



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLAINFIELD  
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
6161 BELMONT AVENUE NE; BELMONT, MICHIGAN 49306

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 15, 2014

**DRAFT**

**Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**

1. The regular meeting of the Plainfield Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Jay Spencer. Members present: Supervisor Jay Spencer, Clerk Ruth Ann Karnes, Treasurer Bill Brinkman, Trustees Vic Matthews, Dale Pomeroy, and Jon Rathbun. Members absent: Dave Grant. Also present: Fire Chief Dave Peterson and Director of Public Services Rick Solle. Superintendent Van Wyngarden was absent due to attending a conference for municipal managers.
2. The invocation was led by Jon Rathbun.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ruth Ann Karnes.
4. Public comments  
Allen Summers said residents on Airway and Miramar were never included in the original petition for the Sub-Plain North Drainage District and doesn't know why it was expanded to include them. He also stated that those homes do not contribute any water to the storm drain that failed. Also, he has contacted the County to inform them that when the power pole was moved to accommodate access to the drain repair site behind Frontline Community Church a guy wire going out into the parking lot was created and is not marked well enough to alert drivers of its location.
5. The consent agenda was reviewed and item h was removed and placed on the regular agenda as new business item a.
  - a. Approve the August 26, 2014 special joint meeting minutes
  - b. Approve the September 2, 2014 regular meeting minutes
  - c. Approve the September 2, 2014 closed session meeting minutes
  - d. Approve the request from Bill Fischer for Peter Elam to attend the Michigan Association of Planning Conference at Mackinac Island October 8 – 10
  - e. Approve the Contractor's Application for Payment No. 3 from Wyoming Excavators, Inc. for water supply and wastewater collection system improvements to Sawkaw Drive, Northville Drive, Kewadin Drive, Wyandotte Drive and Nippon Drive, totaling \$283,822.91
  - f. Receive the Fire, Passport, Building, Code Enforcement, and Financial Reports for August 2014
  - g. Approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$747,533.15
  - h. (moved to New Business item a) Approve Voluntary Payment Schedule for connection to the Township's public water system for 2307 Airway Drive
6. Pomeroy moved, with support by Brinkman, to approve the agenda as amended, including the consent agenda and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$747,533.15. Ayes: Brinkman, Spencer, Rathbun, Karnes, Matthews, and Pomeroy. Nays: 0. Absent: Grant. Motion carried.
7. Presentation
  - a. Director of Public Services Rick Solle discussed the operation and maintenance of our wastewater collection system managed by North Kent Sewer Authority. Solle said it has been two years since the NKSA took over the control of the operation and maintenance which was previously performed by the Kent County Department of Public Works. Plainfield Township is responsible for 163 miles of gravity sewer and force main that must be maintained. Under the direction of Larry Campbell, the NKSA has been able to cut Plainfield Township's yearly cost for the operation and maintenance of our wastewater collection system to nearly half of what it was under the DPW, saving the Township hundreds of

thousands of dollars each year. Solle also briefed the Board on the residential cross-connection control program the Water Department began this year. The main focus of the initial phase is concentrated on irrigation systems. About one third of homeowners with irrigation systems were contacted this year and informed of the requirement to have their back flow preventers tested every three years by a certified plumbing professional and to provide that information to the water department for record keeping. Solle said the program has had great success with compliance.

8. Old Business

- a. Consider accepting the application to FEMA for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention & Safety Grant in the amount of \$289,326 with 5% to be paid by the Township.

Public comments: Jack Hagedorn said this is the sort of program that encourages deficit spending by the Federal Government and encouraged the Township to not participate in these kinds of programs. Hagedorn said that using "low income, densely populated areas" as the criteria for receiving free smoke detectors is not objective and not specific enough. He asked what constitutes low income, what size lot would meet the criteria, and would being friends with fire staff would help someone get free smoke detectors.

Matthews moved, with support by Pomeroy, to accept the application to FEMA for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention & Safety Grant in the amount of \$289,326 with 5% to be paid by the Township. Ayes: Matthews, Pomeroy, Karnes, Spencer, and Brinkman. Nays: Rathbun. Absent: Grant. Motion carried.

9. New business

- a. (moved from consent agenda item 5 a) Matthews moved, with support by Brinkman, to approve the voluntary payment schedule for connection to the Township's public water system for 2307 Airway Drive. Ayes: Matthews, Brinkman, Rathbun, Karnes, Pomeroy and Spencer. Nays: 0. Absent: Grant. Motion carried.

10. There were no Board discussions.

11. There were no Superintendent's comments.

12. Brinkman shared comments.

13. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Ann Karnes  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay D. Spencer  
Plainfield Charter Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, as the duly elected clerk of the township, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the regular meeting minutes of September 15, 2014 as approved by the Township Board of Plainfield Charter Township, at which a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date