

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COOPER
Regular Township Board Meeting
February 10, 2020

The regular meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held, on Monday, February 10, 2020 at the Cooper Charter Township Hall, 1590 West D. Avenue, Kalamazoo MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Supervisor, Jeff Sorensen
Clerk, DeAnna Janssen
Treasurer, Carol DeHaan
Trustee, Jim Frederick
Trustee, Bob Schiedel
Trustee, Fred Vlietstra
Trustee, Rob Bricker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Also present was Lt Jeff Baker, Attorney Homier, Chief Emig, Assistant Chief Klok, and approximate 9 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 January 13, 2020 Meeting
- b. January Receipts and Disbursements Report
- c. December Treasurers Report
- d. 4th Quarter HHW Newsletter
- e. Constellation Trust 4th Quarter Report
- f. Year-End Assessors Report – remove to trustee comments per Fredericks request

The board and citizens were asked if they wanted any items removed from the consent agenda. Motion by Frederick, supported by DeHaan to remove item F. to trustee comments and to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Sorensen asked to add the Newmeyer Settlement Agreement Discussion to the agenda. Motion by Schiedel supported by Frederick to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. Chiefs Report
- b. Assistant Chiefs Report
- c. 2019 Year End Truck Report

Motion by Vlietstra supported by Bricker to accept the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs reports. Motion carried 7-0.
Motion by Frederick supported by Vlietstra to accept the 2019 Year End Truck Report. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Bricker to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

The Public Hearing on the 2020/2021 General Fund Budget was called to order.

The Clerk presented to the board the Notice of Public Hearing & Proof of Publication. No written comments were received by the Clerk. The Supervisor asked for public comments, there were none.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Schiedel to close the Public Hearing on the 2020/2021 General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2021 at the highest functioning level in the amount of \$1,656,050.00 for revenues and \$1,656,050.00 for expenditures, and

Furthermore, be it moved that the total millage to be levied in the 2020/2021 fiscal year is expected to generate approximately \$251,500.00 in revenues of which \$200,000.00 will be used for the purpose of funding road maintenance and construction and the balance to offset the expenses incurred in the other departments, and

Furthermore, be it moved that this budget be compared with actual expenditures on a periodic basis throughout the budget year that the budget be amended as necessary to prevent the expenditure of funds in excess of the budgeted amount. Also, that the Supervisor and the Clerk be authorized to transfer up to \$50,000.00 between functions if necessary.

And, finally, be it moved to adopt the Budget and Appropriations Act Resolution of Cooper Charter Township for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Frederick, Bricker

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0

ADOPTION OF SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR:

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Janssen to adopt the 2020/2021 Public Improvement, Fire Capitol Improvement, Water & Sewer, Street Light, Collingwood & G Ave Special Assessment Sewer, Building Department, Retiree Health, Capital Project, and Solid Waste & Recycling Fund Budgets as written.

There were no other comments from the board or public.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Frederick, Bricker

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0

RESOLUTION NO 20-165 ADOPTING THE 2020 POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES:

Motion by Janssen, supported by Vlietstra to adopt Resolution 20-165.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Frederick, Bricker

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0

RESOLUTION NO 20-166 ALLOWING A QUALIFIED PROPERTY OWNER TO FILE A WRITTEN REQUEST WITH THE JULY OR DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW TO CLAIM A PRINCIPLE RESIDENCE EXEMPTION:

Motion by Frederick, supported by DeHaan to adopt Resolution 20-166.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Frederick, Bricker

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0

RESOLUTION NO 20-167 ADOPTING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION:

Motion by Janssen, supported by DeHaan to adopt Resolution 20-167.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Schiedel, Frederick, Bricker

No: none

Absent: none

Motion carried 7-0

DISCUSSION – SPEED STUDY – Sorensen reported to the board that per Cooper Township request (based on resident complaints) the State Police did a speed study in our area. They concluded that all but one of the roads that were studied are currently at a lower speed limit that then should be, based on State Police policy. The only one to be reduced is West C Ave between Douglas and 17th. Other areas studied were North 14th Street north of West G Ave and 12th Street from B Ave to the Allegan County Line.

DISCUSSION – COGGIN/KALSEC UPDATES – Sorensen provided an explanation letter from Envirollogic regarding the results of the testing. He also let the board know that the Coggin Farm property that utilizes this recycling product has been sold to a new owner. In addition, the application to the state for this use is coming due again September 15, 2020.

BOARD UPDATE – 5430 THAYER AND 10245 16TH STREET- DeHaan informed the board that both of these properties had come before the assessor who had raised the assessment of the Thayer property and denied the homestead of the 16th Street property. The owners then took these items to the State Tribunal where the assessment was reduced and the homestead was reinstated.

UPDATE FROM ATTORNEY: MORAN PROPERTY - Attorney Homier informed the board that we would be back at Circuit Court regarding this dispute.

UPDATE FROM ATTORNEY: NEWMAYER AGREEMENT

Motion by Bricker supported by Vlietstra to approve this agreement as submitted by Attorney Homier. Motion Carried 7-0.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

Frederick asked DeHaan some questions he had about the Kalamazoo County Landbank line items mentioned in the Assessors Year in Review report that was previously in the Consent Agenda.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 07:55.

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 10th day of February 2020.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township