerned about already heavy traffic, as well as air quality.
  5. Alexandra Campau-5745 Whitneyville-Employee of Wormies. Business is using a new micro-nutrient capable of breaking down PFAS.
  6. Melissa Bonner-8570 Laurel Ridge Dr-Supports Wormies but is concerned about close proximity to home. Will the Township follow through on infractions?
  7. Marc Afman-8717 Laurel Ridge Dr-Talked about his health concerns of Wormies as a physician. Trustee Koessel asked what would make him feel safe? He responded that a third-party study would help; more concerned about health than odor.

8. Sophie Pokhrel via Zoom-8698 Laurel Ridge Dr-Both physicians who are concerned about health implications re Wormies. No studies have been done by Wormies.
9. Craig Rumschlag-8456 Laurel Ridge Dr-Is Wormies already in operation?
10. Chandler Michalsky-5745Whitneyville-Re Wormies: Only six (6) trucks per week. Would you rather have 600 cars with a subdivision? Microorganisms are used in the process. The land needs remediation and this helps to regenerate soil. The farms in the area have large compost piles.
11. Richard Giebel-8469 Laurel Ridge Dr-Does not oppose Wormies, but the location of the business.
12. Amy Freeman via Zoom-In favor of Wormies. Serves on the Michigan Organic Council. This is a small-scale operation.
13. Luis Chen via Zoom-In favor of Wormies. Thanked the Board and Planning Commission. This is a small operation.
14. Scot VanSolkema via Zoom-2570 Orange Ct-Was initially opposed to Wormies, but now is in support due to learning about it. The soil needs to be rejuvenated. Re liquor license: Is in support of Backyard Restaurant getting it.

**Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda**

- a. Receive and File Minutes
  1. Township Board Meeting – 6/14/23 & 6/16/23
- b. Receive and File Reports
 

None
- c. Receive and File Education Requests
 

None
- d. Receive and File Communication
 

None

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

**Article 7. Financial Actions**

None

**Article 8. Unfinished Business**

None

**Article 9. New Business**

**052-2023 Consider Approval of Type II Special Use Permit for a Commercial Composting Operation at 5745 Whitneyville Avenue**

Considerable discussion.

Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Supervisor Lesperance to table until the Board can obtain answers to many questions. Motion carried unanimously.

**053-2023 a.) Public Hearing for Amendment to Home Design Center PUD to Accommodate an Addition to an Existing Office Building**

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

No comments.

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Koessel to close Public Hearing.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**b.) Consider Amendment to Home Design Center PUD to Accommodate an Addition to an Existing Office Building (Roll Call)**

Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Treasurer Korstange to approve. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**054-2023 Consider Approval of a Type II Special Use Permit for a Bed & Breakfast Establishment at 5283 Whitneyville Ave SE**

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

**055-2023 Consider Issuance of the Cascade Charter Township Request for Proposals for Professional Architectural/Engineering Services for Kent District Library**

Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Treasurer Korstange to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**056-2023 Consider Architectural Review Committee Appointments**

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

**057-2023 Consider a Resolution to Defer Without Penalty Summer Tax Payment for Qualifying Taxpayers (Roll Call)**

Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Treasurer Korstange to approve. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**058-2023 Consider Approval of Liquor License Application**

Considerable discussion.

Motion by Clerk Slater, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve a Liquor License for Backyard Restaurant. Motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote. In favor-Trustee Shipley, Trustee Koessel, Treasurer Korstange, Trustee McDonald, Clerk Slater, and Supervisor Lesperance. Opposed-Trustee Noordhoek.

**Article 10. Discussion**  
None

**Article 11. Public Comments**

1. Dorothy Cribbs-1980 Deerfield Ct-Re Application to rent Wisner Center: It says that 501(c)(3) may rent it, but her organization is 501(c)(7). She used to be able to rent it. The form should be changed to be rentable.
2. Scot VanSolkema-Noticed that the stickers and graffiti were removed from the village. Tassell Park looks good but mentioned a wasps' nest. Good job on the liquor license decision. Any news on the perpetual garage sale?
3. Anne England-3415 Glenstone Ct-Property values of her home have gone down re Egypt Creek Landscaping. Planting trees won't help because his property is higher and no trees would be tall enough.
4. Mike Lemmingsen-Is there something at Wormies location now?

5. Cheryl Schuch-Also concerned about the large subdivision behind Wormies that may not have been notified because they are not in the Township.

**Article 12. Manager Comments**

1. Cascade Township is a really nice area, and he is glad to be here. The finances of the Township are in good shape.

**Article 13. Board Member Comments**

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.
2. Supervisor Lesperance-Announced that the Township was awarded a \$3.5M grant from the State of Michigan for pedestrian bridge.
3. Board Members-All expressed their appreciation for Interim Manager Andrzejewski.
4. Trustee Noordhoek-Thanked Supervisor Lesperance for asking the State for the grant money.

**Article 14. Adjournment**

Motion by Clerk Slater, seconded by Trustee Shipley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Krissi Brott  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

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Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

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Susan B. Slater, Clerk