

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission and Otsego Township Board was held Monday, February 17, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Brent Milhiem and Dustin McNees. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Police Chief Misner, DPW Superintendent Bosch, and Fire Chief Weber. The Township Clerk took roll for the Township Board. Present: Supervisor Winn; Clerk Squibbs, Board Member McPherson, Board Member Bumgart.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

The City Commission and the City Manager welcomed Otsego Township.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. Cost Recovery Ordinance

Fire Chief Weber led the discussion regarding Cost Recovery Ordinances. The City has an outdated Cost Recovery Ordinance and the Township does not have a Cost Recovery Ordinance at this time. He reviewed his vision of a Cost Recovery Ordinance and answered questions of the City Commission and Township Board. It was the consensus for Fire Chief Weber to create an ordinance for both entities. He commented that he will begin working on the ordinances and anticipated that they would be completed by late summer. City Manager Mitchell concluded that the City's attorney will review the ordinance.

2. FOIA

A brief discussion took place regarding who is responsible for answering FOIA's when the Fire Department goes to a Township call. The City's attorney agrees that the City will be responsible for the requests, since the City is responsible for administrative duties of the Fire Department.

3. Ambulance Contract

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Ambulance Contract that will end on July 1, 2020. City Manager Mitchell stated that he had contacted all of the parties that are included in the contract and the only one he had not heard from was the City of Plainwell. He suggested that the current contract be renewed for one year, which would give the entities an opportunity to go out to bid for the ambulance services. Fire Chief Weber gave an overview of the way the ambulances cover the area.

B. Economic Development

At this time City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of upcoming projects in the City that include: FEMA; Vicinia Gardens; and USG.

C. 2020 Elections

City Manager Mitchell stated that there will be four elections in the City and Township this year.

D. 123 N. Grant St.

A brief discussion took place regarding the moving of the house, widening the street, and replacing infrastructure. Supervisor Winn commented that he is glad that the City is saving the house.

E. Community Pavilion

City Manager Mitchell explained the phases of the project. The City Commission again thanked Supervisor Winn for donating his time and skills to be the General Contractor for the project. It was a consensus that the Community Pavilion will be a great asset for the City and Township.

F. Other Items

Other items that were discussed included: EPA Superfund Update; Future Land Use; Infrastructure; Housing; City's Marketing Campaign; making the City and Township more family friendly.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

County Commissioner Dugan – he gave an updated on recent County activities. He commented that he was glad to see a joint meeting of the City and Township. He stated that these meetings use to take place on a yearly basis and he believes that it should continue. He mentioned that there are vacancies on various boards at the County and he encouraged anyone that would like to serve to fill out an application.

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that he would like to see the Cost Recovery Ordinance happen.

Fire Chief Weber – he commented on the need for markers on the river, to help assist in locating people in need of assistance. He stated that this would be beneficial for rescues in the City of Otsego, Otsego Township, Gun Plain, and the City of Plainwell. He also stated that with the upcoming increase in traffic at USG the two railroad crossings should be reviewed for the possible placement of arms. City Manager Mitchell will contact the railroad.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Township Board Member Bumgart – she commented that this meeting is a positive sign as the City and Township are intertwined, but so separated. She commented that she would like to keep working in this direction.

Township Clerk Squibbs – she commented that she felt that the City of Otsego, City of Plainwell, Gun Plain Township, and Otsego Township should come together for a joint meeting.

Township Board Member McPherson – he thanked the City of the opportunity to come together for this meeting.

Commissioner Withee – she thanked the Township for coming to the meeting. She thanked Township Supervisor Winn for being the general contractor for the Pavilion Project.

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked everyone for coming together for the meeting. He commented that we are one Otsego – we should share it, take advantage of it, and build upon it. He thanked Fire Chief Weber for all of the information he provided. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his insight.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the Township for coming together for this meeting. She stated that there is always room for new ideas and opinions and that the City and Township should get together more than once per year. She thanked Fire Chief Weber and Police Chief Misner for attending the meeting.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked Ryan of the Union Enterprise for the coverage; Fire Chief Weber for his knowledge; County Commission Dugan for his report; his Dad and brother for attending the meeting; and Police Chief Misner for attending the meeting. He thanked Township Supervisor Winn for volunteering for the Pavilion Project.

Township Supervisor Winn – he thanked the City for inviting the Township to the meeting. He commented that he has always felt welcomed during his meetings with City Manager Mitchell and has never felt unaccepted by the City. He commented that the differences of opinions is about money. He thanked the City for all of their hard work, as he owns property in the City and commented that he knows it will be taken care of. He commented that he has lived in this community a long time and has been in business for many years and that he has always been looking for a community project that would touch everyone in the community and the Pavilion Project will do that. He commented that the Pavilion will be something that everyone can use and he appreciates the opportunity. He thanked the City for providing dinner.

Mayor Trobeck – she thanked the Township for attending the meeting. She commented that possibly there could be two meetings a year one at the City and one at the Township. She thanked – Ryan from the Union Enterprise; Fire Chief Weber; Commissioner Dugan; Mr. Alway; Police Chief Misner, DPW Supervisor Bosch and Daniel Bosch for attending the meeting. She commented that the City and Township are governed in two different ways and it is fantastic that we can bring both entities together.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 7:29 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk