

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Scott called the Township Board of Trustees meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: David E. Scott, Supervisor
Melissa Creech, Clerk
Molly Phillips, Treasurer
Vanessa Magner, Trustee
Rick Sovel, Trustee
Bob Berkheiser, Trustee
George Weber, Trustee

Also Present: Jay James, PE/Building Official
Janet Bushey, Finance/HR Director
Emily England, Parks & Recreation Director
Lt. Reyes, OCSO
Fire Chief Dundas

ITEM 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Supervisor Scott asked the Board to move Item 2: Closed Session to Item 4 on the agenda. The Board agreed. Supervisor Scott asked the Board to move what was originally Item 4: 2020 Township Budget to Item 2 on the agenda. The Board agreed.

ITEM 2: 2020 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Supervisor Scott asked Jay James, PE/Building Official to present the Building Department's proposed 2020 Budget.

Jay James discussed the proposed budget with the Board. A discussion followed regarding various line items and a proposed rental inspection program for building code enforcement. Trustee Berkheiser asked for a summary of neighboring communities' implementation of such a program.

ITEM 2: 2020 TOWNSHIP BUDGET (continued)

Supervisor Scott asked Parks and Recreation Director Emily England to present the proposed 2020 Open Space budget and the proposed 2020 Parks and Recreation budget.

The Board discussed the improvements needed at various parks which would fall under the open space millage.

The Board discussed the 2020 proposed Parks and Recreation budget and the need for sidewalk additions, trail way paving, a parking lot at Victory Park, picnic tables, rest room upgrades, way finding signs, and tree work.

Supervisor Scott asked Lt. Reyes to present the OCSO proposed 2020 budget.

Lt. Reyes expressed the critical need for a technical assistant to manage paperwork and payroll freeing up more personnel to attend to crime prevention duties. In addition, the Board discussed patrol pedal bikes and where they could be deployed and the NET officer the Township contracted for with the OCSO.

ITEM 3: SAFER GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Supervisor Scott asked Chief Dundas to inform the Board about the SAFER Grant.

Chief Dundas reviewed the grant writing process and the items the SAFER Grant pays for. This particular grant is for hiring additional fire fighters which would enable the Township to have 2 fire fighters on duty 24/7 at all of the Township's stations. This grant is for federal funding for \$1,295,147.20 over 3 years.

The Board discussed the number of fire fighters needed, salaries and benefits, the timing of hiring fire fighters, and the costs to the Township when the grant money is exhausted.

MOTION by Weber, supported by Sovel, to accept the SAFER Grant.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 2: 2020 TOWNSHIP BUDGET (continued)

Supervisor Scott asked Chief Dundas to present the proposed 2020 Fire Department budget.

The Board discussed the need for new vehicles, equipment upgrades and purchases, the cost of the new fire station 3, and drive way and dry wall repair at existing stations.

ITEM 4: CLOSED SESSION – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

MOTION by Scott, supported by Berkheiser, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Scott, Berkheiser, Creech, Phillips, Sovel, Weber, Magner

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Entered into Closed Session at 7:40 p.m.
Returned from Closed Session at 7:54 p.m.

MOTION by Creech, supported by Weber, to adjourn from Closed Session and approve the Closed Session minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Berkheiser, to approve the Resolution and direct the Supervisor to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Supervisor Scott discussed transportation services. He also asked Board's permission to send a thank you letter to those who supported the Township's SAFER grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Scott, supported by Weber, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce