

**Watertown Charter Township
12803 S. Wacousta Road
Grand Ledge MI 48837**

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
January 19, 2009 – 7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor Adams with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Deborah Adams, Clerk Melissa Freeman, Treasurer Janice Thelen, Trustees John Maahs, Ken Mitchell, George Weitzel and Dale Westrick.

STAFF PRESENT: Township Manager Jennifer Tubbs and Planning Commission Chair Ron Overton.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **John Arnsman**, 2729 Clark Road, asked about using Heritage Park in the winter and whether or not it is open or closed; his granddaughter would like to run her dogs in the park. **Tubbs** responded that the park is open, just the drive is closed.

- **Sgt. Kyle Knight**, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, provided reports for the month of December. There were 47 car/deer accidents within the township. He also reported on accidents within 500 feet of the intersection of Francis and Howe Roads: In 2008, there were no accidents. In 2007, there were 5 accidents (4 personal injury and 1 property damage). In 2006, there were 6 accidents (4 car/deer and 2 property damage). He agrees that the passing area should be removed.

- **Jack Enderle**, County Commissioner, reported on the solid waste incinerator at the airport; a hearing is scheduled for January 20th at the DeWitt Township Hall at 7pm. He reported that Dave Ivan has been promoted to Area Supervisor for the extension. The committee assignments have remained basically the same.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Weitzel asked that the Facilities Manager Report (Board Report #1) be added to the agenda as New Business item #9. Motion by **Thelen** and seconded by **Maahs** to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Adams noted New Business item #9, Facilities Manager Report. Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** to approve the regular meeting agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **December 10, 2008, Special meeting:** Motion by **Maahs** and seconded by **Mitchell** to approve the minutes of December 10, 2008 as presented. **Motion carried.**

- **December 15, 2008, Regular meeting:** Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** to approve the minutes of December 15, 2008 as presented. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Adams noted the additional bill list. Motion by **Mitchell** and seconded by **Thelen** to approve the bill lists as presented. **Motion carried.**

PENDING BUSINESS:

1. Wacousta Preschool – Request for charitable gaming license.

Freeman introduced Sara Gooley, Board President of Wacousta Preschool. Ms. Gooley answered questions from Board members pertaining to her request.

Motion by **Thelen** and seconded by **Mitchell** to waive the reading of the resolution. **Motion carried.**
Motion by **Maahs** and seconded by **Mitchell** to adopt the Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses for Wacousta Cooperative Preschool.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Freeman, Weitzel, Maahs, Mitchell, Thelen, Westrick, Adams

No: None

Motion carried, resolution adopted.

2. Resolution No. 01-192009-1: Cemetery Fee Schedule.

Motion by **Thelen** and seconded by **Maahs** to waive the reading of Resolution No. 01-192009-1. **Motion carried.**

Motion by **Thelen** and seconded by **Maahs** to adopt Resolution No. 01-192009-1 as presented, the Cemetery Fee Schedule for 2009.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Thelen, Mitchell, Westrick, Maahs, Adams, Weitzel, Freeman

No: None

Motion carried, resolution adopted.

3. Ordinance Update – Division 2. Group Insurance.

Tubbs explained the process for ordinance amendment and discussions with the attorney. She introduced, in writing, the proposed ordinance with language amendments to Sections 2.68, 2.69 and 2.70 of the Watertown Charter Township Codified Ordinance.

Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** that the amended ordinance language to eliminate health care benefit provisions for township trustees and part-time supervisor introduced in Sections 2.68, 2.69, and 2.70 of the Codified Ordinance be approved and the amendment be scheduled for adoption at the March, 2009 Board meeting.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Maahs, Mitchell, Adams, Weitzel, Freeman, Thelen

No: Westrick

Motion carried.

4. Codified Ordinance Update.

Tubbs reported on the Committee's findings pertaining to the status of the Codification project: Municode has agreed to make the original changes due to their errors at no charge (waiving \$2900) and provide the corrected ordinance in an electronic format. **Tubbs** suggests a 7 month time frame for project completion. **Thelen** asked if the items have been returned; there was discussion on whether the former Township Clerk may have materials pertaining to the project; it is unclear.

Motion by Weitzel and seconded by Adams that the former Township Clerk be informed to return all materials, records and binders relating to the Codified Ordinance to the Township Clerk. Motion carried.

Motion by Weitzel and seconded by Thelen that the Township Manager be authorized to move forward immediately with correcting the Codified Ordinance as outlined in her memorandum dated January 13, 2009. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointments:

- a. Correct the expiration date for Dan Zay (Parks & Recreation Committee) to December 31, 2010.
- b. Correct the expiration date for Harriet Smith (DeWitt Public Library Board) to December 31, 2012.

