

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COOPER**  
**Township Board Meeting**  
**September 10, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held on Monday, September 10, 2018 at the Cooper Charter Township Hall, 1590 West D. Avenue, Kalamazoo MI.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Supervisor, Jeff Sorensen  
Clerk, DeAnna Janssen  
Trustee, Jim Frederick  
Trustee, Fred Vlietstra  
Trustee, Brenda Buiskool  
Trustee, Bob Schiedel – arrived at 7:15pm

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Treasurer, Carol DeHaan

Also present was Senator Margaret O'Brien, Township Attorney Mike Homier, Chief Emig and approximately 75 interested people. Supervisor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items on the consent agenda were:

- a. Minutes of August 13, 2018 Meeting
- b. July Treasurer's Report
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Constellation Trust Report
- d. Receipts and Disbursements Report

The board and citizens were asked if they wanted to have any items removed from the consent agenda. There were none. Motion by Buiskool, supported by Frederick to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

Motion by Janssen, supported by Buiskool to approve agenda as written. Motion carried 5-0.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Resident comments included 1) continued worry and questions about the operation at Coggan Farms and wonder with all the water problems across the State of Michigan, what's it going to take to get some answers about how safe this commercial venture is in light of how it might drastically affect Cooper Township residents in the future 2) disappointment that the previously proposed sewer project was expanded outside of those who currently needed it, causing it to fail 3) expressed no support for a bond proposal for water clean-up

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS & STATS:**

Congratulations to the Fire Department for obtaining a \$20,909 grant for firefighter physicals. Thank you to all those involved in the tedious process of applying for this and other grants!

**DISCUSSION – PARCHMENT PFAS WATER:**

Present for the discussion was Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Director Vern Johnson, State of Michigan Environmental Public Health Director Kory Groetsch, State of Michigan Toxicologist Jordan Bailey, State of Michigan DEQ District Supervisor David Heywood, State of Michigan DEQ Assistant District Supervisor David Harn, and Kalamazoo County Medical Director Dr. William Nettleton.

Presentation by Dave Harn, MDEQ– see attached

Some of the resident questions/comments include:

Q-Why has there not been more testing in the Springbrook area? A-Some of the Springbrook area is not easily reached, but that area is on our minds and we plan to put some sample wells in that area. Q-Will the results continue to be made public? A-Yes.

Q – Where were the irrigation wells that were tested? A- Russell Farms, Parchment High School, and Welborn.

Q – Expressed concerns about the back and forth regarding who should get bottled water and the lack of well testing in the blue dotted bottled water areas. A - Sample wells will be drilled, and if there is information that is returned that indicates water is not contaminated, then we will tell people, with confidence, that the area is safe. Vern Johnson stated that either way, contaminated or not, as soon as the DEQ makes a determination about households with well water, those households will receive a letter from the County Health Department.

Q - Why not just test the wells that are there instead of drilling new wells. A - Residential wells are not suitable for Hydrogeological test study. Much more in-depth information will be provided from these wells. Vern Johnson stated that until these results do come in we'll still be providing water to all these residents.

Q – Will we ever be put back on the Parchment water system or are we part of the Kalamazoo water system permanently. A - Supervisor Sorensen said that Parchment Water has 1 year to finalize their plans moving forward.

Q - Was told that water doesn't go up hill, but some results negate that information! A - Just because it looks up hill above ground, doesn't mean that the underground water sources are also moving uphill.

Q - Concerned about bathing in this water. A - Skin does a great job of keeping these chemicals out. Ingestion is the main source of contamination.

Q - How many monitoring wells are being put in? A - About 20.

Q - Has the depth of the wells made any difference in the results? A - Differing depths of wells doesn't mean wells are using different aquifers, it just means that the land above the aquifers is at varying depths.

Q – You stated in your presentation that 53 canvassed wells have yet to be tested. When will they be tested? A – They haven't been tested yet because we have been unsuccessful with reaching them. We have left notices at those houses and when they make contact with the DEQ they will be tested.

