

CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 30, 2021

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Supervisor Abney	Present
	Clerk Fritz	Present
	Treasurer Thurston	Present
	Trustee Douglas	Present
	Trustee Westphal	Absent - excused

There being a quorum, Supervisor Abney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Also in attendance: Director Craig Oatten, Office Manager Megan Weaver and DPW Superintendent Don Sumption

Acceptance of Agenda:

It was moved by Thurston and supported by Fritz to accept the agenda as presented. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

New Business:

Rob Klaczkiewicz, CPA from Smith & Klaczkiewicz PC, presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. He stated that Carrollton Township received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest assurance that an audit firm can give on a municipality's financial statements. Mr. Klaczkiewicz went through some highlights of the statement and answered questions from the board members. He noted that there were no audit comments given this year. Discussion followed. It was board consensus to receive and file the audited financial statements as presented.

Public Comments:

Andrew Lamia, 2836 N. Michigan, stated his concerns with the site plan approval for 2824 N. Michigan that occurred at the Planning Commission meeting held August 17, 2021. He did not feel that it was done properly. Some of his concerns included: letters were not sent to surrounding property owners notifying them of the site plan review; the site plan wasn't turned in 15 days prior to the public hearing as required; the fire lane was never addressed in the site plan; the hours of operation are now 7am-7pm instead of 8am-5pm; and the employee parking area was supposed to be black-topped and it hasn't been.

Mr. Lamia then proceeded to address Trustee Douglas specifically and told him he did not represent the residents well as the Planning Commission liaison. Everything Mr. Lamia feared is now allowed at 2824 N. Michigan. Discussion followed. Supervisor Abney asked Mr. Lamia to wrap up his comments as he was over the time limit. Mr. Lamia stated that his quality of life had been terrible for over 10 years. Abney asked Mr. Lamia what his specific concern was that he needed addressed that evening. Mr. Lamia answered that he wanted the Township Board to follow the ordinance and he would be cashing in his 401k and getting an attorney to fight the site plan approved for 2824 N. Michigan.

Erika Harris, 3026 Schaeffer, asked why the Township did not have enough law enforcement officers. She claimed it took her an entire year after moving to Carrollton to know what the police patrol vehicles looked like. She did not feel that there was adequate policing as she always saw other agencies responding in Carrollton. Oatten responded that he would love to have double the staff that he has; however, there were budget constraints and Carrollton Township Police Dept. was not the only agency that dealt with that. Carrollton has an officer on duty 24/7. All neighboring police departments had mutual aid agreements with each other to assist if needed. He continued that the violent crime statistics for Carrollton were very low. There was also a Neighborhood Watch group; however, with the COVID-19 pandemic, they had not met since March 2020. Oatten encouraged Ms. Harris to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch in the future when they start meeting regularly again.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Thurston and supported by Fritz to approve minutes for: July 26, 2021 - regular meeting and August 9, 2021 – departmental meeting. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Correspondence:

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Thurston to receive and file the correspondence as listed for August 2021. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Accounts Payable:

It was moved by Thurston and supported by Abney to approve the August Accounts Payable in the amount of \$415,580.46. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Board reports were reviewed. There were no financial requests.

Sumption stated that 101 tires were collected at the Scrap Tire Drive event held on August 14.

The Skyhaven Rd. replacement project was nearly complete, and the landscapers should be coming the following week. Discussion followed.

Pending Business:

Oatten stated that the owners of Carrollton Center (Skyway Plaza) were not responding to the code enforcement violation letters and the Township will probably be taking them to court. Oatten also stated that he heard the Planning Commission had been discussing possible rehabilitation grants for Carrollton Center to apply for. In the past, the Township had offered this option to the current owner, and he was not interested.

Oatten informed the board that the final cost for the Atlanta St. road reconstruction project was \$203,537 which was approximately \$2,175 (1%) more than the original bid amount.

New Business:

Weaver presented the bid tabulation for the 2007 Chevy Impala (copy attached). It was moved by Abney and supported by Douglas to award the bid to Carmen Gomez for \$3,000. There being all ayes, the motion carried. It was board consensus to award the bid to the next highest bidder on the list (\$2,500) if Gomez did not purchase the vehicle.

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Thurston to reappoint Jeff Boensch to the Compensation Commission with a term ending 09/30/2026. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Thurston to appoint Whitney Snow to the Recreation Committee filling a vacancy with a term ending 02/22/2024. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Weaver presented an amended Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) 457 Plan that would allow for employees to apply for a loan of their contributed funds. This plan is separate from the Defined Benefit Pension Plan with MERS. This plan dealt with the employees' contributions only; there were no Township funds involved. Weaver explained that a couple of employees had requested this revision and, if approved, they would have to apply for the loan directly to MERS. Discussion followed. It was moved by Thurston and supported by Douglas to approve the MERS 457 Participation Agreement Amendment and Restatement (copy attached) allowing loans to be permitted. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Weaver presented the Notice of Salary Determination for Elected Officials from the Compensation Commission that met on August 19, 2021, to set the salaries for two fiscal years. She explained that the commission usually meets at the beginning of the calendar year so that determined salaries would be included in the budget; however, with the COVID-19 pandemic, their meeting was pushed back.

The commission members agreed to recommend a 3% salary increase for each of the two fiscal years along with a signing bonus. Discussion followed. It was moved by Abney and supported by Fritz to accept the Compensation Commission's Salary Determination for Elected Officials (copy attached) which included a 3% salary increase for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and a 3% salary increase for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; along with a signing bonus equaling a 3% increase for paychecks dated 04/01/2021 thru 08/27/2021. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Weaver handed out to the audience information pertaining to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that Carrollton Township would be receiving. The handout included the amount to be received (\$590,959 split between two years) and listings of both the allowable and prohibited uses of the funds. She further explained that the Township Board was looking at using the funds for the State's mandate of identifying and replacing lead water lines. Supervisor Abney asked for any public input.

Erika Harris, 3026 Schaeffer, stated that one of the allowable uses was investments in broadband infrastructure (internet) and she would like to see that happen as the internet service in her neighborhood was very "shoddy" or unreliable.

Sue Shaver, 3866 Bellenca, asked how much the water lead line replacement project would cost. Response: We don't know yet. Ms. Shaver asked about the flooding in her neighborhood during rain events. Sumption responded that, for example, on August 27, 2021, the amount of rain the area got (over 2 inches in a short amount of time), it was not possible for the Universal Drain Pump Station to

have kept up. It was recorded that 130,000 gallons of rainwater per minute were pumped with all five pumps in operation at the station on August 27. Sumption shared pictures of the Universal Drain over the course of that day to show the audience the impact of a large amount of rainfall. Discussion followed.

Andrew Lamia, 2836 N. Michigan, asked if the ARPA funds could be used for streetlights, removal of dead trees, and improving sidewalks as those all seemed like “public health emergencies” like the handout stated. Oatten responded that he believed the public health emergency was referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More discussion followed. Oatten reminded everyone that both Federal and State government officials were still determining what the ARPA funds could be used for, and all local municipalities were waiting for additional guidance at this time.

Public Comments:

Raymond Jones, 3675 N. Jackson, asked what could be done about the vacant dilapidated building located at 449 Balsam. The chimney was falling in and he noticed all sorts of animals coming in and out of the building. Oatten stated that he would get with the code enforcement officer to check it out. Mr. Jones also asked if there would be any more C.A.V.S. meetings to discuss upcoming road projects. Abney responded that there would be, and he would let Mr. Jones know.

Joe Loperena, 3016 Eddy, asked why he was not appointed to the Recreation Committee as he had applied. Mr. Loperena felt that his name was being slammed in the township and he was not allowed to volunteer at the schools either. Oatten assured Mr. Loperena that the only reason he was not considered for the Recreation Committee appointment was because he failed to turn in an I-CHAT form for the background check. Mr. Loperena asked if he could get a form that evening after the meeting. Response: Yes.

Jack Tany (District 2 County Commissioner), 1369 Savoy, stated that he was very proud of the Carrollton Township Police Department, especially a couple weeks prior when the Rite-Aid store on the corner of Tittabawassee and N. Michigan (Kochville Twp) had an armed robbery. He lives just a couple blocks from there and between the agencies that responded mutually (including Carrollton), the suspect was apprehended within just a few minutes. Mr. Tany encouraged the board members to remember their essential workers when deciding how to use the ARPA funds.

Sue Shaver, 3866 Bellenca, asked if the road repairs that were done in her neighborhood were paid for with the new road millage. Response: Yes. Ms. Shaver asked if Carrollton Center could be condemned. Oatten explained that the township had toured the inside of the buildings and a list of emergency repairs were given to the owner and they were corrected. Unfortunately, the owner hasn't been doing any more than what is absolutely necessary. Ms. Shaver asked why the “no parking” signs were still not up on Ventura as that road needed them the most. Oatten explained that during that project, the signs for Ventura were overlooked, even though the township had included them in the project study. He had to start at square one and go through all the steps including a new traffic study by the Michigan State Police. The signs will eventually be put up on Ventura, its just going to take more time.

Andrew Lamia, 2836 N. Michigan, claimed that after 2801 N. Michigan was vacated by the last owner, he's seen vandals go into the building. What is the new owner's plan? Oatten responded that the owner has new windows coming and the building inspector has been in the building, and it's just being used for storage currently.

Director Comments/Updates:

Oatten informed the board that the Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) grant application had been amended to \$611,000 requested. He was hoping to have the results at the September 27 meeting.

Oatten stated that he sent the proposed cell tower lease agreement from MD7 to the township attorney for review.

Board Comments:

Fritz presented a picture of a sidewalk on N. Michigan that was overgrown and not in good condition. He proposed having high school students do an audit of the sidewalks in the township and report which ones need fixing. Sumption stated that the township's ordinance clearly states that the sidewalk is the property owners' responsibility. The township does not have the resources to fix all the sidewalks. Discussion followed.

Thurston thanked the public for attending and giving their comments on the use of the ARPA funds.

Douglas stated that he would like to have the C.A.V.S. Committee meet this fall. He reminded everyone about the tribute game for all active military, veterans and first responders scheduled for Friday, September 17 at Carrollton High School. On the following day (Sept 18), there would be a cornhole tournament at Heck's Bar with proceeds going to the Lions Club Holiday Food Drive. He encouraged Ms. Harris to look into joining the Lions Club.

Douglas addressed Mr. Lamia and stated that he was sorry that he let him down, but he felt like Mr. Lamia sounded like a broken record. Douglas certainly doesn't feel like the township did anything wrong when holding the public hearing for the site plan review and he didn't appreciate the accusations of Mr. Lamia stating that Douglas knows the owner of 2824 N. Michigan (Mark Knight) and somehow conspired to allow him special treatment from the township.

Douglas addressed Mr. Loperena and stated that there was not a conspiracy to keep him out. He asked him to please follow through with Oatten to apply for the Recreation Committee.

Abney thanked the public for attending and for their input. He also thanked Weaver for a job well done on the audit.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Thurston and supported by Fritz to adjourn. There being all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry W. Fritz, Clerk

Public in attendance:

Andrew Lamia	2836 N. Michigan
Rose King	3427 N. Michigan
Raymond Jones	3675 Jackson
Sue Shaver	3866 Bellenca
Joe Loperena	3016 Eddy
Jack Tany	1369 Savoy
Erika Harris	3026 Schaeffer