

**DRAFT**

1. The special meeting of the Plainfield Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the township Offices, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont, MI by Supervisor Meek. Members present: Supervisor Meek, Clerk Harvey, Treasurer Stover, Trustees Borek, Hagedorn, Matthews and Weldon. Also present: Township Superintendent Robert Homan and Township Attorney Eric Brandt.
2. Supervisor Meek requested that an item 4 b. be added to the agenda for consideration of accounts payable in the amount of \$90,604.11. He asked Clerk Harvey to explain why this was needed. Clerk Harvey stated that the Township has been allowing the bills to be paid for years without a policy that authorizes payments prior to Board approval. Since the recent issue of his digitized signature was being used on unauthorized checks, he is insisting on hand signing checks in the future. Clerk Harvey moved with support from Mr. Matthews that the accounts payable in the amount of \$90,604.11 be added to the agenda as item 4. d. Supervisor Meek requested a voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Supervisor Meek recognized 3 Boy Scouts that were present at the meeting. Supervisor Meek provided updates on issues concerning the mutual agreement between the Township and Mrs. Rogers regarding the payment for the demolition of the property at 4109 West River Drive. He updated the Board on the property at 4344 Grand River Drive by sharing that the property owner has been fined for non-compliance of Township ordinances. He announced that he has been selected to become the Township government representative to the newly formed Kent County Land Bank Authority.
3. The following items were discussed:
  - a. The lack of a designated position to assist in performing the background checks for newly hired employees for general Township positions.
  - b. Supervisor Meek shared his concerns that he had been told there was a possibility of a conflict of interest because of the number of FOIA requests submitted by Ms. Traci Kornak and the allegation that she is Mr. Harvey's attorney. Mr. Harvey explained that he knew Ms. Kornak from a board he served on a few years ago and never hired her as his lawyer. Ms. Kornak visited Mr. Harvey in his office as an upset concerned citizen in November because she wanted to know what was going on with Mr. Hawkins as she had children in Belmont Elementary School. Mr. Harvey stated he was on a board with Judge Leiber and he did not think that constitutes a conflict of interest either.
  - c. Supervisor Meek addressed the concern that he had heard that Clerk Harvey was using the Plainfield Farmers Market as a place to campaign last summer. Mr. Harvey informed Mr. Meek that he had spent many hours working at the market to insure success and had budgeted additional help this year because of the amount of time required to run the market.
  - d. Supervisor Meek appointed Mr. Stover and Mr. Matthews to join him on a committee to address how future Board meetings will be conducted.
  - e. The Belmont Avenue project was discussed at length. Supervisor Meek read a chronology of Kent County Road Commission activities concerning the Belmont Road project. Mr. Stover indicated we need to manage sound requests from the citizens who live on Belmont Road and others that use the road. Mr. Hagedorn stated that we should consider withholding the Township's \$200,000 portion of the project. Mr. Matthews stated that he disagrees with Mr. Hagedorn and wants to see the project go through. He stated for the record that no one has contacted the Kent County Road Commission for additional information as of early this afternoon and that two citizens spoke at the April 6, 2009 regular meeting of the Board and no one spoke about the improvements to Belmont. Mr. Harvey shared his research that it does not appear that accurate traffic counts were used to request the change in the designation of Belmont Road by the Grand Valley Metro Council at a meeting on January 7, 2009 and that this project did not appear on the Long Range Plan which is inconstant with the Councils published policies. He requested that a meeting needs to be scheduled with the Grand Valley Metro Council to discuss this issue and is in favor of reconsidering the funding. Mr. Weldon stated he wants the project to go through. Mrs. Borek shared that she was elected to uphold the constitution and must vote on all issues. She stated that this issue needs to be revisited and is in favor of withholding funding at this time. Supervisor Meek requested that this issue be revisited at the April 5, 2010 Board meeting and asked Attorney Brandt to provide a

legal opinion as to determine what obligations the Township has to the County to continue financial support for this project.

