

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

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
7:00 P.M.

- Article 1.** Supervisor Lesperance called the meeting to order.
Present: Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Peirce, Trustees Koessel, Shipley, and Noordhoek.
Absent: Trustee McDonald.
Also Present: Township Manager Swayze, Assistant Township Manager Fast, Community Development Director Peterson, and Fire Chief Magers.
- Article 2.** Supervisor Lesperance led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Article 3. Approval of Agenda**
Motion was made by Trustee Shipley and supported by Trustee Koessel to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 4. Presentations**
- Article 5. Public Comments**
- Article 6. Approval of Consent Agenda**
a. Receive and File Minutes
1. Planning Commission Minutes – January 4, 2021
2. Township Board Minutes – January 13, 2021
Motion was made by Clerk Slater and supported by Trustee Shipley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 7. Financial Actions**
a. Receive and File Financial Statements
1. Payables, Payrolls, and Transfers – December 2020
Motion was made for approval of Financial Actions by Trustee Koessel and supported by Treasurer Peirce. Motion carried unanimously.
- Article 8. Unfinished Business**
- Article 9. New Business**
- 006-2021 Consider Approval of Purchase of Medic One and Chief Vehicles for Fire Department.**
Motion was made for approval by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Shipley. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
- 007-2021 Consider Final Plan Approval for Phase Two of Golden Valley.**
Motion was made for approval by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Shipley. Motion carried unanimously.
- 008-2021 City of Grand Rapids / Cascade Charter Township Consolidation and Contamination Risk Reduction (C2R2) Grant Application.**
Motion was made for approval by Trustee Shipley and supported by Clerk Slater. Motion carried unanimously.

009-2021

Hold Second Public Hearing for Laraway Lake Special Assessment District No. 1 for the purposes of reviewing the special assessment roll and for hearing all persons interested in the special assessment roll and any objections to the roll.

Motion was made to open public hearing by Trustee Koessel and supported by Treasurer Peirce. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made to close public hearing by Trustee Koessel and supported by Clerk Slater. Motion carried unanimously.

010-2021

Hold Second Public Hearing for Thornapple River Special Assessment District No. I for the purposes of reviewing the special assessment roll and for hearing all persons interested in the special assessment roll and any objections to the roll.

Motion was made to open public hearing by Clerk Slater and supported by Trustee Koessel. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Swayze read public comments he received prior to the meeting into the record.

Those in favor of the Special Assessment District:

Amy Dowling – 3528 Goodwood Dr. SE – expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jeff & Amanda Carpenter – 5016 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jeff & Lisa Dionne – 2984 Thornapple River Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Dennis Dekok – 4045 Maracaibo Shores Dr. - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Mike & Carrie Almassian – 7259 60th Street - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Clarence & Elizabeth Maring – 4567 Little Harbor Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Diana L. Meyer – 3444 Goodwood Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

John Meyer – 3444 Goodwood Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve

resolution number four to formally establish the district. He has lived on the river since 1995 and believes the District must be established to protect the integrity of the river.

Doug & Chris Bouwer – 3177 Thorncrest Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jeff Rautio – 5969 Tannon Ct. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district. Asked the township to consider moving the rocks from the river at 60th street.

Mark & Cathy Oberlin – 6575 Burger Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Shirley Neitzel – 5060 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jim VanHoven – 4864 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jesse & Rebecca Clem – 7249 Kilmer St. SE, 7733 Sandy Hollow Dr. SE, and 7750 Thornapple Bayou Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Dean Degraaf – 4623 Little Harbor Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Mary Kunkler – 5969 Tannon Ct. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Sally Jo & Richard Trapp – 7400 Whispering Ridge St. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Maynard Butts – 4896 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Chris & Kimberly Branoff – 7411 Alaska Ave. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Mike Dale – 4061 Maracaibo Shores Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Joshua & Rachel Ralya – 4015 Maracaibo Shores Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Sharon Lantinga – 7358 Cascade Rd. SE- expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Walter F Perschbacher – 7486 Cascade Rd. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district. He appreciates all of the work done by the Association over the years.

James & Sharon Stein - 7169 Placita Ct. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Tristan & Tracey Walker - 4984 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Paul & Leann Rowland – 7176 Aqua Fria Ct. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Harry III & Sheri Herbruck – 7314 Cascade Rd. SE, 7340 Cascade Rd. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Sandy & Diana Kingsland - 7370 Cascade Rd. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Michael & Sheila Reid - 7275 60th St. SE – expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Toran & Brenda Scott – 4593 Little Harbor Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

David & Kristin Hecht - 7300 Cascade Rd. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the

Board approves resolution number four to formally establish the district.

David & Julie Lewis – 7310 Kilmer St. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

William David Lewis – 7310 Kilmer St. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Barbara Skinner – 3024 Thornapple River Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Donovan & Stephanie Shephard - 5110 Sequoia Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Darwin Cutler – 4884 Sequoia Dr. - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.
Thanked Manager Swayze and the Thornapple River Association for their work on this project.

Brent & Shelly Smith -7478 Cascade Rd. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Moe & Liz Damghani – 5985 Tannon Ct. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Don & Kathy Ladner – 7394 Kilmer Dr. SE - expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Those opposed to the Special Assessment District:

Peter & Judith Kenny – 5600 Alaska Ave. SE – Objected to the Special Assessment District. They believe it is unfair for a small group of residents to pay for what anyone on the river may use. Cascade residents should share the cost. They hope to have a public hearing in person during the summer.

Paul & Luanne Strauss – 7474 Alaska Ridge Dr. SE – Opposed the Special Assessment District. The projects are too vague and open ended. Residents on the River already pay more property taxes than those who do not live on the river. The Special Assessment District should include boat ramp access at no

additional cost. It is not clear how much the assessment can be increased or when.

Mark Andrakowicz – 7365 Kilmer St. SE – Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. It is a never-ending project. The airport should be responsible for the PFAS and environment cleanup. Suggested that boat licensing fees be increased to offset the cost. Many homeowners are retired and on fixed income and cannot afford the increased cost.

Robert S. Beahan – 3148 Thornapple River Dr. – Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district.

Dawn Swider – 7335 Kilmer St. SE - Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. 15 years is a long assessment and could be done in a shorter period of time.

Stan Grunske – 3056 Thornapple River Dr. SE - Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. He does not feel that his house has river access in the spirit of the assessment district. His property was not included on the list of the initial district.

Ann & Steve Tarr – 7319 Kilmer Dr. SE - Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. The committee now becomes the sole decision maker on what part of the River that the money is spent on. Residents may be assessed higher in years to come. Fertilizer being put into the river only perpetuates the problem. Several neighborhood Associations that have access to the water but do not live on the water. There should be testing of the water if dredging is to happen.

Public Comment:

Stan Grunske – 3056 Thornapple River Dr. SE – Thanked Manager Swayze and the Township for listening to his complaints and coming to his property.

Albert & Carol Sears - 6625 Burger Dr. - Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. They stated that the Airport and Golf Course are dumping chemicals in the River and are opposed to chemicals being put into the river to kill the weeds.

Lori & Steve Gottlieb – 7100 Cascade Rd. SE - Opposed to the Special Assessment District and requested that the Board not

approve resolution number four and formally establish the district. They sit on a high up property with no real access to the river from their property. They stated that the wakeboards cause a lot of problems. Expressed that this District would create more possible taxation in the future.

Scott Rissi – 7238 Cascade Rd. – Stated that 59% of 303 parcels signed in favor of the Special Assessment District. All 303 of the parcels on the river are included in the Special Assessment District.

Kerry Gorsuch – 3044 Thornapple River Dr. – In favor of the resolution, the Special Assessment District and anything that the Township can do to help, they should. The river is an asset to the Township.

Craig Meurlin – 6333 Thornhills Ct. SE – Expressed concern about anyone who may not have received the official notice of Public Hearing in the fall.

Jeff Carpenter - 5016 Sequoia Dr. SE - Expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Jeff & Shirley Hoogstra –7288 Cascade Rd. SE - Expressed support of the Special Assessment District and requested the Board approve resolution number four to formally establish the district.

Motion was made to close public hearing by Clerk Slater and supported by Trustee Shipley. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made to set public hearing for 2/10/2021 by Trustee Koessel and supported by Trustee Shipley. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 10. Closed Session

-Pursuant to Open Meetings Act 15.268 (h) – To Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal.

Motion was made to enter closed session by Treasurer Peirce and supported by Trustee Koessel. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made to return to public session by Trustee Shipley and supported by Trustee Noordhoek. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion to uphold denial of initial FOIA request – 12/18/2020 – was made by Clerk Slater and supported by Trustee Koessel. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Article 11. Public Comments – Any comments...whether it is on the Agenda or not.

Article 12. Manager Comments

Manager Swayze made the following comments:

- The next iteration of the executive order begins February 1, and the Township will not be able to hold in person meetings until at least the end of February.

Article 13. Board Member Comments

Trustee Shipley offered the following comments:

- Thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

Article 14. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Shipley and supported by Trustee Noordhoek to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:43p.m.

Padley Gallagher
Deputy Clerk

Approved by:

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Susan B. Slater, Clerk