

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

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

Absent: Anderson

Also in attendance - 7 Citizens

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

The Clerk administered the oath of office to the trustees.

AGENDA APPROVAL – Blough moved, Vanderziel seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

MINUTES – Thompson moved, Benedict seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2016. Motion carried.

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

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

Bowne Twp Treasurer	Fire	\$10,190.21
Buist Electric	Streetlights	\$660.00
City of Lowell	Water/Sewer	\$20,492.69
Corrpro	Wtr Tower Maint	\$4,800.00
Election Source	Election Testing	\$1,070.00
FHC	Heating Maint	\$513.70
Grand Valley Metro Council	Dues 15/16 & 16/17	\$1,812.00
Horians Lawn Care	Mowing	\$850.00
Infrastructure Alternatives	Water/Sewer Op	\$5,184.75
Kent Cty Road Comm	Snow Ave	\$19,651.43
Land & Resource	Engineering	\$17,230.62
Main Street Planning	Planning Svcs	\$2,368.20
Plummer's Environmental	Lift Station Clean	\$715.00
Scenic Expressions	Snow Plowing	\$3,792.21
State of Michigan	Wtr System Fees	\$1,414.65
Zach's Clean Cut	Park Mowing	\$2,707.50

Motion carried.

Blough moved, Thompson seconded, the current bills be approved; General Fund - \$53,246.98; Sewer Fund - \$11,113.16; Park Fund - \$17,230.62; Water Fund - \$24,971.79; Check Nos. 11420-11494; Payroll Nos. 1785-1806. Motion carried.

REPORTS – The Ordinance Enforcement Office submitted a written report.

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

NORTH PARK PROJECT - Dan Fredricks, Land and Resource, was present to update the Board on the choices and costs for three different bridge designs. Vanderziel questioned the required width of the bridge. The estimated costs are for a 14 foot wide

bridge. Vanderziel stated that a narrower bridge would reduce the costs because it could be transported to the site in larger sections. There was discussion about whether a narrower bridge would hurt future funding. The Board also decided to not consider an historic bridge and would like to see more examples of a wood truss bridge.

TOWNSHIP PLANNER - Tim Johnson, MainStreet Planning, has taken another job and has resigned as the Township's planner. Robert Toland, Robert Toland Consulting, has submitted a resume and was present to answer questions from the Board. He worked with the Township in past years and would be available to hold office hours an afternoon a week. Thompson moved, Vanderziel seconded, to authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Robert Toland. Motion carried.

2017/2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET - The Clerk reviewed the 2017/2018 preliminary budget. No changes were made.

REQUEST FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR CHURCHES IN THE COMMERCIAL ZONE - Dave Simmons, Planning Commission Chair, was present and talked to the Board about a zoning ordinance change requested by Impact Church to allow for churches in the Commercial District. The Planning Commission asked if the Board would like them to pursue this request. There was discussion about what would change if this were to be allowed. There were concerns about the loss of property tax revenue and the amount of commercial property left to be developed. Members from Impact Church were present and allowed to comment. The Board directed the Planning Commission to research the change and come back with a plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No comments.

ADJOURNMENT - Vanderziel moved, Thompson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Charter Township of Lowell

Jerry Hale, Supervisor