

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING,
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Oxford Board of Trustees was held Wednesday, June 10, 2020 via Zoom Video Conference.

Members Present: Curtis, Dunn, Durr, Ferrari, Payne, Wright, Nold

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Township Engineer Sharpe, Fire Chief Scholz, Fire Department Finance Director Edmonds, Parks and Recreation Director Davis, Library Director Bryan Cloutier, Recording Secretary McCullough, and approximately 3 citizens.

Supervisor Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Payne seconded to approve the June 10, 2020 agenda as presented.

Roll call:

Ayes: Payne, Curtis, Nold, Ferrari, Durr, Wright, Dunn

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Nold seconded, to approve the June 10, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented, to include:

1. Regular Township Board Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2020
2. Treasurer Report for March and April 2020
3. Clerk Summary Report for March and April 2020
4. Regular Bills through June 5, 2020
5. Consultant Bills through June 5, 2020

Roll call:

Ayes: Payne, Dunn, Curtis, Nold, Ferrari, Durr, Wright

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

4 citizens spoke during this portion of public comment.

FIRST READING

Privately Owned On-Site Wastewater Systems; Ordinance No. 107A.006

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Payne seconded, to set a Second Reading and possible adoption of proposed Ordinance 107A.006: an amendment to Chapter 62, Article IV adding New Division 7 to the Oxford Charter Township Code of Ordinances to be considered at the Charter Township of Oxford Board of Trustees July 8, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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Roll call:

Ayes: Ferrari, Durr, Wright, Dunn, Curtis, Nold

Nays: None

Absent: Payne (Due to a storm in the area, Trustee Payne lost video and audio connection)
Motion Carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Optional Learning Experience Agreement

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Nold seconded, to approve the Optional Learning Experience Agreement ("Agreement") between Oxford Community Schools, Addison Fire Department and Oxford Fire Department as presented and authorize Fire Chief Peter Scholz to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Oxford Fire Department and the Charter Township of Oxford.

Roll call:

Ayes: Curtis, Nold, Ferrari, Durr, Wright, Dunn

Nays: None

Absent: Payne

Motion Carried.

SHARPE ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineer Sharpe shared an update on the M-24 reconstruction project, and an update on a vacant property located in the Village behind Ace Hardware.

(Trustee Payne re-joined the meeting)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Legacy 925 – Televisions

Supervisor Dunn moved, Trustee Nold seconded, to approve an increase in the size of the two (2) televisions for the 925 Legacy Entertainment outdoor patio to a 75" screen with no additional amplification.

Roll call:

Ayes: Ferrari, Durr, Wright, Dunn, Curtis, Nold, Payne

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 West Nile Virus Program

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Curtis seconded, to purchase 45 cases of the Mosquito Dunks 12x2 packs for \$2062.80 (includes shipping) and 2 cases of the Natular XRT tablets for \$1,776.20 (includes shipping). The total project expenditure is \$3,839.00 with \$3,820.11 coming from the Oakland County West Nile Prevention Grant (account number 101-000-072.006) and \$18.89 coming from the Oxford Township General Fund (account number 101-299-880.001).

Roll call:

Ayes: Wright, Dunn, Durr, Ferrari, Curtis, Payne, Nold

Nays: None

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Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Curtis seconded, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the West Nile Fund Expense Reimbursement Request as presented.

Roll call:

Ayes: Nold, Wright, Ferrari, Dunn, Payne, Curtis, Durr

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Reopening Plan and Policy for Oxford Township Hall

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Payne seconded, to approve the Plan and Policy for Reopening the Oxford Township Hall as presented, to be effective June 11, 2020, and this Plan and Policy will remain in effect until further notice from the State of Michigan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Curtis, Nold, Payne, Durr, Ferrari, Dunn, Wright

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACTION OR DISCUSSION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three citizens spoke during this portion of public comment.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Supervisor Dunn read the following statement:

“When Lt. Patterson and Sgt. Lenz told me about Firmly Rooted’s plans to hold their event at the high school, their recommendation to me was to have additional officers on duty for the event as a purely precautionary measure.

Even though Firmly Rooted’s intention was to hold a peaceful prayer vigil and protest, the substation’s command staff was concerned about the possibility of some people attending to cause trouble or maybe even harm the event’s participants. The command staff was also concerned about the possibility of a very large crowd showing up for the event due to it being advertised on social media.

Lt. Patterson and Sgt. Lenz recommended assigning five additional officers for this event. Working on overtime, the total cost for these five officers would have been approximately \$1,400.

They made this recommendation based on their extensive training, experience, and expertise. These are two of the finest officers that I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with and when they make a recommendation, I take it very seriously because

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they're the law enforcement professionals, not me. I trust their judgment because they have never given me any reason not to.

Fortunately, the event was peaceful and I'm very thankful for that. But we could not just assume everything was going to be fine and make no preparations. Looking back, it's very easy for some people to say, 'See, nothing happened. You didn't need extra police.' But if something had happened and our officers didn't have adequate manpower to handle it, people could have gotten hurt, and then the township would have been blamed and criticized for doing nothing to prepare. I'd rather err on the side of caution when it comes to protecting the public and keeping the peace.

In hindsight, I should have reached out to Pastor Donnelly about billing for the extra police, but I honestly felt that by calling Superintendent Throne on June 4, I had accomplished that because of Mr. Throne's close working relationship with Pastor Donnelly and the school district's connection to this event. Pastor Donnelly is the president of the school board and the district had given him permission to use the high school's parking lot as part of Firmly Rooted's event. I believed notifying Mr. Throne was a proper channel in this case. There was absolutely no intention on my part or the township's part to conceal the police billing from Pastor Donnelly.

On June 4, Pastor Donnelly called township Trustee Jack Curtis regarding the township's intention to bill for the additional police presence. Trustee Curtis told Pastor Donnelly that he's not the township supervisor and therefore, not the correct person to address this matter. Trustee Curtis directed Pastor Donnelly to call the supervisor to discuss the issue. Pastor Donnelly never called me.

The township's intention to bill Firmly Rooted or the school district (since they were allowing the use of their property for it) or both for the additional police presence was by no means an attempt to force the cancellation of this event or prevent people from expressing themselves. The township was simply doing what it has always done whenever extra police are required for a planned, special event. We bill the people responsible for the event. We've always done that in the past and I saw no reason not to continue that practice in this case. We have to be fair to everyone. We can't say, 'OK, we're going to bill you for your event, but we're not going to bill these people over here for their event.' You have to be consistent and fair. That was my goal and the township's intention here -- to be consistent and fair. Nothing else. If we didn't do that, we'd have people asking, 'How come you didn't bill them, but you billed me?' The township can't be in the business of playing favorites."

Clerk Wright shared that everyone is still in a learning phase with virtual meetings. During board meetings, there are two opportunities for the public to speak regarding items that are not on the agenda. Additionally, though it is at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, there should be no public discussion when the board has a motion on the floor.

Clerk Wright stated that the new MTA "Red Book" is available in his office.

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Trustee Curtis stated that Oxford High School will hold graduation on June 30, 2020 on the football field. The ceremony will be held in four sessions with only parents in attendance.

Trustee Payne apologized for the interruption in her attendance. She also stated that she was able to take her grandchildren to Kids Kingdom and it was nice be able to get back out to visit the parks.

Trustee Nold stated that he has been in contact with several businesses along M-24 in the construction area. Any issues that have arisen have been handled very professionally and timely with the contractor and overall, the businesses have been pleased.

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Ferrari moved, Trustee Payne seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Wright, Dunn, Durr, Ferrari, Curtis, Nold, Payne

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.



William Dunn, Supervisor



Curtis Wright, Clerk

Approved:

/s/mm