

Charter Township of Emmett
Regular Board Meeting
April 10, 2014

Supervisor Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday April 10, 2014. The meeting was held at the Township Hall: 621 Cliff St, Battle Creek, MI 49014. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the opening.

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Gunning, Buller, Jacox, Myers, Dougherty, Talbot, and Hill

QUORUM PRESENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion 14-04-01 by Jacox/ Gunning to approve the Agenda as printed by Teresa Myers

Roll Call Vote: Dougherty, Jacox, Buller, Gunning, Myers, Talbot, & Hill

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion 14- 04-02 by Talbot / Jacox to approve Consent Agenda

Roll Call Vote: Buller, Jacox, Gunning, Myers, Dougherty, Talbot, and Hill

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report:

Receive and file the Monthly Treasurer's Report with balances on hand as of: March 31, 2014,

General Fund	\$ 1,149,951.41
SW Emmett Sewer/Water	\$ 1,480,553.44
Sanitation Fund	\$ 279,992.05
Project V Sewer Fund	\$ 109,769.99
Drug Forfeiture Fund	\$ 48,977.09
Public Safety Fund	\$ 132,786.03
Public Safety Extra	\$ 450,931.93

The Monthly Departmental Report:

Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes as printed.

Calhoun County Road Department:

Calhoun County Road Department Managing Director, Jerry Peterson was moved to the front of the meeting. Mr. Peterson explained that he had been doing complete survey of roads in local Townships and estimating costs to repair. He noted that a lot of the roads would take some time to complete since most of the roads have been bad for a while. He talked about how in the past; they put asphalt on over the top of gravel and that didn't last. Mr. Peterson explained the process of fixing the roads and that everyone needs to bear with the County for a while, as this will take some time. He also explained a program called the Pacer Ratings and how that program worked. Jacox asked about the patching process for our roads. Mr. Peterson explained the process and that when their finished filling the holes they are supposed to back over the patch to pack it in. Jacox also asked if the Asphalt places have to be certified. Mr. Peterson answered that in fact they do have to be certified. Hill with a question on how long cold patches in pot holes last. Peterson explained that it depends on how a pot hole's cold patch is filled; it could last 1-2 days or a few more. Dougherty with a question on Peterson having a plan for our area. Peterson explained that he does have a plan and starting 4- 11- 2014 there would be a dedicated work crew in Emmett Township filling pot holes. All Board members thanked Mr. Peterson for coming.

COMMUNICATIONS & SIMPLE MOTIONS

Announcements:

- Township Planning Commission – Meeting April 30, 2014 at 5:00p.m.
- Z.B.A. Meeting – to be announced
- Next Township Board Meeting – May 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.
- Emmett Township Department of Public Safety Annual Retirees/Reunion Breakfast Saturday June 14,2014, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Inviting all former & retired members and families of the Fire, Police, & Public Safety Department. For more information, call Jim Mead 269-274-1606 or Clarke Lawson 269-968-9303.

MONTHLY CHECK REGISTER

Motion 14-04-03 by Talbot/Gunning to accept the Check Register as printed.

Roll Call Vote: Gunning, Jacox, Myers, Buller, Talbot, Dougherty, & Hill

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORTS

Supervisor

Hill stated that he was still working on the Rental Ordinance. Also working with Triangle Mobile Home Park on getting it cleaned up. Also if there are any blight issues out there please let the Township know. Still working on the sewer issue with the Casino and will not know anything until the Revenue Sharing Board reconvenes April 25, 2014.

Clerk

Myers stated continues to work the Division Drive Project with Attorney Lohrstorfer. Our Attorney is not completely sure that the project will work since the Township does not own the roads, but he was going to do some more checking. Also she has checked on different Health Insurance Plans. Talked with Marie from Marwil and Associates about looking into some other options for the Township. Lastly reported that Deputy Stone and herself recently took all of the ballot bags to Battle Creek City to be certified by the Board of Canvassers for another four years. Three of our ballot bags did not pass so we will be looking into purchasing some more.

Treasurer

Talbot stated that there was a little glitch with the Land Banks when settling with the County and is getting that worked out. Still waiting to hear back from Bill Beaty about our credit card machine. Talbot also presented an issue with Hill having access to all Treasurer Banking Accounts. She explained that she had contacted MTA Legal and they said this was absolutely not advisable; however he can have access to view all cash lines through BS&A. Lastly Talbot announced that she had a new baby Granddaughter this week.

Planning and Zoning Business

Brandi Case stated that Motors Inc. at 620 Cliff Street came to the Planning Board to ask for a Conditional Use Permit for Wholesaler class B and W. Buller with a question on repairs being done at Motors Inc. needing another kind of permit. Case stated that she was already looking into it.

Motion 14-04-04 by Gunning/ Buller to grant the Conditional Use Permit for wholesaler class B and W permit for Motors Inc. at 620 Cliff Street.

Roll Call Vote: Jacox, Myers, Gunning, Talbot, Dougherty Buller, & Hill **ALL YES**

MOTION CARRIED

Assessing

Leslie stated that the Assessing Department was very busy getting year end reports together for the County and also getting ready to start the assessing cycle again for next year.

Public Safety

Teresa Myers made sure everyone had a copy of the Public Safety Synopsis as Mike Olson was in Indianapolis for FDIC conference she went over some highlights. Public Safety is still working closely with Harper Creek Schools and the community. She also made notice of: **The one (1) mill tax for equipment, buildings and the maintenance for them expires this year and will be on the August 5, 2014 ballot for renewal for another 10 years.**

March 2014 Monthly Activity Synopsis

		<u>Previous Month:</u>
Calls for Service:	566	523
Arrests:	131	102
Citations Issued:	222	86
Medicals:	51	66
Fires:	3	3
All other Fire Calls:	6	17

Complaints and Calls for Service increased slightly during the month of March. Fire calls and calls for Public Safety were down a bit from the previous month. PSO Matt Skaggs remains off work from his injury.

Gunning with a comment on having a break in recently and the Officer that responded, Mr. Mackey. If all our Officers are like Mr. Mackey, (in the way he was dressed and how professional he was) the Township has a great team.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Charter Township of Emmett Resolution T14-04 for the Township to make Budget Amendments for the General Fund Operating.

Motion 14-04-05 by Buller / Jacox to approve Resolution T14-04 for the Township to make Budget Amendments for the General Fund Operating for 2013-14.

Roll Call Vote: Talbot, Dougherty, Gunning, Buller, Jacox, Myers, and Hill

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Hardware

Buller explained that the Springfield Demolition had been pushed back two weeks to give prospective buyer the opportunity to buy the property; new date is April 21, 2014. Jacox asked Buller if the utilities in the building could be turned off. Buller stated that normally the demolition crew takes care of that but we could certainly check on it.

Update on Wattles Park Old Grocery Store

Primarily Zaharion is ok with the lease and has already started gutting the building and has plans for a hi-tech waste oil furnace. Talbot wanted to know if Zaharion intended on buying the building. Buller explained that once he spends \$10,000.00 he has the opportunity to buy the building.

Purchase Orders That Need Approval

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Gunning on issues with the Budget and the way things have been going that he believes that there should be a \$100.00 cap on all spending until we get the budget issue figured out.

Motion 14-04-06 by Gunning/ Dougherty to place a freeze on all hiring and any purchases over a \$100.00 unless approved by the Township Board.

Roll Call Vote: Dougherty, Jacox, Buller, Gunning, Myers, Talbot, and Hill

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

Casino Project Coordinator

Buller explained what a Casino Project Coordinator is and read the letter that he had supplied all Board Members just prior to the meeting. Buller explained some of the key issues in the letter. Buller explained that the Compensation of a Casino Project Coordinator would be at no cost to the Township; the hourly rate paid for attending meetings would be billed to the LRSB tier one. There was much discussion on this issue with several of the Board Members who thought most of the key responsibilities of a Casino Project Coordinator would handle are the Supervisors duties and should be handled by the Supervisor since he will be the one that would have to make any decisions. Dougherty explained that when he was Supervisor and had someone helping him he took a lot of flak since he was told that was his job. Dougherty said he believes this issue should be tabled until Board has more time to discuss since this was just brought to the Board's attention. Dougherty stated he did not necessarily think that we don't need something like this but we just need more time to look into this issue. Dougherty again mentioned tabling issue. There was much more discussion with Board Members and the public in attendance. Hill explained what the Tiers for Revenue Sharing are aside from administrative expenditures: distributions from the net win revenue are made to eligible local units of government in the order of: reimbursement of actual specific cost increases (Tier II); 80% of the remaining amount after Tier II for payments in lieu of taxes (Tier III); and 20% of the remaining amount after Tier II for any lawful government purpose (Tier IV). Much more discussion by all. Buller also mentioned that this is the place to discuss issues like this and he would like for us to do more discussion on this instead of tabling the issue. Buller stated that he doesn't want to schedule a Special Board meeting to discuss it if there's concerns he would like to talk about them now. Dougherty said, to him, that this issue does not feel right. Dougherty explained that he is just not comfortable with this, stated that it almost looks like self-promotion. Talbot with a question on Hill being at ninety percent of these meetings normally so why do we need to pay someone else \$35.00 dollars to attend these meetings as well. Talbot explained that here we are making motions to put a freeze on all hiring and spending over \$100.00 and now were talking about paying \$35.00 an hour for duplicate people at a meeting. Buller stated that there would be no bill to the Township whatsoever that it would be billed to the LRSB at the end of the year. Hill commented that Buller did approach him on this issue and they did talk about it. Hill also stated that when you go to these meetings that there is a lot to take in and thinks it would be good to have someone else there. Hill explained that he would love to have the help. Hill stated that it's up to the Board, but if we can bill the

LRSB and get reimbursed; why not. Hill also stated that why don't we table this until we have a chance to discuss it further. Dougherty said we just need to make sure we know what we're doing. Gunning stated that it looks like there's money to be made here; could we go ahead with this for a six month trial.

Motion 14-04-7 by Gunning/Jacox to move ahead with Casino Project Coordinator (Buller) for six months and see what kind of information comes back then if the Board does not think it's working out we can pull the position.

Roll Call Vote: Buller, Jacox, Talbot, Gunning, Myers, and Hill
Dougherty – No

SIX YES
MOTION CARRIED

Sewer issue for overflow/backup

Buller stated that he had contacted MMRMA our Insurance to see if the Township would be covered for a sewer issue such as overflow or spillage and found out that we would not. This was brought to the Board for discussion. Jacox asked what business it would affect if there was a problem. Buller said that if something happen to the lift station by the Casino that it would only affect the Casino. Jacox said he would like to make a motion for Buller to continue looking into this issue. Buller stated that there's no need for a motion and he would continue looking into this.

Public Comments

Public comment Buller doing a great job and if it was someone else doing a great job he would tell them also.

Comment from a resident on the Cereal City Recycling and was wondering if we had received any of our money. Talbot replied that Chief and Cunningham have been doing everything possible but will probably have to take them to small claims court. Same resident commented on how bad CCR is looking again. Same resident also asked about the accident that happen at the hotel where the scaffling fell and wanted to know what if anything happen there as far as being fined for that. Buller commented that there were six injured that the wind had blown over the scaffling and OSHA came in and it was stated that it was an act of God. When the police did some investigating they found that they had not carried through with all the necessary safety precautions and were fined. Lastly would like to let Buller know that she has a lot of faith in Buller and thinks he does a good job for the Township. Also would like to send prayers for Dougherty as he goes for his back surgery tomorrow and hope things go smoothly. Last comment on what is going to happen to the restaurant when the Hardware is torn down. Buller stated that the owner is considering donating the building to the Township but not the land. Several Board members then commented on the Township tearing down the building; that it would not be beneficial to the Township if we didn't receive the land.

Resident commented on the fact that his sewer bill had gone up and was upset. Talbot explained the fees and that the City had been raising their rates and we had not, so in order to cover the cost of repairs we had to raise our rates.

David Maturen introduced himself and explained that he was running for the 63rd District as Jase Bolger's term was ending. He then proceeded to tell about all of his accomplishments. Public comment on a neighbor that has been bothering her and she would like some help from someone she does not know where to go. Hill said that he would look into the issue.

Trustee Comments

Jacox – Glad were moving forward and believes were going in the right direction.

Dougherty – Stated that he appreciates Lonnie and Pete being here and that everyone here on the Board is here to express his or her own opinions. Also said that he believes that Buller is doing a great job.

Buller – Commented he hopes in the next Budget Workshop that we could include going over our Insurance. Also an update on working with the Calhoun County Land Bank and has applied for and received a grant for 75% to tear down homes in the Township. Buller explained the process and how it worked.

Gunning- Nothing at this time.

Adjournment

Motion 14-04-8 by Talbot/ Myers to Adjourn 7:25 p.m.

Voice Vote:

**ALL YES
MOTION CARRIED**

Timothy Hill, Supervisor
Emmett Charter Township

Teresa Myers, Clerk
Emmett Charter Township