

Charter Township of Emmett  
Regular Board Meeting  
October 10, 2013

Supervisor Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday October 10, 2013. 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**

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

**QUORUM PRESENT**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion 13-10-7 by Gunning/Dougherty to approve the Agenda as printed by Teresa Myers with the following amendments: 1.) closed session with Attorney to discuss the Sexual Harassment Policy. 2.) P.O. for a new router for the server to be split equally between Administration and Public Safety. 3.) Marriott Hotel added to new business.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion 13-10-8 by Talbot/Dougherty to approve Consent Agenda

Roll Call Vote: Buller, Jacox, Gunning, Myers, Dougherty, Talbot, and Hill  
Buller a Qualified Yes - was glad to see lawn mowing issue resolved.

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

***Treasurer's Report:***

Receive and file the Monthly Treasurer's Report with balances on hand as of: September 30, 2013,

General Fund	\$ 785,448.26
SW Emmett Sewer/Water	\$ 1,348,202.48
Sanitation Fund	\$ 246,093.23
Project V Sewer Fund	\$ 196,021.53
Drug Forfeiture Fund	\$ 50,788.10
Public Safety Fund	\$ 85,923.31
Public Safety Extra	\$ 336,464.17

**The Monthly Departmental Report:**

Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes as printed.

*None*

**COMMUNICATIONS & SIMPLE MOTIONS**

Motion to acknowledge the enforcement of Article III, Noxious Weeds, and to authorize the Township Treasurer to place a tax lien against the following to include an additional \$25.00 administrative fee:

PROPERTIES:

12 E. Alden	\$ 55.00 + 25.00 = \$75.00
20 E. Alden	\$ 45.00 + 25.00 = \$ 70.00
18 Bonita Drive	\$ 65.00 + 25.00 = \$ 80.00
344 Cohasset Ave.	\$ 160.00 + 25.00 = \$185.00
1209 E. Michigan Ave.	\$ 75.00 + 25.00 = \$ 100.00
1396 E. Michigan Ave.	\$ 65.00 + 25.00 = \$ 80.00
201 Manor	\$ 60.00 + 25.00 = \$ 85.00
148 Shadowood Lane	\$ 180.00 + 25.00 = \$ 205.00
17701 9 ½ Mile Road	\$ 85.00 + 25.00 = \$ 110.00

**Announcements:**

- Township Planning Commission – October 16, 2013 7:00 p.m.
- Z.B.A. Meeting – to be announced
- Next Township Board Meeting – November 14, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

**MONTHLY CHECK REGISTER**

Motion 13-10-9 by Talbot/ Dougherty to accept the Check Register as printed.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

**DEPARTMENT VERBAL REPORTS**

**Supervisor**

Hill stated that we’re still negotiating with Casino on the sewer issue. Also, that he (Hill) is in the process of developing a Township Newsletter. Hill informed everyone that Hoffman Brothers are going to clean up and clear the Browns Park next to the Township sometime in the near future. Hill commented on the Annual Dedication of the Parks by Enbridge on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. Lastly Hill informed all that we are making progress on our bathrooms.

## **Clerk**

Myers stated that our Ordinances are now online. Myers commented that the Township is looking at implementing a program that will allow credit and debit card payments for fees due to the Township. Myers stated that Steve, Tim, Brandi, and herself have been working on the sewer billing issue. Myers stated that Diane and herself had recently attended some MTA classes that were very helpful.

## **Treasurer**

Talbot stated that they were still collecting Personal Delinquent Taxes and recent letters were sent out. Talbot commented that she is now working on the Winter Taxes as they start printing them in November. Talbot also commented on the MTA classes that Myers and herself had attended and how beneficial they were.

## **Planning and Zoning Business**

Case stated that Battle Grounds Skate House, a youth center, at 923 E Michigan would like the Board to give permission to the Planning Commission to move forward so that the Skate Park would not have to wait another month to open after the Planning Commission Meeting. Unless there were other issues that were to come up that would need to go before the Board. There was much discussion on this issue with the Board members and Mr. Wichlerman the Director of the Skate Park.

Motion 13-10-10 by Dougherty/ Gunning to allow the Planning Commission to move ahead with the Skate Park unless there would be issues that would need to come back to the Board.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Case also stated that there was a site plan change at 1-94 for driveways at 706 E Drive north that the Planning Commission had approved and would like the Boards approval.

Motion 13-10-11 by Talbot/ Buller to approve the site plan change at 1-94 for driveways at 706 E Drive North.

Voice Vote:

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Case also discussed the expansion of the Beadle Lake Professional Building at 14231 Beadle Lake Road with the Board as an informational issue for the upcoming meeting.

## **Assessing**

Leslie commented on the Assessing Department looking at all sales for this month.

## Public Safety

Chief Olson went over the Monthly Activity Synopsis for the Month of September 2013. Olson stated that the calls for service were much like the month before as well as the arrest citations. Medicals were about ten down, Fires and all other related fire calls remained the about the same. Olson also commented on the fact that the Department continually gets a lot of retail fraud that occur out in Harper Village and Wal-Mart. Olson also commented on October being Fire Prevention Month and that the Department had visited a lot of the area Schools. Olson also commented on many area Fire Departments getting together at Bailey Park for the big Fire Program.

Questions from Buller on the Blight issue as far as removing possessions from the property. Olson answered that they were working on a few issues with the Township Attorney.

Dougherty commented on police cars driving too fast in areas around Wattles Park. Olson stated that if residents would keep track of times and car numbers that would help as the Officers are assigned a car.

## Sexual Harassment Policy

Motion 13-10-12 by Gunning / Buller to go into closed session

Voice vote:

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 13-10-13 by Buller / Gunning to come out of closed session

Voice Vote:

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Attorney Kurt P. McCamman explained to the public about going into closed session to discuss the Sexual Harassment Policy.

## RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

### **Emmett Township Resolution T13-21: Beadle Lake Weed Project Assessment Fees for 2013.**

Questions from Buller on the Beadle Lake Weed Assessment; was this a continuation. Talbot answered that this was a continuation and explained the process.

Motion 13-10-15 by Buller/ Gunning to approve the Beadle Lake Weed Assessment

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Emmett Township Resolution T13-22: Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy**

Motion 13-10-14 by Dougherty/ Gunning to table the Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy until the Board received more information from the Attorney.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### *Sewer Billing Rates*

Discussion on the rates and the fact that the Board had made a motion in Special Meeting 10-1-2013 to raise the water and sewer rate to be one dollar above Battle Creek City's until further notice. Later, found out that it would not work with a straight dollar amount that it would infact have to be a percentage based rate. Buller explained in more detail about the rates and why we needed to raise rates.

Motion 13-10-16 by Buller/ Gunning to rescind the previous motion from the Special Meeting to raise the water and sewer rate to be one dollar above Battle Creek City's until further notice

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

### *Additional Duties for Elected Officials*

There was much discussion on this issue and the Board was asked to bring more information back at another meeting.

### *Pay Raises*

Olson on pay raises for Part-time Firefighters – PSO I –II, PSO III, APC, PC, Station with proposed rate increase. There was much discussion on this issue; also Chief Olson stated that he had the money in his budget for these raises without borrowing any from the General Fund. Olson also stated that these raises would not go into effect until November 3<sup>rd</sup>, of 2013. Olson also thanked the Board for the Air Packs that they recently received.

Motion13-10-17 by Dougherty / Jacox to move ahead with the proposed raises for Public Safety as provided by the Chief with the understanding that no money would have to be borrowed from the General Fund.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

### *Board Meeting Times*

This was discussed by Board Members and Public and after discussion it was decided by the Board Members to keep the time at 5:30 p.m.

Motion 13-10-18 by Myers/ Buller to keep meeting times at 5:30 p.m.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Purchase Orders That Need Approval**

Purchase Order to Critical Computer Solutions for New Router for the Server to benefit both Public Safety and the Administration side with the cost being \$1,300.00 to be split equally which would be \$650.00 a piece

Motion 13-10-19 by Gunning/ Jacox to approve the P.O. for the New Router for \$ 1,300.00 to be split with Public Safety and Administration.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Alarm Ordinance Amendment #9 of 2013*

Chief Olson explained the changes that had to be made and some of the updating that needed to be done to this Ordinance since it had not been updated for a long time. Olson also explained the process of the Ordinance and that the fees, rates are in line with everyone else. There was much discussion on the issue of Alarms to businesses and to residents.

Motion 13-10-20 by Talbot/ Jacox to except Ordinance #9 of 2013 and that the fees would remain the same.

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

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Buller with a question to Case on an issue with the Beadle Lake Road expansion of the Oaklawn Medical Bldg. and is this something that we need to approve at tonight's meeting. Case replied that we did need to take care of this approval of the expansion at this meeting.

Motion 13-10-21 by Buller/ Gunning to move ahead with the expansion on the Beadle Lake Road the Oaklawn Medical Bldg.

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

**ALL YES**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Marriott Hotel*

Dougherty explained that the Marriott Hotel had been given many concessions to permits and was asked to hire local workers numerous times. They have not kept their promise, they have hired non local workers instead. Dougherty explained how important it is to hire local help and how the money goes back into the Community.

*Credit/ Expense Account for Supervisor*

Gunning spoke on all the meetings that the Supervisor attends during the day and in the evening and the fact that Hill should have a Township Credit Card to use to pay for some of these things instead of using his own money for Township Business.

Motion 13-10-22 by Gunning/ Jacox to authorize a Township credit card for Mr. Hill when needed.

Roll Call Vote: Gunning, Jacox, Myers, Buller, Talbot, Dougherty, and Hill  
Talbot, Dougherty, Qualified Yes Talbot on their being a credit card policy.  
Dougherty on it being justified.

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Public Comments**

Jerry Petersen introduced himself to the Board as the New Managing Director for the County of Calhoun and Jackson.

Comment from a resident asking for information on a certain criminal sexual predator moving into the community. Would like to know about someone's home being raided for chemical drugs. Lastly would like to know how to get a neighborhood watch started.

Comment from a resident on not having any respect for the public as they had no comment on the meeting time. Resident would like to thank Dougherty for the update on the Marriott. Resident also thanked Gunning for handing out the Salary Paper and commented on the fact that she would like it from a range of low to high.

Comment from a resident on the Township being closed on Fridays and said that she would support it.

Concerned person from the West Michigan Construction Alliance on businesses hiring local workers. Especially as the Marriott has not done. He commented on trying to phone them and not getting any return calls. Resident stated that if you hire local workers the money would stay in this community.

Dougherty Commented on the fact that he had hired local workers for a project in Wattles Park Men's Club and was very satisfied with there work.

Comment on the tearing down of the Wattles Park Hardware.

Comment from a resident on the Skate Park and making sure that they have Insurance.

Comment from a resident on wanting to know if the Township waived the fees for the Skate Park. Case answered no that they paid the fee. Resident asked about Ron's Roofing and the smell. Buller answered by telling them that Battle Creek City had the equipment and was checking it out. Resident asked the Board about keeping Police and Fire. The Board replied that Police and fire would be staying that they are needed.

Question from a concerned resident of the Triangle Mobile Home Park on people buying permits wanted to know if they are still being inspected.

### **Trustee Comments**

Gunning – Nothing at this time

Buller – Discussion on all the meetings that Buller and Hill attended. Buller went through a list of every meeting that they had attended.

Dougherty – Knows how busy Hill is since he was in that chair previously and what that position requires.

Jacox – talked about Ray Lord and talked about how he likes the direction Hill is taking the Township. Jacox all so mentioned the fact that we need to look at all salaries.

### **Adjournment**

Motion 13-10-23 by Hill/Gunning to adjourn 7:45 p.m.

Voice Vote:

**ALL YES  
MOTION CARRIED**

Timothy Hill, Supervisor  
Emmett Charter Township

Teresa Myers, Clerk  
Emmett Charter Township