

STUDY SESSION
Thursday, May 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the Township Office, 1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI.

Members present: Supervisor Jancek, Clerk Sercombe, Treasurer Preston and Trustees: Singer and Williams

Member absent: Trustee Johns, Trustee Brockie

There were 57 people in attendance. Sign-in list is on file.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Motion by Clerk Sercombe with support from Trustee Singer to excuse Trustee Johns from the meeting.

Voice Vote Motion Approved Unanimously

Motion by Trustee Singer with support from Supervisor Jancek to excuse Trustee Brockie from the meeting.

Voice Vote Motion Approved Unanimously

BRIEF PUBLIC Opened at 6:01 p.m.

COMMENTS Closed at 6:08 p.m.

Ray Snell - research found that in the past year a trustee was granted a VA tax exemption and the State Tax Commission said it should not have been allowed because the veteran is not on the property deed. Also, a former board member's relative was allowed to keep a homestead on rental property.

Louis Globensky - at the May 5th recall hearing Mark Singer stated that he can't believe he can be recalled for his vote.

Sue Comperchio - she and her husband did not know that their names were going to be used in the lawsuit and do not agree that a lawsuit is the answer.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No additions to the agenda

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE:

1. Interviews for a part-time administrative assistant will take place next Wednesday

TREASURER'S UPDATE (Supervisor):

1. Sherry Fink appointed Deputy Treasurer
2. Draft of investment policy given to board members to review
3. Forming spreadsheets with bank information; interviewing people to get an idea of appropriate cash balances

CLERK'S UPDATE:

1. May 6th election ran smooth and the East Jackson School District bond was approved
2. Recognized Cub Scout Pack 339 for their work performed at Fifield Cemetery. The participating Scouts will be receiving certificates of appreciation from the township. Phone calls received complementing the appearance of Fifield Cemetery.
3. Lawsuit has been filed.
4. Recognized Kim Ambs for 16 years of employment and Linda Arntz for 7 years of employment.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE:

1. Discussed \$5,000 grant request for the purchase of 19 body cameras.

PLANNING & ZONING: Nothing to report

PARKS & RECREATION: Nothing to report

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Nothing to Report

ACTION ITEMS:

DEPUTY TREASURER	Motion by Treasurer Preston with support from Clerk Sercombe to approve the wage for the Deputy Treasurer starting at the first step of the wage matrix which is \$17.85 per hour effective starting on May 9, 2014.	Roll Call	Yes - 4	No - 0	Motion Approved
RESOLUTION #16-2014-0508 BANK SIGNATURES	Motion by Treasurer Preston with support from Clerk Sercombe to approve resolution #06-2014-0508; a resolution for Political Subdivision to add Deputy Treasurer Sherri Fink as a signatory for bank accounts and financial duties.	Roll Call	Yes - 4	No - 0	Motion Approved

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

1. GSL Property - LDFA contacted by GSL offering to sell the property back to the LDFA for original purchase price. LDFA recommends that the supervisor negotiate the deal with GSL. Supervisor will be asking for board approval to negotiate.
2. Consider Resolution #17-2014-0512 for Release of Right of First Refusal for the County of Jackson and list of foreclosed properties
3. Consider Resolution #18-2014-0812 to establish payment in lieu of health insurance for non-union employees and retirees to keep consistency between union and non-union employees.
4. Consider Resolution #20-2014-0512 that will increase some of the cemetery fees
5. Fifield Cemetery improvements - cemetery driveway needs widened and slag. Township sexton will do the work.
6. Minutes from April 10, April 14, April 17 and April 23, 2014 - No Discussion
7. Interviews for vacant trustee position - each candidate was asked the same questions

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Clerk Sercombe with support by Trustee Singer to go into closed session to consult with the attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation because discussing in an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the township.
Voice Vote Motion Approved

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Motion by Clerk Sercombe with support from Trustee Singer to reconvene the open meeting.
Voice Vote Motion Approved

CHANGES TO MAY 12, 2014 AGENDA - None

APPROVE AGENDA FOR MAY 12, 2014 Motion by Treasurer Preston with support from Trustee Singer to approve the May 12, 2014 meeting agenda. Roll Call Yes - 4 No - 0 Motion Approved

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened at 8:25 p.m.
Closed at 8:35 p.m.

Mike Swope - questions for Trustees Singer and Brockie

Mike Thomas - Thanks given to Clerk Sercombe for improvements to Fifield Cemetery; suggestion to Treasurer Preston to consider combining water and sewer funds

Kevin Bowman - Compliment on sewer work in Northlands subdivision and the savings in treatment costs

Scott Ambs - Thanks given to the board for the improved sound system; reminder to speak into microphone so that the audience can hear better; suggested that the reason for board member's absences be given for the record

OPEN DISCUSSION Opened at: 8:35
 Closed at: 8:36

Trustee Singer explained that he has been advised to not answer any questions due to the pending lawsuit.

SUPERVISOR JANCEK DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:36 p.m.

David Sercombe, Clerk