Q - When will the acute health concerns of the citizens in the affected areas be addressed? A - Conversations are being had about health concerns. Exposure Assessments and Health Studies are part of the process, but the Exposure Assessment has to be done first. The Exposure Assessment is more about the community, not the individual health and can take 2-3 years to run an Exposure Assessment throughout a community.

Q – What about a cluster of households on Spiral that have cancer! A – We will be looking at existing cancer records in the area which are, by law, reported to state agencies. Most individuals will probably not know if PFAS contributed to any conditions or illnesses they have.

Q – What about residents with open wounds, auto-immune diseases, breastfeeding infants. Bathing with open wounds should not provide anything but a miniscule amount of additional exposure. People with auto-immune

diseases could be more susceptible to illness and should discuss with their physician. Parents with breastfeeding infants should speak to their pediatricians about weighing the concerns vs the benefits.

Q - Everyone with gardens has been told not to eat anything from their gardens. Will we be able to eat from our gardens next year? A - MDAR experts are planning a crop study, until then very little information regarding whether plants will uptake PFAS from the soil is available.

**DISCUSSION - DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND:**

This topic was presented by Brian Vilmont of Prein & Newhof. It included information about a State Program that utilizes State (and possibly some Federal) funds to secure high dollar loans at low interest rates for the installation of municipal water and sewer projects across the state.

Applications are accepted once a year at DEQ. The application is long and takes about 350 hours to put together. DEQ accepts the applications from across the state. The more communities that apply, the less money that is available per project. With this funding mechanism, construction of city water lines at the earliest wouldn't happen until spring of 2020.

**REQUEST TO COMBINE PARCELS – 1870 ROOSEVELT:**

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Buiskool to approve this combination. Motion carried 6-0.

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE REQUEST FOR FUNDS:**

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Frederick to not contribute additional money above the \$8000.00 contract to this program for 2018. Motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL TO LEVY THE FOLLOWING ON THE 2018 WINTER TAX BILL:**

- a) Levy 1% PTAF and 3% Penalty; waive penalty for Senior Citizens
- b) Levy 0.8526 for Township Tax
- c) Levy \$42.78 per Household for collection, disposal, and recycling of Solid Waste
- d) Levy .5800 Mills per thousand for Street Light District
- e) Levy Collingwood & G Ave, Riverview Industrial, Henshaw/Moffett Sewer, Levy Liens for cleanup and mowing, and Delinquent Special Assessments on the Tax Roll.
- f) Reaffirm Investment Policy

Motion by Frederick, supported by Vlietstra to approve the addition of all the above on the Winter 2018 Tax Bill.

Roll Call Vote:

YES: Janssen, Vlietstra, Buiskool, Schiedel, Sorensen, Frederick

NO: None

ABSENT: DeHaan

**DISCUSSION – ROADS:** - Trustee Frederick was wondering if a discussion about sewer pipe going in at least on Riverview next year when the road commission is working on it would be prudent? Supervisor Sorensen said that this will probably be a topic of conversation coming up soon.

**DISCUSSION – JULIE MULLER LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Vlietstra to grant the requested 90 day leave of absence. Motion carried 6-0.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Trustee Frederick thanks the board and attorney for their professionalism and concern for our community, board members, and staff.

Clerk Janssen mentioned to the board that the 2019 Health Insurance Policy will only be increasing by 1.67% above the rates we're paying in 2018.

Trustee Buiskool commented that this board is very active and interested in the community and when we don't have the answers that your looking for, it's not because we don't want to have the answers.....it may just be that there are no answers to be had yet.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

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DeAnna Janssen, Clerk

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Attested by: Jeff R. Sorensen, Supervisor

I, the undersigned DeAnna Janssen, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Cooper, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.

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DeAnna Janssen, Clerk  
Cooper Charter Township