

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FLUSHING

6524 N. SEYMOUR ROAD

FLUSHING, MICHIGAN 48433

SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

DATE: JULY 29, 2010

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

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WEB PAGE: <http://www.flushingtowship.com>

ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS

SUPERVISOR: Terry A. Peck
CLERK: Julia A. Morford
TREASURER: William J. Noecker

TRUSTEES

Michael S. Gardner
Scott R. Matzke
Scott P. Minaudo
Mark H. Purkey

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

STEVEN MOULTON
Cooley Moulton & Smith LLP
727 S. Grand Traverse Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by **SUPERVISOR TERRY A. PECK** with Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL: Terry A. Peck, Julia A. Morford, William J. Noecker, Michael S. Gardner, Scott R. Matzke, Scott P. Minaudo, Mark H. Purkey, and Attorney Steve Moulton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER INDIVIDUALS PRESENT: Thirty-three (33) other individuals

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

GARDNER MOVED, seconded by Minaudo Purkey to approve the Agenda as presented with the addition of item Number 3, "Donations to Police Department".

ACTION OF THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Minaudo, Matzke, Gardner, Purkey, Peck, Noecker, and Morford

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Police Budget – Police Lay-Offs

PURKEY MOVED, seconded by Gardner to lay off the two (2) lowest seniority patrolmen at this time in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement; the layoff to be effective August 20, 2010 or as close to the date as possible.

DISCUSSION:

A recent Board Meeting had been spent on the police budget; don't like the idea of laying off but due to the economy something has to be done. Could a person that was on sick leave be laid off? The Supervisor stated the lowest seniority officer, at this time, would be laid off and when the next lowest seniority officer came back to work, they would be subject to lay off at that time.

After the Board of Review since 2008, the Adjusted Total Taxable Value was \$300,431,000. The next year it was \$294,000,000. In 2010 it was \$260,603,000. In two (2) years the township has lost just under \$40,000,000 in taxable value. The police department's operating budget comes from millages which currently the Police Department millage is 3.4114 mills.

It was felt the lay-off would be a tragic mistake to lay-off because the residents are currently having to wait hours to get service; felt it was needed to get the officers on the road where residents could get 24/7 protection. It was felt there were other options

from the Chief's proposal: 1) layoff the two (2) officers and not touch the Sergeants or 2) layoff one (1) officer and retire one (1) Sergeant and possibly allow the full timers laid off to come back and work part time. The conclusion would be the retirement of Sergeant Gansen and the lay-off of the two (2) lowest seniority officers.

PROPOSAL PER CHIEF STEVENSON:

To lay off the two (2) lowest seniority officers and/or and to eliminate a Sergeant's position or the retirement of Sergeant Gansen with the goal to reduce the budget by \$232,000.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

PURKEY MOVED, seconded by Gardner to lay off no more than two (2) police officers in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement at a time to be determined by the Supervisor and the Police Chief and to accept the proposal brought to the Board by Detective/Sergeant Don Gansen (Sgt. Gansen) in regards to a buy-out agreement.

DISCUSSION:

It was decided the buy-out agreement given to the Board by Sgt. Gansen will be a very good deal for the township. It will cost a little up front but in ten (10) years the medical cost will be reduced. Currently, the medical cost is \$16,500 per year. Sgt. Gansen has agreed to take a stipend of \$5,000 per year which will be a great savings to the Township. It would be hard to determine what medical benefits would cost in ten (10) years.

The sergeant would be kept in place who has worked for the township for a number of years and has put in a great amount of service.

If the lowest seniority employee was laid off and the second lowest in command was on sick leave, the sergeant would go into the school as the School Resource Officer. There would be four (4) patrolman plus the Chief included in the scheduling.

Sgt Gansen has volunteered to completely retire. The layoff would take affect August 20, 2010 and Sgt Gansen's retirement would take affect the first part of September; officer Coe will be coming back to work August 17; it is undetermined when Officer Farlin will come back to work. There probably won't be any more 24/7 police coverage. It was determined by the township attorney the motion was straight forward and could not be construed. The language being: "a motion to lay off the two (2) lowest senior patrol officers at a time to be determined by the Police Chief in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement at a time to be determined by the Supervisor and Police Chief and to accept the proposal brought to the Board by Sgt Don Gansen in regards to a buy-out agreement." In the past there had been confusion regarding seniority.

ACTION OF THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Purkey, Noecker, Peck, and Gardner

NAYS: Minaudo, Morford, and Matzke

MOTION CARRIED

2. Tree/Stump Removal Bids

NOECKER MOVED, seconded by Matzke to approve the \$1,750 bid from Levi Slovic of Chesaning for tree removal and stump grinding; a Certificate of Insurance has been received by Mr. Slovic.

DISCUSSION:

There are seven (7) trees remaining to be cut down. The stumps and brush will be ground or if it is cheaper to drop the branches on the blacktop and the township burn, the township will do the burning and Mr. Slovic will only cut the trees. The area will be cleaned up with grass being planted.

ACTION OF THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Purkey, Morford, Noecker, Peck, Gardner, Matzke, and Minaudo

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED

3. Donations to Police Department

PURKEY MOVED, seconded by Minaudo to establish a new line item in the General Fund under the Police Department and accept the funds toward the goal.

DISCUSSION:

In the past the Officers have purchased their own guns and Flushing Township purchases the ammunition. It was the recommendation of the Police Chief to get all new guns and uniforms for the Flushing Township Police Department.

Per the Township Attorney, the township can accept contributions and they are tax deductible to the contributor at the highest level of deductibility. The only concern was occasionally a contribution is made with a condition attached to it. The recommended suggestion was that if the township wanted to accept contributions the purpose is to purchase police equipment at the Police Chief's discretion to purchase equipment for the Police Department. A separate account needed to be set up for certain accounts.

PURKEY MOVED, seconded by Minaudo to set up a separate line item in order to take contributions for the Police Department to purchase new guns and uniforms.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Chief stated he did not want any information as to who gave donations. The money will come to Flushing Township and will be designated for the Police Department. It was questioned if there should be a cap on the donations received; Chief Stevenson recommended no more than \$12,000 for the fund. PURKEY felt there didn't need to be a limit.

ACTION OF THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Matzke, Minaudo, Purkey, Morford, Noecker, Peck, and Gardner

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED

7:35 P.M. – OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four (4) people gave their comments

7:40 P.M. – CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

BOARD COMMENTS:

1. **MINAUDO** – if there should be a bad accident, there would be other entities that would come in to help; there isn't much that can be done due to the economy; don't agree with the lay off; the police issue has been brought to the people twice and voted down.
2. **MATZKE** – the residents deserve 24/7 police coverage; know the taxable values are down; if everyone would get together and try to get more protection for the residents.
3. **PURKEY** – don't like laying off the officers; wish could keep the 24/7 coverage; not going to have people come in and work without any pay; two budgets: one for the Police Department and another for other items such as water, taxes, etc; not easy to lay off.
4. **NOECKER** – there were comments concerning the burning of the branches/limbs; since everyone was busy the day of the burning, PECK'S relatives, consisting of a U.S. Marine Corp Captain, a Southwest Airline Pilot, and four (4) well behaved young grandsons, so graciously manned the fire. On another occasion NOECKER, who was on his way to an appointment, happened

to arrive at the scene of an accident where there were five (5) Michigan State Police Cars, three (3) Flushing Township Cars, three (3) City of Flushing Cars, one (1) Genesee County Paramedic, two (2) ambulances, and two (2) fire trucks on the scene.

- 5. **MORFORD** – reminded individuals that were candidates for Delegates, they would only be on the ballot for their particular precinct; straight ticket ballot; MTA issue on the ballot; sorry about the lack of 24/7 coverage
- 6. **PECK** – no one will be asking for donations; the donations will be taken care of by the Township Accountant; the fire permits are also campfire permits which means the fires don't have to be out until midnight; there have been cuts in both of the budgets (police and general); the township has to do the best it can to make sure the police millage passes in two (2) years; don't need bad publicity; the previous ballot language does not say there will be 24/7 coverage; other municipalities are having to cut police coverage also; hope as a group we can work together and keep our police department.

THE NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE FLUSHING TOWNSHIP HALL.

ADJOURNMENT: NOECKER MOVED, seconded by Purkey to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

JULIA A. MORFORD, Clerk

TERRY A. PECK , Supervisor

APPROVED DATE: _____