

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS **NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Three in the audience.

APPROVE MINUTES – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2007 with changes as follows. Carried.

Ron Chriss representing Detroit Edison was present to *inform* residents that an informational meeting will be held at the township hall on October 30, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the concerns of the residents. The spots on leaves in the area are not due to coal dust. Cottony Maple Scale secretes a sticky solution that grows sooty mold on the leaves.

Representatives of McCoig Recycle and Ron Chriss, Regional Manager for DTE presented information about a proposed fly-ash recycling storage facility. McCoig obtained a long-term lease for nine acres on St. Clair Power Plant property, east of M-29. They plan to build three storage buildings (100 feet wide by 110 feet tall) near the north contractor's entrance to store fly ash. The fly ash will be fed into enclosed trucks and hauled to Detroit to make concrete. The storage domes would be located 1,100 feet from Mallards Landing, and 1,000 feet to the nearest northeast neighbor on Chamberlain Drive. A looped road system for trucks would surround the storage domes and will be closer to Mallards Landing and neighboring homes. Future plans are to transport the fly ash by pipeline to the storage domes. *McCoig Recycle stated that* there are many technical difficulties limiting the use of a long distance pipeline to transport the fly ash to a more desirable location.

CONSENT AGENDA – Trustee Patsalis, supported by Larry Simons, moved to accept the consent agenda as follows. Lot Split Board Minutes for October 9, 2007, Beautification Committee Minutes for October 4, 2007, Sewer and Water Authority Minutes for August 8, 2006, St. Clair Fire report for September 2007, Planning Commission Minutes for October 9, 2007, and a County Resolution for their 2007 Winter Property Tax Levy. Carried.

DISBURSEMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$91,732.38, payroll in the amount of \$34,405.95, and ACH payments in the amount of \$28,198.00. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Knotts, Patsalis, Simons, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

MEMBER REPORTS - Trustee Knotts reported about the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held October 22, 2007. The Dairy Queen request was tabled. They are asking for a commercial kitchen to prepare take out food. A special ZBA meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2007 to review Dairy Queen changes, due to a lack of a quorum vote and needing detailed information. They are requesting a use variance with B-1 Zoning.

Treasurer Beaudua reported about the St. Clair River Sewer and Water Authority meeting held October 16, 2007. China Township is covered by insurance for bottling water. The digester cover does not need to be replaced. Township Engineer Slizewski was asked to prepare a list of items due for repair or replacement at the water and sewer plants. Sewer sludge is currently used for land applications and costs about \$23,000 a year. Alternative sludge disposal methods are being looked into. General Electric bought Zenon. Less expensive sources to purchase replacement clamps for parts at the water plant are being looked into. Ideas are being considered to establish a program to extend the life of the membrane trains used to filter the water coming into the plant. There are 32 modules in one train of membranes and a couple of the modules have had 5% of the membranes removed due to damage. Modules are purchased as needed and cannot be purchased in bulk because they deteriorate if not used right away. New modules have a 7-year warranty, after that time, any problems are our responsibility. The Fund Balances as of September 30, 2007 are as follows: Sewer Replacement Fund \$395,006.82, Water Replacement Fund \$94,019.38, and Water Modules Replacement Fund \$93,750.01.

Trustee Simons reported about the October 22, 2007 Watershed meeting. The Spicer Group prepares the SWIPPEE report for East China as well as the area watershed group at a good price. East China Township is doing a good job at controlling substances from runoff into the drain water.

OLD BUSINESS – Trustee Knotts, supported by Clerk Arnold, moved to adopt the Township’s Vehicle and Secretary of State Michigan Driver License Subscription Program Policy as presented. Everyone driving for township business will be part of the program. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Arnold, Patsalis, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: Simons. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Trustee Knotts, supported by Supervisor Randolph, moved to accept the Revenue and Expenditure Reports for July, August, and September 2007. Carried.

Trustee Knotts asked about the need to transfer funds for repair and maintenance of the water towers. He asked about paying the Sewer Department Engineering Fees (590-529-821.00) from the Sewer Improvement Fund, rather than adding it to the current expenses, that affect rates. He stated that overall the water and sewer funds are doing very well and revenues appear to be keeping up with expenditures.

Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to approve attendance by DPW Supervisor Roger Malcolm at the MRWA Workplace Safety Conference December 4-5, 2007, at a cost of \$175.00, and lodging costs of \$80, along with necessary expenses. Attendance earns .8 CEC's Water and .8 CEC's Wastewater. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Patsalis, Knotts, Simons, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

On September 11, 2007, the Planning Commission recommended that the Township Board approve the rezoning request of Chafic Kadouh, owner of the Dairy Queen for land he recently acquired adjacent to his business. Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to accept the staff report prepared by the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission for the Zoning Map Amendment for parcel 74-18-052-0008-000 from R-1 to B-1. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Patsalis, Simons, Beaudua, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried. Corrections will be made to Metro Planning's letter, indicating East China Township rather than St. Clair Township, for our office file copy.

Trustee Patsalis, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to set the 2008 Public Budget Hearing at 7:15 p.m., on November 19, 2007. Carried.

Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Trustee Simons, moved to approve payment of \$31,581 to the Burnham & Flower Agency for township liability insurance, effective November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008. Roll call vote: Yea: Beaudua, Simons, Patsalis, Knotts, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried. The cost of the 2006/2007 policy was \$35,867. In the future the annual reoccurring bills and the previous year's billing amount will be provided to members for comparison. Supervisor Randolph will look into why a Constable is listed on the Public Official's Bond page.

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Patsalis, moved to approve amending the 2007 General Fund Budget due to additional legal defense costs for DTE Litigation with funds to come from: Township Hall Maintenance-Capital Outlay Improvements Account and Fire Protection Contracts Account; Transfer \$10,000.00 from General Fund (101), Township Hall Maintenance: Capital Outlay-Improvements Account #101-265-970.00, and transfer \$5,000 from General Fund (101), Fire Protection: Fire Protection Contracts Account #101-336-801.03; to General Fund, Legal Fees: DTE Litigation Account #101-266-826.01. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Patsalis, Beaudua, Simons, Arnold, and Randolph. Nay: None. Carried.

Treasurer Beaudua, supported by Supervisor Randolph, moved to add \$44,233.28 in delinquent water and sewer accounts to the 2007 Winter Tax Roll. Carried. (\$43,924.21 actual as of November 7, 2007)

ORDINANCE # 295 - Supervisor Randolph offered the first reading of Ordinance #295 – The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Official Zoning Map of the Code of Ordinances, Article III - Zoning Districts and Map - Section 480-7 - District Boundaries; Zoning Map. (*The Dairy Queen - 1980 River Road*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Township Offices will be closed for Veterans' Day, Monday, November 12, 2007, and Thursday and Friday, November 22-23, 2007 for Thanksgiving.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Treasurer Beaudua offered condolences to the family of Ann Kierst, former Historical Commission member. Beaudua said he will be absent from the next meeting. He asked about blight on Pointe Drive and about the cost of replacing the fence at the old water plant.

Trustee Patsalis asked about the Detroit Edison public meeting on October 30, 2007, held at the Township Hall. DTE representatives spoke about Cottony Maple Scale spots on silver and red maple trees. He congratulated Marine City and St. Clair for a good football season and wished them good luck in the finals.

Trustee Knotts offered condolences to the family of Ann Kierst. He asked for a status report on 141 Hathaway, a derelict, abandoned building. He asked that the township begin the condemnation process to get that building removed.

Trustee Simons said the DTE meeting was quite informative and about 40-50 residents attended. A conservationist present stated that maple trees in the area are infested with cottony maple scale. DTE plans to spray the coal piles with a latex coating to reduce coal dust. DTE representatives were very receptive to hearing and discussing concerns of our residents and asked for people to call them if new problems arise.

ADJOURN – Trustee Simons, supported by Treasurer Beaudua, moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Carried.

John A. Randolph, Supervisor

Gary J. Arnold, Clerk