

COLOMA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kenneth Parrigin called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Coloma Charter Township Hall, Coloma, Michigan. Present for the Township: Supervisor Kenneth Parrigin, Treasurer Lance Becht, Trustees Edward Helbling, Robert Molter, Cynthia Aviles and Bryan Duffield. Absent: Clerk Debra Olsen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Aviles

CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer Becht presented the consent agenda. Treasurer Becht reported the finance committee met and approved bills totaling \$203,766.92. Moved by Treasurer Becht, seconded by Trustee Molter to approve the consent agenda and finance report. ROLL CALL VOTE: Helbling, yes; Molter, yes; Becht, yes; Parrigin, yes; Aviles, yes, Duffield, yes. ABSENT – 1. NAYES – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Parrigin informed the board he hired an attorney in Grand Rapids to write a water agreement between the City of Coloma and Coloma Charter Township.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chana Kniebes from the North Berrien Community Development Board announced there will be two seminars on the use of EBay September 18th from 2-4 and 6-8 at the Coloma Township Hall. She also announced the Aztec American Restaurant in downtown Coloma will be opening soon.

Treasurer Becht reported the Sewer Board had just received the 2007 audit report. He also reported there had been a decrease in the sewer bills from around \$20,000 to \$14,000 in the last three months. George Granger stated he has reviewed the usage and found no problems.

Sergeant LaVanway reported the police department is doing well.

Trustee Hebling gave an update from the recent Cemetery Board meeting. He stated there was going to be a survey completed on the east side of the cemetery because of potential encroachment problems by a neighbor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Engineer George Granger reported the water tower is up and painted.

Engineer Granger presented pay estimate #6 from Maguire Iron, Inc in the amount of \$44,950.00 for elevated water storage improvements for the month of August 2008.

Moved by Trustee Duffield, seconded by Trustee Molter to approve pay estimate #6 from Maguire Iron, Inc in the amount of \$44,950.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Becht, yes, Parrigin, yes; Aviles, yes; Duffield, yes; Helbling, yes; Molter, yes. ABSENT – 1. NAYES – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Engineer Granger presented change order #5 for the 2008 water system improvements for an increase of \$549,393.00 to add Little Paw Paw Lake Road from Becht Road to approximately 4000 feet east.

Moved by Trustee Molter, seconded by Treasurer Helbling to approve change order #5. ROLL CALL VOTE: Parrigin, yes; Aviles, yes; Duffield, yes; Helbling, yes; Molter, yes; Becht, yes. ABSENT – 1. NAYES – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Sewcyck from the Hagar Township Board stated since the merger of the two fire departments we need a full time fire chief. The full time chief would be responsible for keeping the records up to date, follow up on insurance claims, training, municipal planning, scheduling and making sure the needs of the communities were being meet. He also stated that having a full time chief would increase efficiency and the Hagar Township Board was supportive of the idea.

Moved by Trustee Molter, seconded by Trustee Duffield to give the two township board members authority to engage in the process with the Fire Board Authority to hire a fire chief. ROLL CALL VOTE: Molter, yes; Becht, yes; Parrigin, yes; Aviles, yes; Duffield, yes; Helbling, yes. ABSENT – 1. NAYES – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Larry Swisher stated he couldn't read the lettering on the water tower. Mr. Granger responded by saying you can see it from North Coloma Road.

Trustee Duffield stated there was a drastic improvement on Cherry Street and Interlocken. Even after the last heavy rainfall there wasn't water over the road.

Mr. Cecil Martin wanted to know why his assessment value keeps going up and the value of his house has gone down. Supervisor Parrigin stated the township board has no control of the increased assessment amount.

Ms. Normalou said she had heard there was going to be a change in the police department. Supervisor Parrigin stated we have not received any thing official, but the Police Chief has informed his staff of his intention to retire.

Mr. Rory Bell wanted to thank the chief and Mr. Parrigin for the opportunity to have one of the old police cars to use as the Community Resource School Car. Rory also stated they have received donations from the community and businesses to help pay for the lettering on the vehicle. The car was at the last football game and was a great success. The car is to be used to increase police involvement in the schools in a positive way. The police department is also working on other educational programs with the school such as a puppet show, babysitting etc. Rory said the car would be available after the meeting if anyone wanted to see it.

Kevin Leitz apologized to Mary Francis Styers for taking her signs down. He told her he thought it was illegal to have signs in the township right-of-way. Ms. Styers said there are still signs out from the election.

Wyatt Vandron wanted to know why we can't do anything with the ditches on Ryno Road. Supervisor Parrigin stated they are on the list to be fixed. Supervisor Parrigin invited Mr. Vandron to participate with him in a conference call with the drain commissioner.

Mr. Sewcyck wanted to recognize the years of service and dedication of Jim Collis. He stated that Mr. Collis was a wonderful public servant and we truly mourn his loss.

Coloma Charter Township Board of Trustees
September 10, 2008
Page 4

Moved by Trustee Molter, seconded by Trustee Becht the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Aviles, Trustee

Kenneth Parrigin, Supervisor

Date Approved: