

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COOPER
Regular Township Board Meeting
May 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held on Monday, May 8, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Chief Emig, Bruce Vanderweele, and 49 interested people were present. Supervisor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the consent agenda:

- a) Board Meeting Minutes of April
- b) April Receipts and Disbursements Report
- c) April 2023 KCSO Calls for Service Report
- d) Attorneys Ordinance Enforcement Report - April
- e) Treasurers Report – March 2023
- f) Interest Rec'd Report for Fiscal Year 2022/2023
- g) ARPA Funds Worksheet
- h) Constellation Trust 4th Quarter Statement 2022/2023
- i) Kalamazoo County Free Scrap Tire Recycling Events Flyer
- j) 1st Quarter HHW Reporter
- k) Election Stats from May 2 Election

The board and citizens were asked if they wanted any items removed from the consent agenda. Motion by Williams, supported by Vlietstra to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

1. Citizen that sent the flyer to vote no for the fire dept special assessment said we should put the fire department first.
2. Citizen mentioned that special assessment didn't pass because the money the township is spending on the construction should go to the fire department.
3. Citizen wondered why the needs for the fire department were not put b4 the needs of the township clerk.
4. Citizen piggybacked on previous statements.
5. Citizen said he was irked because Supervisor would give an interview but wouldn't talk to the residents about the construction project.
6. Citizen upset because she wanted all the ARPA money spent on the fire department.

7. Citizen asked after the last tornado storm, why the tornado air warning sirens aren't used anymore.
8. Citizen said that due to the times when we all have to tighten our belts, the township should have prepared better for paying for the new fire department instead of asking the people for the money to do so.
9. Citizen mentioned that fire department needs are the most important thing and we should use the money for that instead of a construction project at the township hall.
10. Citizen mentioned that she and her husband have used the fire department before and that the fire department should get the money and the township hall project shouldn't happen.

CONSIDER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Motion by Janssen, supported by DeHaan to approve the reports and authorize Chief to hire up to 3 new firefighters. Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-246 FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 264 TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 02-35-276-055:

Motion by Frederick, supported by Williams to Adopt Resolution 23-246.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Frederick, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Tuinstra, Williams

No: none

Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

Motion by Frederick, supported by Janssen to open the Public Hearing on the Township Solid Waste Special Assessment District.

Motion carried 7-0.

Notice of public hearing, affidavit of mailing and proof of publication were presented at the hearing. There were no written or oral comments received prior to the public hearing on the proposed Solid Waste Special Assessment District. The Supervisor then asked for any public comment.

Public Comment

- Resident wondered why the deficit in the funds raised to pay for the solid waste special assessment.
- Resident stated that we are in a troublesome times and maybe we need to reduce the number of our curbside pick-ups down from 2 to 1.
- Resident also wondered about going to a drop off instead of a curbside pick-up.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by DeHaan to close the public hearing.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Williams, supported by DeHaan to adopt the Solid Waste Special Assessment District Resolution assessing the sum of approximately \$236,666.00 at a rate of \$64.12 against each residential property specially benefited by this district.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Frederick, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Tuinstra, Williams

No: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON STREET LIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

Motion by Janssen, supported by Vlietstra to open the Public Hearing on the Township Street Light Special Assessment District.

Motion carried 7-0.

Notice of public hearing, affidavit of mailing and proof of publication were presented at the hearing. There were no written or oral comments received prior to the public hearing on the proposed Street Light Special Assessment District. The Supervisor then asked for any public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Williams to close the public hearing.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Frederick to adopt the Street Light Special Assessment District Resolution assessing the sum of approximately \$80,000.00 at a rate of .58 of a mil levied against the properties benefited by said lighting.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Frederick, Janssen, Sorensen, DeHaan, Tuinstra, Williams

No: none

Absent: none

Motion Carried 7-0.

REQUEST TO COMBINE 34-476-870 AND 34-476-860:

Motion by Frederick, supported by Williams to approve. Motion carried 7-0.

MICHIGAN SPARK GRANT RESULTS AND STAFF MEMO FROM JULIE JOHNSTON:

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Tuinstra to accept the report for information. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER REAPPOINTING ALAN ASSELMEIER TO A 4-YEAR TERM ON THE PLAINWELL LIBRARY BOARD:

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Williams to reappoint Alan Asselmeier.

Motion carried 7-0.

TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BIDS AND ARCHITECT RECOMMENDATION:

Motion by Williams, supported by Janssen to award the bid to Kalleward Group with the additions to the bid and the recommended 5% contingency for a total of \$1,750,875.00 and, to apply the unobligated \$134,272.29 of ARPA funds to the Township Hall Construction Project.

Motion Carried 5-2, with Frederick and Tuinstra voting No.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

Fred Vlietstra – Thanks for letting me go to the conference, I learned a lot.

Jim Frederick – Believes that the Township does a good job for the whole township not just the 50 people that show up to complain about our actions.

Dan Williams – wishes people had spoken up when the board started speaking about the need for the new construction project.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

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 regular board meeting held on the 8th day of May 2023.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township