

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 15, 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 and Lee VanPopering. Absent were Clerk Janice Hulbert and Trustee Rusty Merchant. There were eight people in the audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT.

Professor Randall Bytwerk, who resides at 3530 Reeds Hill Ct SE, expressed his concerns regarding the Woodcliff Park Association Rules.

County Commissioner, Jim Saalfeld, updated the Board on issues regarding Kent County.

John Considine resides at 4286 Greenbrier Ct SE, expressed his concerns regarding the Woodcliff Park Association Agreement.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 1, 2011.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the minutes of the regular Township Board meeting on February 1, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.

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

5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WOODCLIFF PARK ASSOCIATION RULES.

Michael DeVries addressed the concerns brought forth during the public comment. Chris Afendoulis and Lee VanPopering both commented on the rules pertaining to parking and the application deadline.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the Woodcliff Park Association Rules with the following conditions: the parking restrictions be stricken and extend the open enrollment date until April 30 for 2011.

AYES: Afendoulis, DeVries, Robinette, VanPopering

NAYS: None

6. FIRST READING: ORDINANCE NO. 481 [WALGREEN'S].

A Public Hearing was scheduled for March 1, 2011 with ordinance consideration to follow the Public Hearing.

7. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO STRIKE DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX FROM ROLL.

A request from the Treasurer's office to strike Delinquent Personal Property Taxes from the tax roll, this is an annual request in accordance with State Law.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve authorization to strike Delinquent Personal Property Tax from the tax roll. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHARITABLE GAMING RESOLUTION.

Michael DeVries presented information from "The Gathering Thunder Foundation" for an event at the Meijer Gardens.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the Local Government Resolution for Charitable Gaming licenses.

AYES: Afendoulis, DeVries, Robinette, VanPopering

NAYS: None

9. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEE.

Edward Robinette Chair reported, although all the applicants were exceptional, the Trustee Selection Committee is recommending Robert Roth be appointed to fill the vacant Trustee position. Chris Afendoulis stated all nine candidates were outstanding and all brought strengths to the Township, but Bob has a long list of business and personal qualities that will be an asset to the Township and Board of Trustees.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to appoint Robert Roth as the Grand Rapids Township's new Trustee.

Michael DeVries requested a roll call vote:

Lee VanPopering: Yes

Chris Afendoulis: Yes

Michael DeVries: Yes

Edward Robinette: Yes

NAYS: None

Robert Roth was sworn in as a Grand Rapids Charter Township Trustee at 7:20 pm.

BOARD COMMENTS.

Michael DeVries turned to the Board for comments in regards to the Township's Planning Department. Michael stated with the loss of the Township's Planner to the Kent County Road Commission, he has been talking with numerous people in moving forward and noted there are a variety of things the Township can do. He explained long term; he would like to see the Township work with other communities which would allow us, the Township, to keep quality people. Michael noted he has talked with Cascade Township, but there is some apprehension due to the unknown workload.

Trustee Lee VanPopering said to take a good look at Cascade, he understands their apprehension, but believes that would be the way to go. Trustee Edward Robinette said he would not be in a hurry to lock up a long term commitment too quickly. Treasurer Chris Afendoulis agrees with Lee VanPopering on consolidating with Cascade, but left it up to Michael DeVries' discretion and asked for updates to the Board on the progress. Michael DeVries explained he does not want to do anything prematurely and wants to do what is proper and correct.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to authorize Michael DeVries to use his best judgment in either contracting planning services or recruiting help from other township staff while the Township looks for a consolidation plan. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Professor Randall Bytwerk commented again in regards to the Woodcliff Park Association Rules.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP