

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COOPER CHARTER
TOWNSHIP BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2007**

A special meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at the Cooper Charter Township Meeting Room, 1590 West D. Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Members Present: Frederick, Buiskool, DeHaan, Sorensen, Sytsma, Janssen, and Schiedel.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Township Attorney Lynda Thomsen, Township Assessor/Zoning Coordinator Renee Laws and twelve interested persons.

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. The Clerk informed the Board that due and proper notice of the special meeting had been posted according to law.

Motion by Frederick, supported by Schiedel to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Supervisor Sorensen informed the board that due to the fact that the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator stated that she did not hear the Supervisor tell her that her contract would be on the agenda at the Monday, November 12, 2007 Board Meeting, he would like to make a motion to repeal the previous motion that was made at that meeting in reference to the Assessor/Zoning Coordinator contract.

Motion by Sorensen, supported by DeHaan to repeal the motion that was made at the Monday, November 12, 2007 Board Meeting and allow the executive committee to counter offer the revised contract to the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator. If the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator does not accept the contract within five days, allow the Supervisor to go out and request proposals for the services of assessing and zoning administration.

A lengthy discussion ensued with each Trustee expressing how they felt about the motion.

Trustee Frederick spoke about the responsibilities of the Township Board to the taxpayers of the Township. He would like us to get proposals on the Assessing and separate proposals for the Zoning Coordinator position. He stated that unless we know what available personnel are out there and the cost, we will not be able to make a good decision for the residents of the Township. He also stated that he takes his fiscal responsibilities to the township residents very seriously and wants to insure that we are spending our monies in the right way.

Trustee Buiskool stated that the State is not giving us our revenue sharing as in the past and we need to find the best effective way to get services done for the least amount of money. We need to look at every avenue before we proceed to just offer a contract.

The Supervisor stated that he feels we may have missed a step in the negotiation process with the current contract employee.

Trustee Frederick responded to the supervisor's comments with explaining how he feels we are being rushed into a decision. He does not feel the executive committee is the correct way to handle the situation and he would like to see the whole board involved in the drafting of the contract. He wants input in the drafting of the contract so he can answer to the residents when they ask him about it.

Renee Laws, current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator asked the board if they had done any review on salaries.

Board members responded they had done comparisons in salaries and had provided the board with that information.

Trustees discussed other municipalities and the fact that building is down and that we either need to have an employee or an independent contractor and not an employee contractor.

Employee Julie Muller spoke about the good working relationship with the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator.

Margaret Peterson, Board of Review Member, addressed the board. She has been a longtime member of that board and wanted everyone to know that the Assessor is well qualified and organized. She also feels that the board is much more effective and the Board of Review gets more service now than it did in the past.

Treasurer DeHaan spoke to the horror stories about assessors that do not keep up with their duties that include field work and then the unit has to be reassessed and that the field work is current in Cooper. She would not like

the Township to go through a lot of expense because assessing was not kept up.

Supervisor Sorensen stated he would like to rescind his motion. Treasurer DeHaan who supported the motion agrees to rescind the motion and withdraw her support.

Motion by Sorensen, supported by DeHaan to repeal the motion that was made at the Monday, November 12, 2007 Board Meeting to withdraw the Assessor/Zoning Contract and to put out proposals for independent Assessor and independent Zoning Contractor. Motion passed 6 to 1. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorensen, supported by DeHaan for the board to review the proposed Assessor/Zoning Coordinator Contract and meet again to offer a contract acceptable to the board to the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator. Motion passed 6-1. Motion carried.

Employee Kim Kars-Bos addressed the board on the fourteen point review process and that the Township Assessor has received the highest rating in that review. She also was concerned about having an assessor that has multiple units to assess.

Sheryl Gluchowski addressed the board and stated that the current assessor is doing a great job. She works for the City of Plainwell and she feels that the City of Plainwell does not have the same quality of job performance.

The board will have a special board meeting to prepare and present a Board acceptable contract to the current Assessor/Zoning Coordinator on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the board regarding subjects not on the agenda. There were none.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Bonnie L. Sytsma, Clerk

Jeffrey R. Sorensen, Supervisor

I, the undersigned Bonnie L. Sytsma, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Cooper, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a special board meeting held on the 14th day of November 2007.

**Bonnie L. Sytsma, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township**