

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, March 15, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, Lauri Krueger and Dustin McNees. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Finance Director Storbeck, DPW Supervisor Bosch, and Fire Chief Weber.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. MILLAGE RATE DISCUSSION

City Manager Mitchell asked for questions regarding the information that he provided indicating that the City can levy up to 20 Mills. He also commented that City of Otsego is third from the bottom of having the lowest millage rate of cities in Allegan County.

2. POSSIBLE REVENUE INCREASE OPTIONS

City Manager Mitchell reviewed various possible revenue options and answered questions of the City Commission. Various options that were discussed included: Increasing the Millage in the Charter, increasing the Public Safety Millage and/or changing the Charter to include funding for public safety, all of these options would be voted on by the people. It was determined to form a focus group to discuss the options and how to move forward. Mayor Trobeck will forward a voter's list to the Commissioners to begin looking for potential people to be a part of the focus group and/or Steering Committee. A date for a possible special election was briefly discussed, and will be tabled until the focus groups/steering committees are formed.

3. PARKS & REC DISCUSSION

Commissioner McNees commented that he had been approached by Taylor Silverman about the possibility of improving the current skate park. He commented that he knew that the Parks and Rec Committee were working on maximizing the space at the parks. Commissioner McNees introduced Taylor Silverman and asked that she share her idea with the Commission. Ms. Silverman gave an overview of the popularity of skateboarding and the need for a skate park. She stated that the current skate park at Northside Park is a great start, with the large cemented surface. She indicated that she would like to improve the skate park with materials that will last many years, instead of the previous materials that were used and are no longer functional. DPW Supervisor Bosch answered questions regarding the current skate park. Ms. Silverman commented that she would like to begin fundraising for the skate park, if the Commission is in favor of it. Commissioner Milhiem commented that at the last Parks and Rec Meeting, Jessie Cunningham approached the committee with suggestions for a new skate park. Mr. Cunningham was going to put additional information together to present to the Parks and Rec Committee. A conversation took place regarding the placement and/or renovation of the current skate park. Fire Chief/Officer Weber commented that at this time, Memorial Park has better lighting and is more visible than Northside Park. Commissioner Withee suggested the possibility of putting cameras up in the area. Ms. Silverman commented that there is not a lighted stake park in Michigan. Mayor Trobeck encouraged Ms. Silverman to approach the Park and Rec Committee with her ideas.

At this time, Commissioner Milhiem gave a presentation in regards to placing a soccer field at Memorial Park, where Diamond One currently is located. He explained that he gave the presentation to the Parks and Rec Committee at their last meeting. City Manager Mitchell commented that the Parks and Rec Committee will most likely be meeting in April. Mayor Trobeck encouraged Commissioner Milhiem and Ms. Silverman to attend the next Parks and Rec Committee Meeting and present their ideas.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 6:59 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk