



PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP OFFICES
6161 BELMONT AVENUE NE, BELMONT, MICHIGAN 49306-9609
(616) 364-8466

Plainfield Charter Township
Regular Meeting
September 20, 2010

A regularly scheduled work session of the regular board meeting of Plainfield Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Meek at 6:30 PM at the Township Offices, 6161 Belmont Avenue NE, Belmont MI. Members present: Supervisor Meek, Clerk Harvey, Trustees Borek, Hagedorn, Matthews, and Weldon. Also present: Township Superintendent Robert Homan. Treasurer Stover arrived at 6:33 PM. Supervisor Meek adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

1. The Regular Meeting of the Plainfield Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:30 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: Superintendent Robert Homan and Water Department Director Rick Solle.
2. Mr. Hagedorn led the invocation.
3. Mrs. Borek led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Supervisor Meek stated that there would be a correction to the Agenda. Item 5 g) the amount for accounts payable should read \$543,643.74 not \$376,864.71. Mr. Hagedorn moved with support from Mrs. Borek that changes to the accounts payable in the amount of \$543,643.74, the Agenda and the Consent Agenda be approved. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Harvey, Hagedorn, Stover, Borek, Weldon, Matthews and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a) Approve September 7, 2010 regular meeting minutes
 - b) Approve a resolution amending the North Kent Sewer Authority Rules and Regulations by revising certain local discharge limits
 - c) Approve the request by Jim Stover to attend the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association Fall Conference
 - d) Schedule public hearing for October 18, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax exemption for new industrial equipment at D&M Metal Products located at 4994 West River Drive
 - e) Approve the Special Liquor License for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a benefit/fundraiser to be held on November 26, 2010
 - f) Receive the Ordinance Enforcement, Building Permit, Passport, and Financial reports
 - g) Approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$543,643.74
6. (a.) Supervisor Meek opened a Public Hearing concerning the proposed Churchill Estates Street Lighting Assessment District. There were no comments. (b.) Mr. Weldon moved with support from Mrs. Borek to consider the conformation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Churchill Estates Street Lighting District. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Hagedorn, Stover, Harvey, Borek, Matthews, Weldon and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried. (c.) Mr. Stover moved with support from Mr. Matthews to approve Consumers Energy's Standard & Authorization for Street Lighting Contracts. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Stover, Matthews, Borek, Harvey, Weldon, Hagedorn and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried.
7. Mr. Bob VanderMale and Alpine Township Supervisor Alex Arrends commented on the high pressure water system improvements that can be efficiently incorporated in the water system improvement plan recently approved for the

Westgate area in Alpine Township. Mr. Stover moved with support from Weldon to the contract with Alpine Township for Westgate water improvements. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Yeas: Weldon Matthews, Hagedorn, Stover, Harvey and Meek. Nays: Borek. Motion carried.

8. Mrs. Borek moved with support from Mr. Matthews to table the variance request for Imperial Pines Private Road until the October 18, 2010 regular Meeting of the Plainfield Charter Township Board. Supervisor Meek requested a voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: None. Motion carried.
9. Mr. Stover moved with support from Mr. Weldon not to increase property tax millage for 2011. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Weldon, Stover, Matthews, Hagedorn, Borek, Harvey and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried.
10. Mr. Hagedorn moved with support from Mr. Matthews to not accept the offer of a donation of three parcels of land that was offered to the Township. Supervisor Meek requested a voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: None. Motion carried.
11. Mr. Harvey moved with support from Mrs. Borek to approve the proposal to establish a Cemetery Advisory Committee with the word funding included in the purpose of the committee where the word financing had been stricken. Supervisor Meek requested a roll call vote. Ayes: Borek, Matthews, Harvey, Hagedorn, Weldon, Stover and Meek. Nays: None. Motion carried.
12. Supervisor Meek opened the floor for citizens' comments. Mr. Art Spalding, Ms. Kathleen Fenney and Ms. Brenda Carson thanked the Board for approving the Cemetery Advisory Committee and all mentioned that they would be willing to serve on this committee. Mr. Mel Nylaan and Mr. Steve Martin requested that the Board not approve the Variance requested for Imperial Pines Private Road. They both stated that the addition of a fourth house on a private drive requires the private road to be paved and this road should be no exception. Mr. Don Behrenweld wanted to know the status of the Belmont Road project and when the Township and the Kent County Road Commission plan on addressing improvements that are needed. Mr. Steve Besser commented on how pleased he is with the Board's approach to problem solving and working together. Mr. Dave Marholtz told the Board that the Private Road discussion is an example of why Citizens' Comments should come before action is taken by the Board.
13. Superintendent had no comments.
14. Trustee Weldon talked on the success of the Hyser House tours in association with the Civil War and World War II encampment the previous weekend and informed the Board that Senator Mark Jansen will be the main speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony.
15. Supervisor Meek read a prepared statement concerning the investigation of alleged threats and intimidation as follows.

"Tonight, in our capacity as private citizens of Plainfield Charter Township, Victor Matthews, George Meek and Charles Weldon, announce that the investigation we authorized into allegations of threats and intimidation, made in connection with the citizen recall campaign against the tree of us, has concluded. The investigation announced by us on August 16, 2010 and conducted by Private Investigator Gene Debbaudt identified one incident of a brief altercation between several citizens outside of Township Hall following a board meeting. None of the parties involved wanted to file a police report and we consider that particular matter closed. Beyond that one incident, Mr. Debbaudt's investigation did not uncover any credible evidence of threats or intimidation directed at any citizen, elected or appointed official of Plainfield Township.

The investigation included interviews of all elected Plainfield Township officials, the Township Manager and citizens with information relating to allegations of threats and intimidation. Several township residents, who made the claims of threats and intimidation, declined to be interviewed. While we respect their right not to talk to our investigators, without the information they claimed to possess, it is difficult to validate their accusations.

Additionally, our investigators reviewed a report prepared by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), dated August 18, 2010, in connection with a number of allegations directed against the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) by some residents of Plainfield Township concerning the Belmont Road Project. One particular allegation was "Threats and Intimidation were used in the Right of Way Acquisition Process". After a detailed investigation, the MDOT investigator concluded that the allegations were more related to the project scope and not due to inappropriate actions by KCRC.

We are satisfied that the issue of threats and intimidation has been meticulously and extensively, not only by Mr. Debbaudt and his associates, but also by MDOT. We now consider this matter closed and no additional investigation warranted.

While we understand and respect the right of Plainfield Charter Township residents to disagree with decisions made by their elected officials, **we emphatically state there is no place in the political process for anyone to threaten or intimidate another because they disagree with them.**

We thank all of those who willingly cooperated with the investigation, as the conclusions reached could never have taken place without their honest and open input.

Supervisor Meek adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

K. Scott Harvey
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

Date

George K. Meek
Plainfield Charter Township Supervisor

Date

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 regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2010 as approved by the Township Board of Plainfield Charter Township, at which a quorum was present.

Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

Date

DRAFT

DRAFT