

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
QUARTERLY DISCUSSION
MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Scott called the Township Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: David E. Scott, Supervisor
Molly Phillips, Treasurer
George Weber, Trustee
Vanessa Magner, Trustee
Rick Sovel, Trustee
Bob Berkheiser, Trustee

Absent: Melissa Creech, Clerk (excused)

Also Present: Lt. Schroeder, Maintenance Director Mark Schoder

ITEM 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karie Boylan, attorney with Boylan Law, spoke regarding 171 Starling Street which was foreclosed on by Oakland County due to unpaid taxes.

ITEM 2: PROGRAM YEAR 2019 HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT

Supervisor Scott explained the purpose of the HIDTA agreement is to define the County's responsibilities in the use of grant funds to reimburse the Township for overtime expenses incurred due to the Township's participation in the Oakland County Narcotic Enforcement Team (NET).

A general discussion followed regarding the number of overtime hours worked and the caseload of the NET officer.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Sovel, to approve the Program Year 2019 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Subrecipient Agreement and Resolution.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 3: HORSE FARM CONCESSION AGREEMENT

Supervisor Scott updated the Board on the steps taken by the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer to bring the horse farm concessionaire in compliance with the current concession agreement. The physical state of disrepair of some of the buildings on the property was discussed along with the need for the Township to do basic property maintenance. Trustee Weber asked the Board to consider the Township's goal in owning this type of property. Trustees Magner and Berkheiser like having the riding stable located in the Township because it's the only one in the area and provides a service the community wants to utilize. The consensus was to rewrite the concession agreement requiring the concessionaire to attend monthly Parks and Recreation Committee meetings and keeping the Boards apprised of the riding stable's activities.

ITEM 4: NON-UNION EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS

Supervisor Scott said he is gathering information from other municipalities and HR firms about the types of systems available for conducting employee evaluations and reviews. Supervisor Scott will bring the information to a future board meeting. A general discussion followed regarding the Board's role in managing and evaluating employees.

ITEM 5: OPTION FOR NON-PARTISAN TOWNSHIP OFFICES

Supervisor Scott explained that MTA has asked for the Board to give its opinion regarding proposed legislation to make elected township offices non-partisan.

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Berkheiser, to approve a resolution that opposes any change to the current partisan system for elected Township offices.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sovel, Berkheiser, Weber, Phillips, Scott, Magner

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Creech

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 6: BYERS

Supervisor Scott asked the Board what they want to do with Byers. A general discussion followed regarding the Township's vision for the property, uses, historical value, funds needed to make the house structurally sound, and the need for a ten-year plan for the property.

ITEM 6: BYERS (continued)

Trustee Berkheiser said the Parks and Recreation Committee has formed a small sub-committee to formulate a plan and evaluate associated costs.

Trustee Magner has asked that the Parks and Recreation Committee report its finding to the Board at the July Quarterly Discussion Meeting.

MOTION by Magner, supported by Scott, for the Parks and Recreation Byers Subcommittee to develop a comprehensive recommendation for the Byers property by July 17, 2019 and present it to the Board at the Board's July Quarterly Discussion Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 7: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Supervisor Scott stated the Township needs a management plan for the various properties owned by the Township.

A discussion followed regarding a facilities master plan and a master list of all properties vacant and improved and the possible uses of each property.

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

Treasurer Phillips said on the advice of the Township Attorney, Phil Adkison, the Township should not intervene in the tax sale situation at 171 Starling Street. Attorney Rentrop agreed and said there's a mechanism in place for this type of situation.

Trustee Berkheiser said the summer concerts in the park will be at the Richardson Community Center this year due to construction in Dodge Park V. The Parks and Recreation Committee has discussed having a beer tent in partnership with a local establishment and perhaps allowing some fund raising activities for local non-profit organizations during future concerts in the park.

Supervisor Scott said that the DOD and DEQ will visit Wise Road Park on May 7, 2019 to assess whether the property was properly cleaned up. Supervisor Scott would like to get a blueprint showing where all the underground tanks and structures are located before the Board begins making decisions regarding the property.

Supervisor Scott said that U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow added a letter of support to Commerce Township's SAFER grant application and that she and her staff have been very helpful.

ITEM 9: CLOSED SESSION – POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Closed Session not utilized.

MOTION by Phillips, supported by Weber, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce