

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

Wednesday, February 9, 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, Interim Human Resources Director Murawski, Interim Planning Director Hilbrands, Hunter Zuk and Mary Ann Sabo-Sabo PR, 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**
Supervisor Lesperance offered a statement apologizing for the confusion re Fire Station 1 process at the 1/26/22 Board Meeting. Supervisor mentioned that more public notices and meetings will occur in the future.
- Article 5. Public Comments-Anything on the Agenda not scheduled for a public hearing. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
1. Chuck Whitley-5030 Sequoia-Appreciates Supervisor's remarks. Conversations and disagreements between the Board members have spilled over to the community. People think it is okay to attend meetings and attack Board members and others. How to work together and honor OMA is difficult without disagreements at times, but we must. Mentioned finding government resources for things like solar panels for the new fire station.
 2. Craig Meurlin via Zoom-The four (4) job descriptions are ambiguous and make no one accountable. The Township Manager evaluation also gives no accountability. This is how the Township got into the Round Hill mess.
 3. Scott Rissi-7238 Cascade Rd-Re Manager Swayze's review, a lack of responsiveness is sometimes due to lack of staff. Out of the four (4) Township Managers he has worked with, Manager Swayze is the best. He does so much good background work that no one sees. He needs an administrative assistant, but this should not inhibit access to the Manager.

Township Board Minutes

February 9, 2022

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- Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda**
- a. Receive and File Minutes
 - 1. Township Board – 01/26/22
 - b. Receive and File Reports
 - 1. Treasurer’s Report – December 2021
 - 2. Cascade Inspection Services Report – January 2022
 - 3. Planning Department Annual Report – 2021
 - 4. Inspection Services Annual Report - 2021
 - c. Receive and File Education Requests
 - 1. Paul Westhouse – 2022 IAEI Spring Meeting – Mt. Pleasant, MI – March 3-4, 2022
 - 2. Todd Pell – Fire Inspector I Class – Brighton, MI – March 21-April 19, 2022
 - d. Receive and File Communication
 - None
- Motion by Trustee Shipley, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- Article 7. Financial Actions**
- a. Consider Approval of December 2021 Financial Statements (Pre-Audit)
- Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Treasurer Peirce to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

- Article 8. Unfinished Business**
None

- Article 9. New Business**
- 008-2022 Consider Agreement for Invasive Plant Treatment with Kent Conservation Department**
Motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Shipley to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
- 009-2022 Consider Township Position Realignment and Addition**
Manager Swayze presented and answered questions. Interim Human Resources Director Murawski and Interim Planning Director Hilbrands answered questions. Considerable Discussion.
Motion by Trustee Koessel, seconded by Trustee McDonald to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
- 010-2022 Township Manager Annual Performance Evaluation**
Considerable Discussion. Interim Human Resources Director Murawski answered questions. No action necessary.

- Article 10. Discussion**
None

- Article 11. Public Comments – Any comments...whether it is on the Agenda or not. (limit comments to 3 minutes)**
- 1. Chuck Whitley-Hopes that those hired in the new positions continue to communicate and collaborate with residents/neighborhood associations.

2. Keely Shay via Zoom-Asked about the Forensic Audit results. Supervisor Lesperance advised that they are not yet available from the auditors. Concerned with the lack of transparency, specifically the misappropriations of COVID-19 funds. Has not yet been shown that the \$45k spent for voting equipment was appropriate.
3. Craig Meurlin via Zoom-Questioned the balance of the CARES Act funds. He has also repeatedly asked for funds spent on projects in Cascade to be published on the website but has not seen it. The Director of Public Works position description does not show a need for experience in budgeting.
4. Scott Rissi-He is familiar with having no internet and had to pay for Comcast to install at his home. Cautions the Board not to miss someone-try to find out who else doesn't have service or they're going to be quite irritated.
5. Keely Shay via Zoom-Re Resident Rissi's comments about internet access, she was referring to those who had school-related needs during the beginning of the pandemic and requested COVID-19 funds be used for that purpose.

Article 12. Manager Comments

1. The PFAS Community Meeting was a great success last week. Residents asked the experts good questions.
2. Project web pages for PFAS and Fire Station 1 are on the Township website.

Article 13. Board Member Comments

1. Trustee Shipley-Thanked everyone for coming and invited those in attendance to bring their neighbors.
2. Supervisor Lesperance-Thanked Sabo PR for all of the great things they are doing in the background. The website has good information for residents.

Article 14. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Krissi Brott
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk