

MINUTES

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BRIGHTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4363 BUNO ROAD
BRIGHTON, MI 48114**

**JANUARY 4, 2016
REGULAR WORKSESSION MEETING
7:00 P.M.
(810) 229.0560**

Supervisor T. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
Present. T. Murphy, Supervisor; A. Bollin, Clerk; D. Hawk, Treasurer; M. Slaton, Trustee; C. Doughty, Trustee;
P. Michel, Trustee
Absent: L. Weaire, Trustee

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jim Sarna, 8266 Woodland Shore Drive – Referenced questions raised at previous meeting (January 5, 2015 and June 2015) regarding Almashy Drive; also newspaper quotes.

Barb Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Original REU's were assigned in 2000-2001; proposed system started as small lake system but is now oversized; four locations originally evaluated ultimately new land was purchased; oversized plant has led to increased costs; try to resolve – listen to our suggestions.

Sam Raguso, 8425 Hilton Road – How many Board members are on the sewer system? Has the sewer system been underutilized for the past 15 years? Can we get a complete assessment roll?

Pete Black, 198 S. Hughes Road – Owns vacant lot on Old 23; denied building permit but was charged for grinder pump; why am I paying for sewer system I am not using? How do City of Brighton's rates compare to Brighton Township's rates? Is refinancing available?

Rick Schlumm, 2647 Gary Ave – Resident for 40 years; Township needs to get serious and work together.

Ana Garcia, Woodland Shore Drive – People on the north side of the lake aren't hooked up; concerned about the effect on the water quality as a result of those properties not being connected to the sewer.

Keith Couch, 2916 Cady Drive – President of Lakeside Property Owners Association - Township promised rates would not go up; why are rates so high?

Marc Senters, 2781 Hacker Rd – Moved to Township in 1996; was told sewer rate would go up if he didn't join the SAD. Are vacant land charges going up?

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Demanded refund of \$17,500 plus capital charges; expressed continued distrust; BTBT needs to fix the problem; objects to name calling. Referenced Agenda Item F.2. stating that the residents own the Community Center on Old US 23 and should be allowed to use it – no moratorium.

Ailsa Morozow, 2690 Shelly Ave – What has been done to resolve the problem? Is the Township sharing the burden? Can I get off the sewer system?

Bob Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Distributed handout requesting repeal of the quarterly sewer fees, a refund, the freezing of cash and capital spending until the repeal and refund is solved, and the immediate release of a current assessment roll. Referenced US Constitution stating it trumps Robert's Rules of Order.

Donald Moll, 2616 Tim Ave – Allotted his three minutes to Mike Palmer.

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Referenced administrative policy that doesn't allow residents to place items on a Board meeting agenda. Requested \$17,500 refund, cease further collection of capital charges and freeze spending until solved.

Arthur Jordan, 2602 Shelly Ave – Allotted his three minutes to Mike Palmer.

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Majority of BTBT have dealt with this problem for years; solution is to enforce the State statute of the 200 foot rule; capital charges have increased dramatically.

Cheryl Guard, 8334 Woodland Shore Drive – Allotted her three minutes to Jim Sarna.

Jim Sarna, 8366 Woodland Shore Drive – Referenced letter dated December 10th from law firm; people don't know how we got started; referenced project under the Drain Code; where was it a public health issue?

Sheri Sarate, 8456 Woodland Shore Drive – New resident with outstanding assessment of \$6,000; why doesn't everyone on the lake have to be on the sewer?

Pamela Kranz, 3384 Oak Knoll – Allotted three minutes to Mike Palmer.

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Request \$17, 500 refund for overcharges and capital charges; freeze capital spending until issue is resolved. No public health decision, it was a public improvement project. Sewer needs more users to share burden.

Mark Kirby, 2689 Tim Ave – Allotted three minutes to Bob Potocki.

Bob Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Requested refund of \$17,500; respect the peoples' petition.

Robert Stone, 8305 Donna Lou – Sewer has been a disaster since the beginning; problems existed before it was in operation; opposed it from the beginning. Contractors have destroyed his driveway twice; Township created a hardship on residents; WWTP location is bad.

June Prentice, 2616 Tim Ave – Stays in Brighton Township but has residence in Marion Township; when will BTBT allow residents on the agenda? Marion Township allows residents to address the Board and gets a reply.

AGENDA

C. Doughty moved and P. Michel seconded **to adopt the agenda as presented.**

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/REQUEST FOR DIRECTION – E Grand River Sidewalk/Pathway

Manager Vick provided background and referenced previous board discussion regarding asphalt v. concrete and Green Oak Township's plans to extend the sidewalk within their jurisdiction including a boardwalk over challenging areas. Discussion included cost differential and longevity of concrete v. asphalt; seamlessness and easy snow melt on asphalt; aesthetic preferences; inconsistent language in various plans/ordinances and need to clean it up; design costs; construction costs; confirmation that the Kensington Road bridge will accommodate the non-motorized pathway/sidewalk; and design includes a new pedestal signal as required by the Livingston County Road Commission. Consensus was that due to the cost differential the Engineer was to proceed with concrete design.

BUILDING USE POLICY, ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY # 503 – Request for Moratorium - Use of Station # 32

Manager Vick summarized policy regarding building use and noted that the current policy addresses use of Township Hall but not other Township owned buildings, specifically Fire Station # 32. Discussion included process for building reservations, extension of current policy to use of the Fire Station, Brighton Area Fire Authority involvement with building reservations at Station # 32/ Community Center located on Old 23, current

v. past staffing levels, emergency situations, consensus to have a township representative available during these reserved times, and recent past practices based on Board directives for building use reservations and room availability. Consensus was that there would be no moratorium and the Manager will present a revised Building Use Policy at the January 18, 2016 meeting for consideration based on the discussion.

SANITARY SEWER RATE SURVEY

Manager Vick provided a summary of the rate review process and Zach Dyba, Assistant to the Manager, presented the findings. Discussion included relevant comparisons, REU costs (original users and current users) comparison of debt scenarios for other units, improved financial situation, adopted Fiscal Analysis as a component of the Capital Improvement Plan, review of the REU rate and consideration of increase for new hook-ups. Consensus was to request the Utilities Committee to review the REU rate.

2016-17 BUDGET PLANNING

PROPOSED DRAFT BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Manager Vick provided an overview of the 2016-17 budget planning process including the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) updates based on the adoption of the Asset Management Plan, recent discussions, and continued review of the Sanitary Sewer Fund. Manager requested BTBT review of the proposed changes for discussion at future budget planning session(s) to determine what improvements will be included in the 2016-17 budget. Manager also summarized his December 1, 2015 Memorandum outlining anticipated Revenues and proposed Expenditures and noted that more specific information would be forthcoming but that figures had been included for discussion purposes (i.e. SELCRA, CPI, insurance, etc.). No major changes in staffing levels other than the additional resources for FOIA coordination that will be presented at next meeting and incorporated into next year's budget. No election reimbursements are expected for 2016 even though it is a major election year with two scheduled elections; working with the Livingston County Road Commission on dust control and potential project collaboration.

Manager summarized Other Funds – Transfers which are contingent upon the CIP which serves as the road map to the future; emphasized importance of CIP and sewer reserves and highlighted other anticipated transfers to Pathways, Future Road Improvements, Cemeteries, and the Municipal Water Fund. Other proposed draft budget highlights include continued obligations under the Collett consent decree, grinder pump inventory, LCWA obligations under the Master Operating Agreement, Parks and Rec funding which is yet to be determined as SELCRA is transitioning, and transfers based on the current CIP.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Email/Letter from Trustee Weaire

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Sam Raguso, 8425 Hilton Road – Board should be fiscally responsible; priority should be sewer debt over sidewalks - ask the sewer users which they prefer; 10 REU's will have minimal effect on sewer fund - enforce the 200' rule.

Jerry Romes, 2703 Brad Place – Resident for 50 years and received a variance to hookup to the sewers; why is the sewer on the other side of town? Does not know who is at fault but costs cannot keep going up.

Keith Couch, 2916 Cady Drive – President of Lakeside Property Association located on School Lake; bills continue to increase, not decrease, yet the assessment period is nearing the end. What is the solution?

Barb Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Referenced statement regarding building use; work session meeting seems no different from other meetings. Original sewer users paying \$12,400 plus interest and newer users are paying less. What is the total bond debt? Referenced previous conversations regarding road funding.

Judy Lewis, 8330 Woodland Shore Drive – Is a ~~boater~~ voter and taxpayer; objects to sidewalk; is interested in fixing the sewer problem. Requests a response from each Trustee - what are you going to do to fix the sewer problem? Suggested using the televisions to display paperwork for residents.

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Sidewalks are a waste of time; referenced letter from Attorney Harris dated April 23, 2013 – enforce the 200' rule.

Jim Sarna, 8266 Woodland Shore Drive – Received a letter from Attorney Harris requiring him to hook up to the sewer yet others are not hooked up - How do I get off the sewer? Discriminatory to enforce some to be on the sewers and not others. Is REU fee Township wide?

Bob Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Numbers shown for sewer district are not right; need outside audit of numbers; no more document destruction; referenced three sources of revenue to pay off debt. People want to participate through an agenda item.

Bill Jordan - Allotted his three minutes to Bob Potocki.

Bob Potocki, 8420 Woodland Shore Drive – Put on television; people present are worried about money; raises should have been approved through a commission; requested response on November 15th.

Cheryl Guard, 8334 Woodland Shore Drive – Owns vacant lot and was required to purchase an REU; not all vacant lots are required to purchase an REU within the sewer district. Requesting all vacant lot owners be required to purchase an REU like she was. Allotted the rest of her minutes to Mike Palmer.

Mike Palmer, 10382 East Grand River Ave – Vacant lot was assessed quarterly charges, he appealed and was denied before he had a chance to talk. Manager wage increase doesn't make sense.

Randall Lucas, 8434 Carol Drive – Thanked Woodland Shore Homeowners Association for helping the homeowners and hopes he can thank Board in the future

ADJOURNMENT

P. Michel moved and D. Hawk seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Bollin, CMC, CMMC, Clerk

Thomas E. Murphy, Supervisor