

**MINUTES OF GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
FOR THE Regular MEETING**

April 10, 2017

Present: DeWard, Lemke, Burnside, Fryling, VanderStel, Osterink, Haagsma  
Also present was Planning and Zoning Director Mark Sisson and Jeff Gritter from Vriesman Korhorn  
Opening prayer was given by Lemke and the Pledge of Allegiance was recite

1. Supervisor DeWard called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Motion by Fryling and supported by Burnside to approve the agenda with the addition of two items: Approval of a Dutton Fire Department promotion and a resolution to approve appointment of the Township Supervisor as representative to the Par Plan.

Ayes: all

3. Inquiry of conflict of interest- none
4. Persons in the audience given opportunity to address the Board
  - Mr. Bob Austin, President of the Cooks' Crossing Master Condominium Association spoke in favor of a streetlight at the corner of Cook's Crossing Drive and Eastern Avenue due to the lack of lighting at the intersection. A letter was also presented to the Board from the Association addressing the issue.
  - Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecuting Attorney gave a presentation on the new laws regarding Medical Marijuana
  - Chief Paul Sheely of the Dutton Fire Department introduced the new officers for the Fire Department (Lieutenant Make Hoebeke, Captain Brian Zylstra, and Deputy Chief Brian Koster) as well as Chris Melton who would be promoted to Firefighter upon recommendation and approval by the Township Board.
  - Mr. Gabe Hudson spoke about the sewer project on Kalamazoo Avenue between 76<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Streets and wished to comment on the lack of communication on the issue and the amount of his assessment.
5. Motion by Haagsma and supported by VanderStel to approve the consent agenda including payment of the bills for 2/21/2017 through 3/28/2017 in the amount of \$419,413.91

Ayes: All

**6. Sidewalk on Eastern from bridge to trail leading to Brewer Park**

DeWard explained that the sidewalk work had already been budgeted and planned for a connection from where it ends at Eastern to the trail that goes west to Brewer Park. Therefore, the homeowner at 8111 Eastern Ave. would not be charged for their portion of the improvement

Motion by Osterink and supported by VanderStel to waive the required sidewalk improvement on 8111 Eastern Ave as the Township had planned and budgeted for that piece before construction of the home.

Ayes: All

7. Planning Department update on Eyde Development interest in the corner of 84<sup>th</sup> and Kalamazoo Ave.

After much discussion a motion was made by Lemke and supported by Fryling to look into the cost of running improvements to the site before the Township would consider a buy-in to the construction.. The water and sewer committee was charged with investigating it and then come to the Board with a report.

Ayes: All

8. Those in the audience were given opportunity to address the Board. No one wished to speak.

**9. Supervisor's office**

A. Request by "Never the same" for road closure on When: Closure on Saturday August 26th, 2017 from 4:00am to 5:00 pm: Ridgebrook Dr. South of 60th and North of Eastport Dr.

Motion was made by Burnside and supported by Haagsma to approve the closure as requested.

Ayes: All

B. Recommendation made by Fire Chief Sheely to approve of Chris Melton's promotion to firefighter for Dutton Fire Department.

Motion by Burnside and supported by Fryling to approve the appointment as recommended.

Ayes: All

C. Appointment of Rob DeWard, Supervisor as representative to the Par Plan for Gaines Township.

Motion was made by Burnside and supported by Haagsma to approve the appointment.

**D. Cook's Crossing Request for Streetlight.**

Motion by Haagsma and supported by Lemke to approve the request and begin the process with Consumer's Energy to place a light at the intersection of Eastern and Cook's Crossing Drive.

Ayes: All

- DeWard reported on the sidewalk construction the Township will undertake on 60<sup>th</sup> Street between Kentwood Community Church and Kalamazoo Ave.
- DeWard asked for input on the Division Avenue Corridor Improvement agreement and possible dissolution. A resolution will be brought to the next Board meeting for consideration.

- DeWard reported that an “intern” for the Assessing Department had been interviewed and hired who would be facilitating the measurements of a portion of properties according to state requirements.
- Planner Sisson reported that he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Planning Commission, the Parks and Trails Committee and the Township Board to discuss future plans within the Township for sidewalks and trails.

10. Motion by Burnside and supported by VanderStel to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Ayes: All

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Crystal Osterink, Clerk

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Robert DeWard, Supervisor

The next regular meeting of the Gaines Charter Township Board will be held on May 8, 2017 in the Board room of the Township Offices. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing accommodation for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Township Office at 698-6640 one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.