

DRAFT MINUTES

1. The Regular Meeting of the Plainfield Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:30pm on January 14, 2008 at the Township Offices, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont, MI by Supervisor Meek.
2. Members present: Supervisor Meek, Clerk Morrow, Treasurer Stover, Trustees Borek, Hagedorn, Heindrichs, and Parris. Members absent: none. Also present: Township Attorney Eric Brandt and Township Manager Robert Homan.
3. Mrs. Morrow led the invocation and Mr. Meek led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Mr. Parris moved, supported by Mr. Heindrichs that the agenda be approved as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
5. Mr. Stover moved, supported by Mr. Parris that the consent agenda be approved as follows:
 - a. Approve November 19 regular, December 10 special and December 17 regular meeting minutes
 - b. Approve Resolution #08-00 setting the 2008 Rates & Charges
 - c. Approve Resolution #08-01 setting the 2008 Township Appointments
 - d. Approve Resolution #08-02 authorizing a Performance Resolution for Governmental bodies (MDOT ROW requirement)
 - e. Approve proposed rider to BC/BS Plan E: Allergy Testing & Treatment
 - f. Approve proposed renewal of Employment Agreement with John Short as Parks & Recreation Manager-Superintendent
 - g. Authorize publication and set a public hearing for Plainfield Fire Department Authorization Ordinance on January 28, 2008 at 7:30 PM
 - h. Authorize publication and set a public hearing for rezone of 6124 & 6156 Belmont Avenue (Township property) from C-1 (Commercial) to O (Office) on February 11, 2008 at 7:30 PM
 - i. Authorize publication and set a public hearing for Comstock Park DDA Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan amendments on February 11, 2008 at 7:30 PM
 - j. Approve pay estimate #9 to Dykema Excavators in the amount of \$13,322.95 for PARCC Side Clean Water Plant Contract #1 and Contract #4
 - k. Award contract to Dykema Excavators in the amount of \$174,010.10 for West River Drive (Safety Drive to Rogue River Road) water system improvements
 - l. Approve pay estimate #6 in the amount of \$86,890.93 and change order #4 (balancing) in the amount of (\$50,295.70) to Dykema Excavators for Grand River Crossing & wash water outfall water system improvements
 - m. Approve 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant Program allocation of funds
 - n. Authorize contract with Caledonia Excavating for Olde Millpond water main extension
 - o. Approve project payments for Olde Millpond water main extension
 - p. Approve Tax Sharing Agreement with Grand Rapids Community CollegeAyes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- 6a. The Public Hearing to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax exemption for Nucraft Furniture was opened for comment. Tim Shad, owner of Nucraft Furniture, explained that the exemption was for the addition to the building that will house office space and will also be used as a showroom. The addition is 6000 square feet. There being no comments from the

public, the hearing was closed and discussion returned to the Board. This addition may result in 5 new employees; however, the purpose of the expansion is to add the needed office space. Mr. Stover stated that this business pays its taxes on time and has been a responsible member of the business community and a good neighbor to the adjoining residential area. Mr. Stover moved, supported by Mr. Heindrichs that Resolution #08-03 be approved for Nucraft Furniture IFT granting a three (3) year tax abatement on personal property with a possible one (1) year extension and a three (3) year tax abatement on real property with a possible seven (7) year extension associated with the addition of 6,000 square feet of office space and showroom. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Mr. Shad was informed that the abatement would be reviewed in three years for compliance and then it would be considered for the length of time granted by this Board.

- 6b. The public hearing for a rezone request from R-1 (Residential) to C-1 (Commercial) for property located at 4040 Jupiter Avenue NE, owned by Speedway / Super America, 4096 Plainfield Avenue NE was opened for comment. David Rowe, Inland Seas Engineering, told the Board that the house on the subject property would be razed very soon. There are no specific plans for the subject property except perhaps to expand parking. Sometime in the next few years a proposal to rebuild the gas station will be considered. Walter Morris, 4055 Suburban Shores, asked if Speedway would be filling the subject area to avoid drainage onto his property. A representative of Speedway stated that the concerns of the neighbors would be addressed. There being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed and discussion returned to the Board. Board members expressed positive comments on this rezone request and the clearing of this lot. Board members also encouraged the petitioner to consider changes in traffic flow if they proceed with reconstruction plans. Mr. Heindrichs moved, supported by Mrs. Borek that Ordinance #803 Resolution #08-04 approving the rezone of the property located at 4040 Jupiter Avenue NE (#41-10-33-276-002) be rezoned from R-1 (Residential) to C-1 (Commercial). Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- 6c. The Public Hearing to consider a proposed Cemetery Ordinance was opened for comment. Mrs. Morrow, Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee, thanked the committee members for more than 10 months of work. She reviewed some of the sections of the proposed ordinance that received the most discussion by the committee.

Billie Withey, 2107 Audley Drive, attended most of the committee meetings. She is familiar with the proposed rules, and is not happy with the makeup of the committee. She feels there should have been more private citizens on the committee. She does not think the township should get involved in determining what each family should put on a grave. She also feels that 36" is not large enough for the tribute area since it is meant to include monuments and flowers.

