

Charter Township of Breitung
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Main Board Room – Breitung Township Hall
Monday, July 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Olson at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustees Day, Taff, Peterson, Supervisor Olson, Clerk Taff, Treasurer Lieburn, Trustee Johnson arrived at 7:04

Also Present: Superintendent Mulka.

Invocation given by: Trustee Peterson.

Pledge recited by all.

Public Comment: None.

Approvals:

Approval of Agenda: **Motion** by Supervisor Olson, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve the July 8, 2024 Agenda with an addition under Old Business 7 f) ZBA appointment.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Day to approve the June 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes with the addition of "**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**" to the motion to retain property to provide unobstructed drainage.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Public Hearing: None.

Old Business:

Division Street Alley Abandonment request: **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to abandon the Division Street alley maintaining the 20' public utility easement.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Plat book ad with Camp Molinare: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Johnson to renew our ad in the new edition of the plat book for \$350.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Personnel recommendations/update:

Motion by Clerk Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve a \$300 per month stipend for the Deputy Clerk. A recommendation was not reached in a Personnel Meeting with Clerk Taff on July 3, 2024. Discussion continued including guidance from the Township attorney stating:

- *The Deputy serves at the pleasure of the Clerk, and only the Clerk can assign deputy clerk duties, so it would not include "other duties as assigned" as would be stated in a job description for the hourly position.*
- *The Deputy Clerk is sworn in and takes an oath of office like Board members do.*
- *The Deputy Clerk is an appointed position, and MCL 41.69 requires that they be paid, and it needs to be separated from the regular hourly salary because by statute, the Deputy Clerk position does not pay unemployment insurance for their salary / stipend.*

Vote: Ayes: 5, Nays: 2, motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the questioning of the Clerk's supervision of office staff carrying out her statutory duties. After Clerk Taff read from the MTA manual pg. 110:

"At the very least, the officeholder has a responsibility to see that the duties of his or her office get done, and that may include working with the board to have the job done by others, including the official's deputy, other township staff or outsourcing, under the officeholders oversight."

The Board came to an agreement that Clerk Taff should supervise staff as they carry out her statutory duties.

Collins Road bid: **Motion** by Supervisor Olson, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to accept Bacco's bid and add Collins Road to the Road Commission's 2024 Road Projects

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

MTA training summit: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Treasurer Lieburn to approve mileage and lodging for those attending the conference in Harris, MI.

Vote: Ayes: 6, Nays: 1, motion carried.

New Business:

ZBA appointment: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Treasurer Lieburn to appoint Guy Forstrom to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Vote: Unanimous motion carried.

Reports:

Clerk's Financial Report:

Motion by Clerk Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve Clerk Taff's Post Transaction Report from June 25, 2024 through July 8, 2024. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Fire Report - Highlights: Written report submitted by Fire Chief Rose.

Superintendent Report - Highlights: Written report submitted by Township Superintendent Steve Mulka. Work on 421 Henford is under progress and should be completed tomorrow.

Code Enforcement Report: Written report submitted. Undersheriff Kuenzer will continue attending the 1st meeting of the month with new Deputy Winters.

Board Discretionary Time:

- Clerk Taff asked if anyone needs a new MTA Authorities & Responsibilities. She will place an order.
- Trustee Day thanked the Daily News for the coverage of the Henford cleanup project.
- Superintendent Mulka thanked Mike Bronzyk and the whole team involved in the Henford cleanup.
- Treasurer Lieburn thanked the Fire Department for allowing the public to walk with them in the parade and apologized for the Tax bills going out late and will look at resolving that in the future.
- Trustee Taff read guidelines from We Energies concerning Workplace Conduct.
- Trustee Peterson suggested a Special Meeting to discuss Board Member conduct.
- Supervisor Olson said Happy Birthday to Jacen Davis. He also reported visiting the residents on Woodland Drive in response to the public comments at the last two meetings.

Payment of Bills: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Johnson to approve the bill list in the amount of \$14,397.02. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Public Comment: Start Time: 8:31 End Time: 8:40

- Office Assistant Theresa Boyer and Deputy Clerk Jamie Tinti expressed their thanks to Clerk Taff for her diligence and dedication to the Clerk's office. They also shared their frustrating experiences with elections and are thankful to have all the extra help.
- Accountant Christina Maki pointed out that a motion still hasn't been made in regard to Holli Beeck's position

Motion by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to approve Holli Beeck as Deputy Assessor/Deputy Zoning at a salary of \$65,000 with 4 weeks of vacation, retroactive to July 1, 2024.
Vote: Unanimous motion carried.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

The meeting was declared adjourned by Supervisor Olson at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Karie Taff
Breitung Township Clerk

Denny Olson
Breitung Township Supervisor