

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
QUARTERLY JOINT DISCUSSION MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Absent: Bob Berkheiser, Trustee

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ROLL CALL: Present James Gotts, Chairperson
Steve Matta, Vice Chairperson
Brian Winkler, Member
David Smith, Member
Jose Mirkin, Member

Absent Elizabeth Bulat, Member
Susan Spelker, Member
Tim Hoy, Member

Also Present: Janet Bushey, HR/Finance Director
Deborah Watson, DDA Director
Jim Dundas, Fire Chief
Mark Gall, Fire Marshal
Randy Thomas, Insite Commercial
Matt Schwanitz, Giffels-Webster, DDA Engineer

ITEM 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Gray opened Public Comments.

Kathy Kubik, 3420 Buss Drive, objects to parts of the sign ordinance, especially the sections regarding political signs as she believes they are a form of freedom of speech.

She also asked the Township Board to do a better job of letting Commerce Township residents know how bad the Oakland County Public Transportation Millage will be for our Township, that our residents will get nothing out of it and it will cost Township tax payers millions of dollars.

ITEM 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS (continued)

Supervisor Gray responded that the Township Board of Trustees approved and signed a resolution opposing the millage and sent it to the County Board of Commissioners. He reiterated that we can't tell people how to vote but the Township currently provides door to door service with People's Express for a fraction of the cost of the proposed millage on the ballot.

After seeing no additional speakers, Supervisor Gray closed Public Comments.

ITEM 2: DDA DISCUSSION

Supervisor Gray asked DDA Chairperson Gotts to call the DDA Meeting to order.

DDA Chairperson Gotts called the DDA meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

DDA Director Watson reviewed the DDA's proposed 2023 budget.

A discussion followed regarding real estate closings on certain parcels, DDA debt and payments, 5 and Main ground breaking timelines, residential and retail components at 5 and Main, and salary increases for the DDA Director and DDA admin.

Supervisor Gray, Trustee Weber, and Trustee Sovel voiced their objections to the proposed salary increases.

DDA Director Watson said she conducted a survey of salaries of DDA directors in surrounding communities and would forward the information to the Board of Trustees.

Randy Thomas, Insite Commercial, updated the Board of Trustees on the status of all parcels within the DDA.

Jose Mirkin, DDA Public Relations Committee, updated the Board of Trustees on the DIA's Inside Out Program. The DIA will be installing large art reproductions in a few locations within the Township in 2023. In addition, the WLCSD will begin hosting their annual K-12 art exhibition at the Commerce Township Library in May 2023. It was cancelled in the last few years due to the pandemic. Finally, Member Mirkin talked to Supervisor Gray regarding using student art work to beautify the interior of the Township Hall. This project is still in the discussion phase.

MOTION by Gotts, supported by Matta, to adjourn the DDA meeting at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC HEARING – ESTABLISHMENT RESOLUTION GOLF LANE SNOW
PLOWING SAD**

Supervisor Gray opened the Public Hearing.

Seeing none, Supervisor Gray closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Creech, to approve the Establishment Resolution Golf Lane Snow Plowing SAD.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 4: SIGNAL DESIGN PROPOSAL

Supervisor Gray discussed the placement of a pedestrian crossing with a flashing beacon or Hawk signal on S. Commerce Road near Byer's and the Commerce Township Library or near Cardinal and the entrance to Dodge Park V. The Board of Trustees debated the pros and cons of a flashing beacon or a Hawk signal, solar or electrically powered, placement and traffic implications, and cost.

MOTION by Gray, supported by Creech, to approve the Fleis & Vandenbrink Dodge Park RRFB proposal for \$8,500.00 for a flashing beacon at Cardinal and Dodge Park V.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

Finance/HR proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and increased health care costs discussed.

The Ordinance Department proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and discussed.

The Assessing proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and discussed.

The Cemetery Fund proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and discussed. Clerk Creech indicated the need for new fencing at most of the Township's cemeteries.

The Debt Sinking Fund proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and discussed. Treasurer Phillips reiterated that the DDA's debt would be paid off in 2034 and she will send a payment schedule to the Trustees.

Supervisor Gray-

Supervisor Gray stated the IT Department and Library proposed 2023 budgets will be reviewed at the next board meeting on November 14, 2022.

At the next budget meeting on November 29, 2022, non-union employee salaries will be discussed.

Trustee Sovel-

Asked if there's anything new on the horse farm.

Trustee Weber answered not yet but the sub-committee is working with the Michigan Horse Council on a new RFP.

Trustee Weber-

Just FYI that a new gas station at S. Commerce and Decker has been proposed and is going before the Village of Wolverine Lake Planning Commission.

Clerk Creech-

The November 8th General Election is less than 2 weeks away. The Clerk's office has issued approximately 9900 absent voter ballots and only received about 4200 back from voters.

ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS (continued)

Trustee Magner-

White Lake Township posted an over-view of Township developments on their website and can we do something similar?

Supervisor Gray said he wants to upgrade the Township's website in 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Magner, supported by Creech, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce