

Georgetown Township Meeting 3/14/16 Comment by Joseph Parnell McCarter, 6408 Wrenwood Drive, Jenison, MI 49428

I would continue to request that this Board would revise its plans for the 100-200 Main Street area as well as for the work along Chicago Drive. Specifically, I request that:

- the Township Board change the location for a Veterans Plaza to a Township park
- sell the 100-200 Main Street areas back into the private sector
- forego the expensive elements of the Chicago Drive project and limit it to planting trees and shrubs along Chicago Drive

All of the above would save the Township around \$2.5 million or more, which could go towards other infrastructure improvements and tax reduction.

One long term infrastructure improvement I would recommend, as documented at [www.GeorgetownExaminer.com](http://www.GeorgetownExaminer.com), is extending the pedestrian/bike path beside the railroad tracks in the downtown area to the full length of Chicago Drive, and seeking to get Grandville and Hudsonville to do the same in their areas, which will in turn give folks a better access to Kent Trails too, as well to the other downtown areas.

When I mentioned the \$2.5 million in savings by the Township, I should also mention that it is small compared to the \$25 million in savings that could be realized by a 'no' vote to the proposed Jenison school bond coming up for election on May 3. A better solution, explained more fully at [www.GeorgetownExaminer.com](http://www.GeorgetownExaminer.com), is not rocket science: simply reduce any Jenison Public Schools overcrowding by reducing the number of out-of-district students attending the school, which on a net basis costs the school system money anyway. There are apparently around 1200 of these out-of-district students in the Jenison Public Schools system. By foregoing the \$25 million bond and the new building, the school system would save at least around \$1.2 million in annual bond installment payments and \$500,000 in annual building-associated costs, and that money can go towards things like new buses, technology improvements, etc., as well as some to tax reduction. While I realize this Township Board is not over the area public school system, the Township is affected by good or bad decisions of the public school system here, and everyone in the community needs to be well informed on the issue.

Thankfully we can turn to God to give us wisdom regarding these and many other things, for we read of Him in Proverbs 2:6: "... the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding."

Thank you for considering these matters.

My comment tonight has to do with the Chicago Drive Landscape Project.

While I'm not opposed to this project, I'm just not sure we should be spending over .5 million dollars on such a small section. It will all start and end and then look like we ran out of money as people continue down the road and see nothing has been done with the rest of the median. And, don't our existing tax paying businesses down the road deserve some beautification as well?

My suggestion would be to reduce the existing plans to a simpler plan that would still beautify the area. Then, extend the project all the way to Balsam Drive. It doesn't have to be extravagant -- native trees, shrubs, and plants that are self-sustaining. Possibly offer up the project to our local landscape businesses. Interested businesses could have a section they would be responsible for designing and maintaining. This is just one idea. The possibilities are endless when we work together for a common goal.

As for the Veteran's Memorial, I'm still not in agreement with spending \$400,000 on a drive by Memorial that will most likely not get visited very often due to the busy location.

As for 200 Baldwin, I don't understand how you can expect to sell this piece of property when it is no longer listed with Collier's. My suggestion would be to reduce the price closer to the appraised value or at the very least a more realistic price, and list it again.

Susan Grabowski  
8136 Amelia Drive, Jenison

Jacqueline Larkin

8294 Cottonwood Drive

During the last Board Meeting I presented to the Board the Petitions of 360 residents asking that the Veterans Memorial project be moved to Woodcrest Park.

Since then we have not heard a word from the Board whether they will take these requests into serious consideration.

We ask you today to please take the Residents and their request into serious consideration and open a discussion to address their mandate.

Thank you.