Motion by Maahs and seconded by Thelen to correct the appointment expiration date of Dan Zay to the Parks & Recreation Committee to December 31, 2010 in lieu of December 31, 2009 and also to correct the term expiration date of Harriet Smith's re-appointment to the DeWitt Public Library Board to December 31, 2012 in lieu of December 31, 2011. Motion carried.

2. Felzke SLUP

Overton presented the request for an extension and explained that conditions are the same as in the original agreement.

Motion by Maahs and seconded by Mitchell that the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees concurs with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approves the request to extend the Special Land Use Permit as described in Case #08-08 SLU for Felzke Farms for an additional 5 years, to expire on January 19, 2014, provided that conformance to the originally approved conditions are achieved to the satisfaction of the Township's Zoning Administrator as being in accordance with the requirements of the Watertown Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. Conditions of approval: 1) The applicant receives approval from all of the reviewing agencies prior to the approval of the Board of Trustees; 2) the applicant complies with the original mining agreement to the satisfaction of the Zoning Administrator. Motion carried.

3. Herbison Road Property – Habitat for Humanity/Wacousta Community United Methodist Church.

Tubbs reported that she is working with Mike Bender from Wacousta Community United Methodist Church; they have discussed the church's plan to donate money to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of the township's property located at 8949 W. Herbison Road. Travis Downs, President of Clinton County Habitat for Humanity was present; he explained that Habitat for Humanity does not give away the home; the home owner is required to work 250 hours on the home. Mr. Bender expressed the church's excitement about this project and explained that the donation comes from the Wallace Watt Endowment Fund.

Motion by Mitchell and seconded by Maahs to approve of the sale of the property owned by Watertown Charter Township at 8949 W. Herbison Road to Habitat for Humanity for a purchase price of \$7,082.00 and that the Township Manager will work with the Township attorney as necessary to complete the sale. Motion carried.

4. LGRFA – 2009 Budget approval.

Adams explained that the fire authority board approved the amended budget. However, the language for line item #738 was changed on page 2, but not on page 8 of the budget. **Adams** feels that the language needs to be clarified; page 8 needs to be corrected to match page 2. No action was taken.

5. LGRFA Percentages.

Adams provided a memo showing that the percentage share has changed. Watertown Township's percentage share is now 62%. This percentage share pertains only to the *operating* portion of the budget. Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** to approve the historical use percentage share for operating expenses with Watertown Charter Township at 62% and Eagle Township at 38%. **Motion carried.**

6. Planning & Zoning and Planning Commission 2008 Annual Report.

Motion by **Thelen** and seconded by **Maahs** that the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees accepts and places on file the 2008 Annual Report of the Planning Commission. **Motion carried.**

7. Looking Glass Park skating rink.

Tubbs stated that there has been interest in reinstating the skating rink and explained that there are several issues which need to be resolved in order to create a skating rink. **Thelen** would like to be able to move forward in the current operating budget by taking advantage of volunteers so that it can be used by next winter. **Weitzel** asked who would perform the work. **Tubbs** explained that the warming house is being used for storage at this time and that it has no heat source. **Westrick** would like the Parks & Recreation Committee to discuss this issue.

Motion by **Westrick** and seconded by **Thelen** to refer the skating rink issue to the Parks & Recreation Committee to come up with a plan to prepare the building for use in the ice skating season for a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. **Motion carried.**

8. Board Policies.

Thelen would like to postpone this until the next meeting so that she can review it. **Tubbs** explained that this is the same policy that everyone already has. **Weitzel** stated that this action is necessary just to make sure everyone is on the same page; he further stated that a committee will need to review the policies.

Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** to approve the Board policies as presented January 19, 2009.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Mitchell, Maahs, Weitzel, Freeman, Adams

No: Thelen, Westrick

Motion carried.

9. Facilities Manager report for 2008.

Motion by **Weitzel** and seconded by **Maahs** that the Facilities Manager report of Carol S. Brown be received and placed on file. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Deb Plichta**, 9283 Looking Glass Brook, addressed the Board regarding her concerns relating to increased community involvement; she would like the Board to be more responsive to the residents of the township; she stated that we have a diverse population of people who want to serve and be involved in their community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by **Mitchell** and seconded by **Maahs** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Date approved: February 17, 2009

Deborah Adams, Supervisor

Melissa Freeman, Clerk