4. The following items were considered by the Board:
  - a. Mr. Hagedorn moved with support from Mr. Matthews that the Township remain in the MS4 Class Action Lawsuit. Supervisor Meek requested a roll voice vote: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carries.
  - b. Mr. Hagedorn moved with support from Mr. Stover to accept the letter of reprimand of Mr. Homan concerning the article in the Profile and that we reserve the right to take further action after the complaint from the Secretary of State is finalized. Supervisor Meek requested a voice vote. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1. Supervisor Meek asked Mr. Matthews if he would like to speak on this issue and apologized for not having gotten back to him after he read the documents. Mr. Matthews shared his concerns and after hearing additional comments asked to change his vote. This resulted in the following tally. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
  - c. Mr. Stover moved with support from Mrs. Borek that the Township response to the Secretary of State be accepted as written. Supervisor Meek requested a voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
  - d. Mr. Harvey moved with support from Mr. Stover that accounts payable in the amount of \$90,604.11 be approved. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Borek, Matthews, Stover, Weldon, Harvey, Hagedorn and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried.
5. Supervisor Meek opened the floor to citizen's comments. ~~Mrs. Jan Lastocy shared that she has submitted many FOIA requests and does not believe there is a conflict of interest and stated that recall remains an option to the citizens. Mr. Rau shared his concerns about the traffic counts used on the Belmont Road project and his opposition to this project. Mr. Wheeler suggested that the County needs to consider the access to Post Road from Belmont. Ms. Adomitas stated that she felt the KCRC has been disrespectful of the citizens and she shared that she is requesting any volunteer help to help with a table at the Plainfield Farmers Market to collect food for Feeding America. Mr. Cable stated the Township should "Do no harm" to the citizens by forcing this road project through. Mr. Cain shared the accidents on Belmont Road in front of his house due to excessive speed. Mr. Besser also stated speed was a problem on Belmont Avenue. Mr. Micele, the principle of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School on Belmont Avenue, stated that he has concerns about the speed of traffic in front of the school and he suggested to the Board that citizen's comments should be placed on the agenda near the beginning of the Board meeting. Mr. Penrod thanked Mrs. Borek for her thoughtful response to the road project and said he was thankful that he brought his son to be able to see democracy in action. Mr. Christensen shared his concern in that some Board members are not listening to the people. Ms. Delmont stated that she was told by the Road Commission that they needed to obtain 10 feet of property for drainage and not for an expanded road. Mrs. Wernette shared her concern with the safety of the children and the fact that cars do not stop for the school buses in front of her house now and the third lane would only make it worse. Ms. Cornell stated she came to the open house during the snow storm and wanted the Board to know that she was told that this project was being funded by stimulus money and now feels she was lied to. Mrs. Rottman told the Board that she is the crossing guard and she feels her safety is at risk today and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lane will only make it less safe in the future. Mr. Heagle shared that he observes cars traveling 45 to 50 miles per hour through the school zones now and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lane will only increase the speed. Mr. Muyerhlotz wanted the Board to know the speed on Belmont is not controlled now and the new road will increase the traffic and the speed. Mrs. Rau does not want the area in Belmont to look like Comstock Park where housing is boarded up waiting for commercial development. Ms. Burr said they moved to Belmont 10 years ago because of the rural charm and she wants to see Belmont preserved and not destroyed. Ms. Powers stated she grew up in Belmont and she wants to keep Belmont the rural community it has been all her life, she also suggested that trees should be planted along Jupiter to protect the serenity of the cemetery at the Catholic Church. Mr. Spruit stated that the project would destroy Belmont. Mr. Conely moved here because it was a community and feels that the board has taken a position that they followed the letter of the law and the decision was not made locally, he wants the law to be upheld and is in opposition to the road widening. Mr. Recter stated that traffic needs to be controlled now by police or speed bumps. Mr. Fulton wanted the Board to know that he has decided to sell his house because of the added traffic the road project will create. Mr. Keel informed the Board that the City of Grand Rapids is making 4 lane roads into 3 lanes in efforts to create traffic calming. Mr. Dinkel wanted to know if blue prints are available on the internet and wondered if the Road Commission would come to Belmont for a meeting. Ms. Hull shared her displeasure with having to have added sidewalks in her subdivision and wanted to know~~

~~if she was going to get her money back if this project replaces this new sidewalk. Supervisor Meek closed the citizen's comments when no more citizens wished to speak.~~

6. Supervisor Meek adjourned the meeting at 9:37 PM.

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K. Scott Harvey  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

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George K. Meek  
Plainfield Charter Township Supervisor

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, as the duly elected and acting clerk of the township, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the special meeting minutes of March 29, 2010 as approved by the Township Board of Plainfield Charter Township, at which a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk Date

**-CERTIFICATION-**

~~I, the undersigned, K. Scott Harvey, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Plainfield, Kent County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a special board meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010.~~

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K. Scott Harvey  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk