

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY MEETING
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Gray called the Township Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Larry Gray, Supervisor
Melissa Creech, Clerk
Molly Phillips, Treasurer
Rick Sovel, Trustee
George Weber, Trustee
Bob Berkheiser, Trustee

Absent: Vanessa Magner, Trustee

Also Present: Hans Rentrop, Township Attorney
Jim Dundas, Fire Chief
Jason Mayer, Giffels Webster

ITEM 1: Public Comments

Supervisor Gray opened Public Comments. Seeing none, Supervisor Gray closed Public Comments.

ITEM 2: Cemetery Grave Sites

The Trustees discussed the cost of grave sites for both residents and non-residents. Attorney Hans Rentrop explained that if residents attempt to transfer their purchased grave site to a non-resident that the difference in price will be charged by the Township at the time of transfer.

Trustee Berkheiser asked if the revenue generated by the cemeteries covers the cost of administering and maintaining the cemeteries and if not, how much would the Township need to charge for the cemeteries to be self-supporting? Clerk Creech answered no and if the Township increased the per lot purchase price, no one would be able to afford to purchase any lots but we do need to look at raising the rates to off-set costs. It's been many years since the rates were increased while our sexton maintenance contract increases yearly.

The Trustees agreed to discuss this again at a future time.

ITEM 3: Rental Inspection Program

This item will be discussed at a future meeting. No action taken.

ITEM 5: Other Matters (Moved before Item 4: Closed Session Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) – White Lake Sewer Agreement by Supervisor Gray)

Trustee Weber –He said the Board should change the threshold at which SAD's are approved. He said that due to rising costs, the approval threshold by residents should be increased from 51% to 60%. For example, the Boyer Street Paving SAD which would have cost residents \$400.00 per month for 10 years if approved. In addition, he doesn't feel that it's fair that an SAD is approved with such a slim majority.

Trustees Sovel and Berkheiser agreed that 51% is appropriate and SAD's give the residents the opportunity to do things for their community that government either can't do or is too slow to do. Going to a 60% threshold makes that more difficult.

Clerk Creech- The Huron Valley School District has called a May election. The Walled Lake Consolidated School District Board of Education is discussing also calling a May election at their February 1, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Trustee Berkheiser asked how much an election will cost.

Clerk Creech answered that the finals numbers are not in but it will be seriously more expensive than in previous years due to the 9 days of early voting that all registered voters are eligible to participate in. The Huron Valley and Walled Lake School districts fall across multiple jurisdictions and will pay for 9 days of early voting at multiple regional voting sites. The Trustees questioned why, as a cost saving measure of tax dollars, the school districts wouldn't put their millage proposals on regularly scheduled elections in 2024?

Trustee Sovel- He asked about the liaison officers at Walled Lake Schools? Attorney Hans Rentrop advised the Board that he and Supervisor Gray need to review the proposed contract.

Supervisor Gray – The 4-23-2024 Quarterly meeting will only have 4 trustees present. Does the Board wish to cancel the meeting or change the meeting date?

The Trustees decided to hold off on making that decision.

ITEM 4: Closed Session Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) – White Lake Sewer Agreement

MOTION by Phillips, supported by Creech, to enter Closed Session Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) – White Lake Sewer Agreement

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Phillips, Creech, Weber, Berkheiser, Sovel, Gray

ITEM 4: Closed Session Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) – White Lake Sewer Agreement (motion continued)

Nays:

Absent: Magner

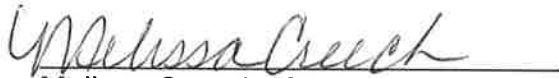
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Entered Closed Session at 7:31 p.m.
Returned from Closed Session at 8:27 p.m.

MOTION by Creech, supported by Phillips, to adjourn from Closed Session and approve the Closed Session Minutes. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION by Creech, supported by Berkheiser, to direct the Township Attorney to proceed as discussed in Closed Session. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION by Creech, supported by Berkheiser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce