

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COOPER
Special Township Board Meeting
July 12, 2022

The special meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Supervisor, Jeff Sorensen
Treasurer, Carol DeHaan
Clerk, DeAnna Janssen
Trustee, Jim Frederick
Trustee, Dan Williams
Trustee, Adam Tuinstra
Trustee, Fred Vlietstra

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

Chief Emig and 60 interested people. Supervisor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion by Tuinstra, supported by Frederick to approve the agenda as written.
Motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ARPA FUND USES:

- 1/3 to fire department, 1/3 to township improvements, 1/3 to expanded parking at D Ave trail.
- No fee township park, dog park, increased parking at river, expand parking to include some places along North Westnedge for those that can't handle the hills closer to the river, fire department, take it to a voter of the people for how to spend it.
- Park, covered pavilion, farmers market
- New building across the street for the fire department, refurbish fire house 2.
- Taxes will increase with parks, police protection, and other items that need maintenance. More efficient means of using the money would be buildings, fire department, tire recycling program.
- Pay for sewer for those on Riverview, township parks, fire department, small expansion of township hall.
- Fire Department. Expansion of township building is not feasible.
- Police Force, broadband.
- Cut the trees that are hanging over the road.
- More parking along N. Westnedge for trail use, pavilion and new park.
- Parking lot expansion at trail and new park on river.
- Path from "D" Ave/Township Hall to River, pavilion across the street from township.
- AB Avenue Safety...need street lights at both ends of this street.
- Bicycle lanes along D Ave, east/west side roads need bigger shoulders for bikers.
- Better speaker system in hall, trim around street signs.
- Use money for what will benefit the majority of residents. Bike lanes to/on Riverview.
- Better parking and safer access for residents/voters to come to township hall for taxes and elections.
- Pavilion, river access, more parking at trail, revamp the township hall
- Fire department, premium pay, police department, parks
- Fire department truck, police department
- Police department, pavilion w/ playground across from township hall NOT on river, farmers market.
- More money to Household Hazardous Waste...had to pay \$40 last fall to take stuff to HHW, police department is way to expensive and will increase our taxes to maintain.

- More law enforcement officers
- Add proposed Township Building plans to website. But to a vote of the people.
- Watch out for spending it on anything that would require future money being spent....may not be able to afford the maintenance. Split it up and give it back to the people.
- Can the township create an endowment fund to support future expenses?
- Build a park at the river and ask the county to contribute their partnership in the way of maintenance. More police presence.
- Spend the money on a brick & mortar project...township hall, fire station, pavilion.
- Reimburse those who have to pay for their Riverview sewer.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ARPA FUND USES WRITTEN AND DELIVERED BEFORE MEETING:

- Street light at intersection of B & Riverview is needed and would be a good use for the ARPA money.
- Move the resident parking behind the township building and create an entrance from back there.
- Bike Trail from D Ave to Riverview Dr.
- Relief for people who have need to pay for sewer installation. Green infrastructure in the township buildings would help them run more efficiently. Home repair for those in need in the township. More money into the road funds for repairs. Clean up the dead and fallen trees on the sides of the roads. Flooding prevention measures, enhancement of emergency alert and communication tools.
- Clean up the contaminated landfill property along the Kalamazoo River.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

- Trustee Vlietstra thanked everyone for coming.
- Trustee Frederick thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to make their needs known to the road commission and county for more than a few of the concerns they have. He also commented that a collaboration with the county parks is a good thing for the township.
- Treasurer DeHaan thanked everyone for coming and suggested residents call the office of stop in with any questions or concerns they may have.
- Trustee Tuinstra mentioned that he really appreciated the good turnout. Also mentioned that the police presence and road commission issues are not something the township can really do anything about.
- Trustee Williams mentioned that he doesn't want taxes raised. He also said that there is a real need for the expansion of the township building and using ARPA funds to do it will keep our taxes from being raised. He also thanks everyone for coming out.
- Supervisor Sorensen thanked everyone for showing up and reiterated the sentiment for people to stop into the office and ask questions anytime!

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk

Attested: Jeff 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 special board meeting held on the 12th day of July 2022.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township