

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009**

WORK SESSION – 6:00 P.M.

1. Trustee Larsen discussed the re-creation of the Communications Committee. After discussion, the Board determined that they would support the continuation of this committee. Trustee Worthington volunteered to serve on the Communications Committee. The matter would be brought back to the Board for further consideration.
2. The Board discussed the alternatives formats for the proposed Strategic Plan. The Board determined that the plan should be formatted such that it may be used by the Board and staff, as well as the general public. Larsen stated she would report this back to the consultant.
3. The Board determined that the three previously-tabled matters should be discussed at the regular meeting rather than in the work session. The Board formed a consensus that any future items that are tabled at a meeting should only be removed from the table during a regular meeting, not at a work session.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor French called the regular meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Board members present: French, Kieft, Larsen, Worthington, Veach, and Jenkins.

Board members absent: Buitenhuis

Also present was Community Development Director Waterman, and DPW Director VerBerkmoes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by French and seconded by Larsen to appoint Treasurer Kieft as Temporary Clerk during the meeting. **Which motion carried.**

Motion by Larsen and seconded by Jenkins to approve the meeting agenda, with amendments (as shown on the screen) to items 1 through 7 under Old Business. **Which motion carried.**

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve September 28, 2009 Board Minutes
2. Approve Payment of Invoices
3. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Harbor Transit to Allow for Service to Medical Facilities that are Adjacent to City/Township Boundaries
4. Re-Appoint Rich Buitenhuis to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term ending August 1, 2011.
5. Re-Appoint Mary Jane Belter to the North Ottawa Recreation Program for a term ending November 15, 2011
6. Re-Appoint Timothy Deiters to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending November 15, 2012
7. Re-Appoint Susan Robertson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending November 15, 2012
8. Appoint Michael Zambetis to the Planning Commission for a term ending August 1, 2010
9. Approve the Harbor Transit Memorandum of Understanding

Motion by Worthington and seconded by French to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Which motion carried.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Jenkins supported by Larsen to remove from the table the proposal to fill a vacancy in the Department of Public Works. **Which motion carried.**

VerBerkmoes explained the request and responded to questions. The Board raised questions about unemployment and since Proksa was not present at that time to respond, the Board elected to table the matter until she returned to the meeting.

Motion by Jenkins supported by Larsen to table the proposal to fill a vacancy in the Department of Public Works. **Which motion carried.**

2. **Motion** by Larsen supported by Veach to remove from the table the proposal to hire an auditing firm. **Which motion carried.**

The Board discussed the matter and questioned whether the \$2,000 in annual savings warranted the potential impacts of switching auditing firms so soon after the reorganization of the Assessing/Finance Department.

Trustee Worthington noted that it was good practice to reevaluate auditors every three years, and that Vredeveld Haefner LLC was a firm with thirty years of combined experience.

Trustees Jenkins, Kieft and Larsen stated that they had questions that should be addressed to Clerk Bultenhuis and Manager Cargo, and were therefore in favor of tabling the matter.

Motion by Larsen and seconded by Jenkins to approve table the proposal for a four-year agreement with Vredeveld Haefner LLC. **Which motion carried.**

3. Administrative Services Director Proksa returned to the meeting. Motion by Jenkins supported by Larsen to remove from the table proposal to fill a vacancy in the Department of Public Works. **Which motion carried.**

Proksa and VerBerkmoes responded to questions and explained the need for hiring Wood. The Board had concerns with hiring Wood during a slow period of the year. VerBerkmoes explained that it is necessary for Wood to obtain one year of full time experience in order to be eligible to take the state examination.

The Board noted that they felt it important that Wood receive the bulk of his experience in the Water Department, and acknowledged that this may create a staffing shortage in the Parks Department the Township may need to address next season. VerBerkmoes explained that it would be extremely difficult to dedicate Wood's time solely in the water system, but he was committed to do his best to meet this request.

Motion by French and seconded by Worthington to approve the hiring of Matthew Wood to the position of regular, full-time Public Services Worker.

After discussion, French amended his motion to approve the hiring of Matthew Wood to the position of regular, full-time Public Services Worker based upon him obtaining twelve months of experience in the Water Department. This amended motion was supported by Worthington, **and was carried by unanimous vote.**

French restated the motion as amended. **Which motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Motion** by Larsen supported by Veach to remove from the table the proposed 2009 Grand Haven Township Master Plan. **Which motion carried.**

Waterman provided a brief overview of the 2009 Master Plan and the positive comments that were received from adjacent communities that reviewed the document.

Motion by Larsen and seconded by Jenkins to approve and adopt Resolution 09-10-01 thereby approving the 2009 Grand Haven Charter Township Master Plan, as drafted. **Which motion carried,** as indicated by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Kieft, Veach, Larsen, French, Jenkins, Worthington

Nays: None

Absent: Buitenhuis

5. **Motion** by Larsen supported by Jenkins to remove from the table the proposal to create the North Ottawa Recreation Authority. **Which motion carried.**

Trustee Larsen provided an overview of the proposed NORA and answered questions. Mike Fritz from the Grand Haven City Council was also present to answer questions.

Motion by French and seconded by Jenkins to approve and adopt Resolution 09-10-02 that approves the proposed Articles of Incorporation for the Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority and authorizes the Township Superintendent and Clerk to execute the agreement. **Which motion carried,** as indicated by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Kieft, Veach, Larsen, French, Jenkins, Worthington

Nays: None

Absent: Buitenhuis

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. REPORTS AND CORESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence was reviewed
2. Committee Reports – None
3. Superintendent’s Report - None
4. Others - Trustee Jenkins reminded everyone about the GHT Fire/Rescue Open House on October 13th, and Trustee Larsen reminded everyone about the GHT Builders Discussion Forum on October 15th.

IX. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Chuck Fidelman, 13675 Bittersweet, addressed the Board. In response to an ordinance violation letter he had received about his daughter’s four chickens, Fidelman requested that the Board consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow for chickens in non-agricultural areas, citing that many other communities are following this trend.

The Board stated that they would forward this request to the Ordinance Review Committee for discussion at their next meeting, and instructed staff to hold off on any further enforcement action against Fidelman until the Committee has made a determination on the issue.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor French adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Kieft
Grand Haven Charter Temporary Township Clerk

Karl French
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor