

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS **DECEMBER 3, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER – Supervisor Randolph called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., with Clerk Arnold, Treasurer Beaudua, and Trustees Patsalis, Knotts, Simons, and Bober.

Two in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE MINUTES – Trustee Bober, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to approve the November 19, 2007 Public Hearing and Regular meeting minutes. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to accept the consent agenda as follows: Resignation of Mark Morse from Zoning Board of Appeals. Carried.

DISBURSEMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$103,929.08, payroll in the amount of \$21,691.04, ACH payments in the amount of \$19,183.39. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Knotts, Patsalis, Simons, Bober, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

MEMBER REPORTS – Trustee Knotts reported about the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on November 26, 2007. A nonconforming structure was extensively renovated on residential property at 4071 River Road without permits. The ZBA approved the renovations because it was an existing building on the property prior to renovations with the condition that the homeowner obtain building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits.

NEW BUSINESS – Deanna Kramm, Beautification Chairperson, was present to award 2007 Beautification Awards to residents for their beautiful yards. There were 14 nominations. Shirley Davidson, 5403 Pointe Drive was the first place winner, George Roegner, 4605 Chamberlain Drive was the second place winner and Cynthia McBride, 5399 Pointe Drive was the third place winner.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to appoint Robert Freehan to the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term ending December 3, 2010. Carried.

Trustee Bober, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to reappoint Deanna Kramm and Marilyn Schriener to the Beautification Committee, with a term ending December 31, 2010, Charles Cotton to the Construction Board of Appeals, with a term ending December 31, 2010, and Sharon McCulloch to the St. Clair River Sewer and Water Authority with a term ending December 31, 2012. Carried.

Trustee Patsalis, supported by Trustee Bober, moved to approve an Agreement with East China School District to collect summer school property taxes for a fee of \$2.00 per parcel. Carried.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to approve an Agreement with the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) to collect summer property taxes for a fee of \$2.00 per parcel. Carried.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to accept the October 2007 Revenue and Expenditure Report. Carried. Trustee Knotts asked members to review page 28, DPW Equipment Replacement Fund Project Costs. Funds will have to be transferred to cover the shortage.

Paul Dingeman from Channel 6 was present to review changes to Channels 6 and 12, public and educational channels provided by Comcast. Beginning January 1, 2008 residents of St. Clair, Marine City, and East China can view meetings on the web at www.yourctv.org Beginning January 15, 2008, Comcast will move Channels 6 and 12 to the 900 tier for the entire Southeast Michigan region. In the spring of 2009, analog TV capabilities will expire. The Federal Government plans to offer all residents two \$40.00 certificates to purchase a converter box to convert analog television sets to digital format. In 2008 Comcast plans to offer a digital converter box to its existing customers free for one year.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to approve Board members attendance at the MTA annual dinner at Crystal Gardens on January 24, 2008. Members must pay \$25 for their spouse. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Patsalis, Beaudua, Simons, Bober, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Bober, moved to approve Department Supervisors, Dion Pike, Mike McLeod, Roger Malcolm, and Sandy Smith, attendance at the MTA annual dinner at Crystal Gardens on January 24, 2008. Members must pay \$25 for their spouse. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Bober, Simons, Patsalis, Beaudua, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

RESOLUTION – Supervisor Randolph, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to adopt Resolution 07-12 as follows. Carried.

RESOLUTION 07-12
Setting Standards for Cable TV and Video Providers
To Fully Serve East China Township Cable TV and Video Customers
In the Delivery of Programming on Local Access Cable Channels
Charter Township of East China
County of St. Clair, Michigan

WHEREAS, Comcast Cablevision is providing cable TV to residential customers in East China Township; and

WHEREAS, East China Township invested in video production equipment in order to reach out to residents with programming on the Government and Educational Access channels, also known as PEG; and

WHEREAS, Comcast Cablevision has indicated to the Township that it will change some of the terms of its contract signed in August 2002, per the new law in the State of Michigan (P.A. 480 of 2006) that allows it to re-visit all provisions of the contract, Comcast: Will change the location of the Government Access and Educational Access channels to the 900's, and has verbally stated it will pay reasonable costs for printed and promotional items that bear old channel numbers, will require customers, who are currently capable of finding the channels on their TV Sets, to pay, after one year, a monthly fee for digital converter boxes, or a Cable and Card, or to have to purchase a new TV or QAM-capable TV, in order to receive the Government and School's channels. Customers will have to call to get the converter box; if they do not, Comcast has not said that it will contact them; through this policy, Comcast will make it more difficult for viewers to receive local access cable channels programming, including Township Board Meetings and emergency alert notices.

- Positively, Comcast has informed the township that it will maintain a single channel designation for each local access channel, without the need for viewers to sift through menus to locate the government channels and the schools channels. It will allow for DVR recording of programs on local access.
- And Comcast has informed the township that the new digital delivery method will mean better audio and video quality; however, Comcast has not yet provided a demonstration or technical specifications for the new quality claims; and

WHEREAS, all parties have expressed an interest in maintaining and improving services for the viewers and residents, while operating in a changing technological and regulatory environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that based on Michigan's Public Act 480:

- Basic Tier delivery where any needed converters are included in the Basic Service subscription fee, with no additional costs to receive PEG Channels,
- Adherence to and maintenance of township quality standards for audio and video,
- Unique, or linear, channel numbers for each channel of programming, so that residents can easily locate PEG channels as they do now, either by channel surfing or by punching in a channel number on their remote control,
- Digital Video Recording capability for those with DVR's,

- The ability for the township offices to monitor their actual PEG channels as transmitted on the providers' systems without additional cost to the township.
- A channel delivery method for the programming provider that maintains the status quo of no fees due for transmission of access channels to cable TV.

Be It Further Resolved that these customer service standards are for the benefit of the viewer-subscriber-residents in this community.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Township Offices will be closed December 24-25, 2007 for the Christmas Holiday, and December 31, 2007 thru January 1, 2008 for the New Years Holiday.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua asked for a status report about the blight complaint on Pointe Drive. He asked for the Township to present a proclamation to the Marine City Football Team on their success as the 2007 State Football Champions. He asked office staff to check into leaf pickup service from Waste Management. He requested that employees and Board members offer either a verbal or written report when anyone attends classes or seminars. He asked for copies of the quotes for the fencing that was installed at the water plant this summer. He asked when the Fire Authority will be meeting.

Trustee Patsalis congratulated the Mariners on winning the State Football Championship and feels a proclamation is a great idea. He read that the Road Commission minutes stated that municipalities who used match money this year can apply for match money next year, as available. The previous restrictions have been removed.

Trustee Knotts stated that Lynn Township had left over berm money they transferred into their match money fund at the County.

ADJOURN – Trustee Simons, supported by Trustee Bober, moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Carried.

John A. Randolph, Supervisor

Gary J. Arnold, Clerk