

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017**

Present: Hale, Regan, Benedict, Anderson, Blough, Thompson, Vanderziel

Absent: None

Also in attendance - 20 Citizens

Supervisor Jerry Hale called the meeting to order in the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI at 7:00 pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL – Hale added Michigan Dutch Barns request for a temporary permit to the agenda under new business. Vanderziel moved, Thompson seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition. Motion carried.

MINUTES – Anderson moved, Blough seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2017. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Thompson moved, Anderson seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS – Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to pay the special bills:

Arch Building Restoration	Flooring	\$1,800.00
Bowne Twp	Fire	\$10,498.57
City of Lowell	Water/Sewer	\$18,117.53
City of Lowell	Fire	\$33,832.40
Dirt Cheap	Burial & Cleanup	\$950.00
Hasselbring Clark	Copier	\$1,035.24
Infrastructure Alternatives	Water/Sewer Op	\$5,137.50
Land & Resource	North Park	\$1,798.47
Lowell Ledger	Advertising	\$506.50
Lowell Area Museum	Annual Support	\$2,500.00
Lowell Twp	Purchase Sewer CD	\$250,000.00
Mika, Meyers, Beckett	Attorney	\$2,800.00
MML Worker's Comp	17/18 Premium	\$809.00
Robert Toland Consulting	Planning Svcs	\$1,950.00
Rockford Floor Covering	Carpet	\$7,545.46
The Right Place	Fnl Payment	\$600.00
Vanguard Fire & Security	Annual Monitoring	\$625.00
Wolverine Power Systems	Lift Station Gen Maint	\$681.74

Motion carried.

Vanderziel moved, Anderson seconded, the current bills be approved; General Fund - \$72,362.66; Park Fund - \$1,798.47; Sewer Fund - \$260,521.28; Water Fund - \$14,401.44; Check Nos. 11627-11670; Payroll Nos. 1899-1927. Motion carried.

REPORTS – The Ordinance Enforcement Officer submitted a written report. Blough reported for the Fire Authority. The proposed fire budget for the 2017/2018 year was discussed. Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to recommend to the Fire Authority from the Township Board that the extra funds in fund balance be returned to the Townships or that they forgo the quarterly payment until fund balance is lowered. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

NORTH PARK PROJECT - The bids for the next phase of the development are due Tuesday, April 18th at 11:00 am. The North Park was given a \$20,000 grant from the Lowell Cable TV Fund to use for the construction of pickleball courts.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - TO ALLOW CHURCHES IN THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - Blough, Hale and Regan asked to be recused. Hale and Blough have ties to the owner of the property where the applicant of the Ordinance change is wanting to locate. Regan is resigning her position with the Township. Thompson moved, Benedict seconded, to allow them to be recused. Motion carried. Vanderziel moved, Benedict seconded, to appoint Thompson as chairperson. Motion carried. Dave Simmonds, Planning Commission Chair, gave the Board an overview of the proposed ordinance amendment and the Planning Commission's recommendation. The Planning Commission had a tie vote to approve recommending the proposed change to the ordinance and a tie vote to approve not recommending the proposed ordinance, so they are making no recommendation to the Board. Thompson recommended the Board set a meeting date where Mark Nettleton, attorney with Mika, Meyers, could be present to discuss the proposed changes to the ordinance. The Board would also like to request a copy of the confidential attorney letter written to the Planning Commission about the issue. Possible meeting dates are April 25, 26 or May 1, and it was stated that a late afternoon meeting was best. Thompson moved, Benedict seconded, to table the ordinance. Motion carried. Thompson will contact the attorney before setting the date for the meeting.

PETITION FOR STREET LIGHT DISTRICT - STONY BLUFF - A petition was received from the Stony Bluff developers asking that a street light special assessment district be set up for the first phase of the development. Thompson moved, Anderson seconded, to move forward with the street light assessment district in Stony Bluff. Motion carried.

CLERK'S RESIGNATION - The Clerk submitted her resignation to the Board, effective immediately. Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to accept her resignation. Motion carried. Thompson moved, Benedict seconded, to hire her to continue to work to train the new Clerk at a rate of \$50.00 per hour. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY VENDOR PERMIT - Blough asked to be recused. His family owns the property where the applicant is asking to locate. Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to allow Blough to be recused. Motion carried. Michigan Dutch Barns would like to set up a display of their storage barns on property owned by the Bloughs on the corner of Cascade Road and Alden Nash. There would not be a salesperson at the site, just a number to call for information. This would be a temporary display to see if it is something they would want to continue. The zoning would have to change to allow the site to be permanent. Temporary permits are issued for 30 day periods and can be renewed. They would like to try it for six months before making a decision. There was discussion about the building currently on the site and whether it would remain. The Bloughs would like to take the building down if Michigan Dutch Barns stays permanently. Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to authorize the Supervisor to issue a temporary permit for Michigan Dutch Barns. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Three citizens commented.

ADJOURNMENT - Vanderziel moved, Anderson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Regan
Charter Township of Lowell

Jerry Hale, Supervisor