Brenda Carlson, 5853 English Avenue, also feels that 36" is not large and suggested 48". She also feels there should be a "Grandfather Clause" in the ordinance to permit existing memorials to remain.

Harry Damon, 2722 Danube Lane, chose the Plainfield Cemetery because of the beauty of the cemetery and how nice and personal the cemetery was.

Perry Phillips, 3731 Fuller Avenue, and her mother, Jill, are in the process of grieving and asked the Board to respect the different ways children grieve compared to adults. She suggested that the Plainfield Cemetery did not have to look like other cemeteries and that the personal mementos need to be permitted. He endorsed a citizens committee.

Emily Milanowski, 8150 28th Street, said that her family had created a special gravesite in memory of her brother and that all the items are important to the family members. She feels 36" is not large enough for a tribute area.

Jordan Carlson, 5853 English Avenue, feels the cemetery should remain unique since the memorials reflect the love of the people of the community.

Barbara Brinkman, 3469 Ancliff Street, suggested that since general taxpayer's money is used to maintain the cemetery, that moderation in permitted adornments should be considered to keep the maintenance costs reasonable. The needs of some people should not infringe on the rights of others.

Wendell Briggs, 3747 Hordyk Street, attended several of the committee meetings and said the committee worked hard and had done a pretty good job on the draft ordinance. Urns will be permitted within the tribute areas. He feels the entire surface of a grave should be available for adornment.

Teresa and Jamie Phillips, 8635 Old Belding Road, attended some of the committee meetings and feels citizens should have more input. She stated that death changes a whole family and that parents should be permitted to leave something for their child.

Chris Van Kempen, 4444 Hackley Drive, asked about shepherds crooks and was told they would be permitted as long as they are turned over the grave and do not interfere with the mowers.

Kathleen Feeney, 2864 Riverwoods Drive, feels the ordinance still needs attention in several sections. She would like to see a committee of concerned citizens be permitted to assist with regular care of and special attention to the cemetery. She suggested that since the statute has several special days to commemorate cemeteries, that the citizens committee could assist in bringing attention to these special events. She questioned the 36" vs. 48" debate for the tribute area. She recognized that the township has responsibility to maintain the cemetery, but the suggestions from residents should have consideration, too, including the grandfathering situation. She suggested that there are non-conforming uses in many other areas of the township and that the same consideration for the cemetery could be important to consider. She stated that there are only six lots that are non-conforming. She also said that things that impede the maintenance of the cemetery should be removed. She suggested more time for notification when items are being removed. She urged the board to create as little difficulties as possible.

Ken Chester, 2564 Rockhill Drive, suggested that the committee relook at section 4 paragraph d and section 5c. He thinks that people should be notified of infractions and given a chance to correct the situation.

An email from Arthur Spalding will be added to these minutes as an exhibit.

There being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed and discussion returned to the Board. Board members commented on the proposed ordinance. Mr. Heindrichs thanked the committee for their work and told of his visits to the cemetery and talks with the maintenance workers. Mrs. Borek thanked everyone for his or her involvement and suggested that more work needed to be done on this ordinance. Mr. Stover also feels the comments from the residents need to be discussed by the committee. Mr. Hagedorn would like more time to study this issue. Mr. Parris feels there is a need for rules for the cemetery. Mrs. Morrow informed every one of the boundaries of the Plainfield Cemetery, which stretches from Rogue River Road to the Rogue River, bordered by

Packer Drive on the east. Some of that land is presently used for parks and a ball diamond. Mr. Meek stated that this is a very touchy situation and we need to take care of it. The township needs to tidy up some of those areas that are over adorned and intruding onto other people's graves. He understands people's situations, but the township also has to face the reality of the cost of maintenance. The township should spend some time to get the cemetery cleaned up and then take a hard look at setup. He feels there is a need for some conformity. This subject will be the topic of a Special meeting of the Board. Mr. Stover moved, supported by Mrs. Morrow that this subject be tabled until a Special Board meeting can be scheduled on this subject. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

7. Citizens were offered a chance to address the Board regarding subjects that were not on the agenda. There were no comments.
8. Following discussion, Mrs. Morrow moved, supported by Mr. Hagedorn that the proposed lease agreement with MDNR for development of the Comstock Park "Spur" of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail be approved as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
9. Mr. Heindrichs moved, supported by Mrs. Borek that the accounts payable in the amount of \$899,952.71 be approved and authorized for disbursement. Roll call vote. Ayes: Meek, Morrow, Stover, Borek, Hagedorn, Heindrichs, and Parris. Nays: none. Motion carried.
10. Mr. Homan reported that the township may be facing an expensive regulation from the Department of Environmental Quality, which would require storm water pollution control. He will keep the Board informed as he works with the MDEQ.
11. Mr. Stover reported on the Michigan Townships Association conference that was recently held in Detroit. The attendance was 1050 township officials; down about 300 because Clerks were faced with the Presidential Preference Primary Election the week after the conference and many were unable to attend.
12. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Susan L. Morrow, MMC
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

George K. Meek, Supervisor
Plainfield Charter Township

- CERTIFICATION -

I, the undersigned, Susan L. Morrow, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Plainfield, Kent County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of the proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 14th day of January, 2008.

Susan L. Morrow, MMC, Clerk
Plainfield Charter Township