

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

JANUARY 15, 2007

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

Six in the audience.

APPOINT PRESIDENT PRO-TEM – Clerk Arnold, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to appoint Trustee Bober as President Pro-Tem. Carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE MINUTES – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve the Minutes of December 18, 2006, with changes. Carried.

Trustee Knotts reported on the Sewer and Water Authority meeting of December 5, 2006. They approved Stewart, Beauvais & Whipple for the 2006 audit. The Water Plant is currently going through re-certification, which will be effective through the year 2010. Plastic welding will repair cracks in some of the plastic tanks. There have been no problems with the replaced strainer. ~~The water intake will be covered as a rider on the Sewer and Water Authority policy at an additional cost.~~ The sewer plant continues to repair its equipment as needed. The digester cover needs to be replaced at a cost between \$150,000 to \$200,000. Merrill Company was awarded a 5-year contract to haul sludge.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Carl Wolschon, 5061 Pointe Drive, stated that no agreement had been reached between himself, Jim Bowser, and Engineer, Brian Slizewski before Jim Bowser began excavating his property the week of January 8, 2007. He wants the retaining wall and the pea gravel drainage system, which is on his property removed.

Kevin Simonetta, 5071 Pointe Drive, asked who inspected and approved the installation of the retaining wall and who is in charge of this situation. He asked if the Building Inspector, Engineer, Township Supervisor or the Township Board is making the final decisions about how to rectify the drainage issue.

Jim Bowser, 5055 Pointe Drive, stated his retaining wall is not on Carl Wolschon's property and he is taking care of all of the drainage from his property. He feels Carl Wolschon is not agreeable to suggestions. If he has to wait to improve the drainage situation, nothing will get done before the winter weather rolls in. He moved the retaining wall last August and it is no longer on Wolschon's property.

Members agreed that no further action is to take place at the Bowser's property until a full agreement by all involved parties has been reached. Because of a lack of communication between all parties, it was requested that Supervisor Randolph take the lead in facilitating progress with the Building Inspector and Engineer, Brian Slizewski to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

Monica Nouhan, owner of the Anchor Inn Motel, 6000 River Road, asked about renovations that need to be made this summer at the motel. Trustee Knotts asked her to contact the Building Inspector for guidance because the property is non-conforming.

CONSENT AGENDA – Trustee Simons, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to accept the consent agenda as follows: Planning Commission Minutes for December 12, 2006, Marine City Fire Report for December 2006, St. Clair Fire Report for December 2006, Building Department summary for 2006, and Historical Commission Minutes for January 3, 2007. Carried.

Trustee Patsalis stated that the Board does not wish to pressure the Planning Commission to make changes to the Zoning Ordinance, if they feel it is already sufficient. They asked that the Planning Commission review the information closely to be sure it is meeting the needs of the Township.

DISBURSEMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$248,874.19, payroll in the amount of \$44,941.48, ACH payments in the amount of \$52,652.96, Brownfield in the amount of \$27,040.32, and tax account in the amount of \$714,103.18. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Knotts, Patsalis, Simons, Bober, and Arnold. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Knotts asked how often MERS retirement payments are made. He and Trustee Simons questioned the amount paid to Building Inspector Kern in the check register report. Trustee Knotts also questioned the annual building permit fee figure; in reference to 75% of that being paid to the Building Inspector.

MEMBER REPORTS – Trustee Simons reported on the January 3, 2007 Park Commission meeting. General maintenance expenditures in the parks are to be taken care of by DPW Supervisor Roger Malcolm as needed and large expenditures must be approved by the Park Commission prior to beginning projects. They are reviewing information to construct a small pavilion at River Park. They have requested information about the Summer Recreation Program from last year, specifically, how many children attended and the revenues and expenditures of the program.

Treasurer Beaudua reported on the January 4, 2007 Historical Commission meeting. The door latch and wall furnace have been repaired and new donation forms have been printed. United Way donation forms were distributed to members.

Office Manager Smith reported on the new Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance proposal. After comparing the entire health care package line by line, it was discovered that the large annual anticipated savings of \$17,000, no longer existed. Other ways to save health care dollars would be to establish a self-funded dental trust. Even without the up front dollar savings to the township, by establishing a Health Savings Account, the employees would have access to a healthcare tax shelter that does not currently exist. The high deductible portion of the \$1,250/\$2,500 HSA deposit is all pre-tax dollars, which the employee could contribute to as well. These funds could accumulate and be used during retirement to help pay for health care costs. It was noted that in 2002 our annual health care costs were \$140,000; for 2006 our annual health care costs totaled \$252,000, so it pays to look at different options.

Trustee Simons, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to table any action regarding the new health care proposal. Office Manager Smith is to proceed with the employee meetings as scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., and Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., then follow up with the Board at the February 5, 2007 meeting. Carried.

Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Bober, moved to approve a wage increase for Timothy Askew, from a Plant Operator, Two Licenses, Grade 56 to Plant Operator, Three Licenses, Grade 57. His hourly rate of pay will increase from \$24.39 to \$24.78, effective January 1, 2007. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Bober, Simons, Arnold, Patsalis, and Knotts. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to designate Keith Zick as Township Attorney for the Year 2007. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Simons, Bober, Arnold, Patsalis, and Beaudua. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Patsalis, supported by Trustee Bober, moved to designate Vilican-Leman as Township Planners for the Year 2007. Roll call vote: Yea: Patsalis, Bober, Simons, Arnold, Knotts, and Beaudua. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Simons, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to designate Wade-Trim/Associates as Township Engineers for the Year 2007. Roll call vote: Yea: Simons, Arnold, Bober, Patsalis, Knotts, and Beaudua. Nay: None. Carried.

Township Auditor, Larry Allen was present and reviewed revenues and expenditures pertaining to the water rates. The water and sewer rates are sufficient to cover current expenses; however, the rates do not allow repayment of funds borrowed from the Sewer Fund for repairs to the Water Plant.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to increase water rates by \$0.13 cents, creating the new rate of \$4.40 per thousand gallons of water usage, effective January 1, 2007. There will be no change in the sewage rate of \$3.55 per thousand gallons. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Arnold, Simons, Bober, Patsalis, and Beaudua. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Simons, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to appoint George Barna to the Planning Commission for the un-expired term of Heather Morris with his term ending April 7, 2009. Carried.

Trustee Patsalis, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to approve attendance by Board of Review members at the training seminar on February 21, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn, with necessary expenses. Roll call vote: Yea: Patsalis, Arnold, Simons, Bober, Knotts, and Beaudua. Nay: None. Carried.

Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to approve a sewer and water credit for the Anchor Inn Motel, 6000 River Road, due to a leak in their pit meter, in the amount of \$469.20, for 60,000 gallons. The water portion of the credit was granted due to the fact that the Township was unable to turn the water off immediately. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Patsalis, Knotts, Simons, Bober, and Arnold. Nay: None. Carried.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to accept the Revenue/Expenditure Report for November 2006. Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua requested that the Township Web page be updated and that links be added for the State Representative, Senator, and other County, State, and Federal Offices.

Clerk Arnold asked who would be attending the MTA Conference in Lansing. Trustee Bober, Clerk Arnold, and Supervisor Randolph will be attending.

Trustee Patsalis asked if Gregory Benda, 2602 Belle River Road, has tapped into the Belle River Road water line, which would eliminate the water line under Belle River. A recent article in the Times Herald regarding the DTE litigation was not favorable to the township.

Trustee Simons hopes the Bowser and Wolschon situation will be resolved soon.

Trustee Knotts requested that Supervisor Randolph get involved in the situation with Bowser and Wolschon to facilitate communication and follow the case through until it is resolved.

Trustee Bober thanked members for their assistance at tonight's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT – The St. Clair County Road Commission is hosting their annual meeting on Monday, February 26, 2007, for Township Representatives to review local road concerns and budgets for 2007. Supervisor Randolph will follow up with their meeting times.

ADJOURN – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Carried.

Richard Bober, President Pro-Tem

Gary J. Arnold, Clerk

January 15, 2007