

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
March 1, 2011**

A meeting of the Grand Rapids Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Michael DeVries. The meeting was held in the Township Hall. The following were present: Supervisor Michael DeVries, Treasurer Chris Afendoulis, Trustees Edward Robinette, Lee VanPopering, Robert Roth and Rusty Merchant. Absent was Clerk Janice Hulbert. There were thirty one people in the audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT. There were no public comments.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 15, 2011.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the minutes of the regular Township Board meeting on February 15, 2011. Motion approved unanimously.

4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the bills to be paid as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

5. CONSIDER CASH DISBURSEMENTS.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the cash disbursements for February 2011 as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

6. ORDINANCE NO. 481 [WALGREEN'S] PUBLIC HEARING.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to open the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Andrew Vredenburg, an attorney from Foster Swift representing the Acme Ventures owners, is not opposed to the proposed project but is concerned about the use of Medical Park Drive and does not feel the maintenance agreement for the road is up to date.

Mort Hoffman, resides at 42 Robinhood Dr. SE, expressed his concerns pertaining to traffic and is opposed to the proposal.

Frank Lynn, resides at 3446 Devon Dr. NE, stated he does not feel a large chain will improve the local economy and is opposed to the proposal.

Patty Smeelink, owns East Paris Pharmacy at 1000 East Paris Ave SE, supports the proposal and believes it will contribute locally and improve the community.

Justin Michael, resides at 881 Bradford Hollow Dr. NE and owns a business at 4550 Cascade Rd., stated he is not opposed to proposal but expressed his concern regarding traffic flow and safety.

Brad Palmer, resides at 286 Shore Haven Dr. NE, conveyed his opposition to the proposal.

George McCargar, resides at 990 Waltham Ave SE, explained he obtained 20 signatures from residents of the community that are opposed to the proposal and feel there is a better use of the property to serve the community.

Karen Bakale, resides at 880 Greenbrier Dr. SE, is opposed to the proposal and concerned about the increase of traffic.

Jane Hilgenberg, resides at 1030 Waltham Ave SE, expressed her concern pertaining to traffic and is opposed to the proposal.

Ruth Wawee, resides at 769 Adaway Ave SE in Ada Township, is opposed to the proposal and concerned about traffic.

Mark Buddy, is a building owner with HB Real Estate Holdings, articulated his support for the proposal.

Ben Wrigley, resides at 3575 Hidden Lake Ln NE, stated as a property/business owner located across the street from the proposed project, he is deeply concerned about traffic.

Doug DeKock of GDK Construction addressed the issues brought up by the residents and asked for the Board's approval.

Todd Stuiivve, representing the applicant, noted Kent County Road Commission is in the process of planning a widening project for Cascade Road to help improve traffic flow.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board members discussed, and addressed, the issues brought forward by the residents during the Public Hearing and deliberated the proposal.

7. ORDINANCE NO. 481 [WALGREEN'S] ADOPTION CONSIDERATION.

Proposed Ordinance No. 481 was presented.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Robert Roth, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 481. A roll call vote was taken:

Edward Robinette: Yes
Robert Roth: Yes
Rusty Merchant: Yes
Lee VanPopering: Yes
Chris Afendoulis: No
Michael DeVries: Yes

Motion passed 5-1.

Michael DeVries requested to amend the agenda to include Item #12. Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF SUE MOLHOEK.

Michael DeVries informed the Board of the resignation of Chair Sue Molhoek from the Grand Rapids Township Planning Commission.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to accept, with regrets and thanks for many years of service, the resignation of Sue Molhoek. Motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DAVID PIERANGELI TO PLANNING COMMISSION.

With the resignation of Sue Molhoek from the Planning Commission, the Board was asked to consider appointing David Pierangeli to the Grand Rapids Township Planning Commission to complete the term of Sue Molhoek (07/01/2012).

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to appoint David Pierangeli to the Grand Rapids Township Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

David Pierangeli was sworn in as a member of the Grand Rapids Township Planning Commission at 7:45 pm.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GEESE CONTROL.

Michael DeVries presented a letter of support for geese control to the City of East Grand Rapids.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the letter of support to East Grand Rapids concerning geese control. Motion approved unanimously.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER REQUEST RE: FOREST HILLS INN.

A request was received from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for local approval of a liquor license transfer from GR8 Restaurant Partners, LLC to W. Jeffrey Lobdell.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the liquor license transfer request from GR8 Restaurant Partners, LLC to W. Jeffrey Lobdell. Motion approved unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO HIRE RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT AS A TEMPORARY NON-REGULAR PART-TIME EMPLOYEE/POSITION.

A request was submitted by the office manager seeking the approval to hire a temporary non-regular part-time employee for the receptionist/office assistant position.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the request to hire a temporary non-regular part-time employee. Motion approved unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS. There were no Board comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP