

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Del South, Richard VanderKlok and Carol Scholma, members: Daniel Carlton, Township Manager; Rod Deemter, Parks and Property Director; Dan Hamming, Fire Chief; Pam Haverdink, Senior Center Director; Sarah Mroz, secretary

Absent: none

No one was present in the audience and there were no public comments.

#100419-01 - Minutes of March 16, 2010

Moved by Del South, seconded by Carol Scholma, to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-02 - Fire Department Request

Attachment: [Letter](#) of request from Chief Dan Hamming and quote

Chief Dan Hamming explained that the request for a dual band radio ties in with the MABAS program the fire department is a member of, allowing them to communicate with several departments throughout the state.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to recommend to the Township Board to approve the request to purchase (1) APX 7500 Dual Band Mobile Radio and (1) Programming AXP 7500 in the total amount of \$6,408.50. A grant from the State of Michigan will cover 80% (or \$5,126.80) of the cost, and the remaining 20% (\$1,281.70) will be covered by the Georgetown Fire Department.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-03 – Frisbee Golf at Rosewood Park

Daniel Carlton explained one item that had come up in Park Plan discussions was the idea of having Frisbee golf at one of the parks. He and Rod Deemter discussed an inexpensive way to incorporate a small Frisbee golf course at Rosewood Park by purchasing nine wooden posts and installing them in locations surrounding the soccer bowl.

It was also noted that it would be possible to add a more permanent Frisbee golf course in the future with the Park Plan.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to authorize the purchase and installation of nine wooden posts for Frisbee golf at Rosewood Park.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-04 – Flagpoles at Library

Daniel Carlton explained that the three flagpoles in front of the library are getting old and are in need of repair. He asked the committee if they felt it was necessary to continue with three flagpoles, or if it would be sufficient to replace the three flagpoles with one flagpole instead. The new flagpole would be about five feet shorter than the current flagpoles, and the cost is roughly \$2,300.00 to replace the three with one flagpole.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Del South, to authorize the removal of the three current flagpoles and replace with one flagpole.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-05 – Discuss Letter Regarding Removal of Baseball Field at 8th Ave Park

Attachment: [Letter](#)

Daniel Carlton passed out the letter to committee members for review. He explained that this is the only complaint that he has received regarding the removal of this baseball field.

Richard VanderKlok asked if it was accurate to say that the baseball diamond is used all of the time.

Daniel Carlton explained that the field is to be used for pick-up games and recreational use, and is not meant for organized practices such as Georgetown Little League practices.

Rod Deemter said that from what he can tell the ball field is seldom used.

The letter was received for information at this time, and the consensus of the committee was to continue with the current plan that was approved.

#100419-06 – Playground Equipment at 8th Ave Park

During the March Services Committee meeting, Rod Deemter discussed his concerns with the proposed playground equipment for 8th Ave Park and said that he would look into other options.

Rod presented a picture of a new piece of equipment that he would like to see for younger children. He explained that he felt the original proposed equipment was very small and expensive compared to this piece of equipment.

Richard VanderKlok said that he liked the idea of having a structure for small children separate from older children.

The committee agreed that the new piece that Rod presented looked like a good option.

Daniel Carlton also presented an option for a tall structure for playground equipment (similar to Rosewood Park) as an alternative to the more modern looking playground equipment proposed on the original plan. He also noted that the two equipment pieces are comparable in price.

At first, the committee members all seemed to prefer the taller structure (similar to Rosewood Park).

Richard VanderKlok said that while he personally liked the taller structure, he also liked the idea of having a new challenge, or having different types of equipment at different parks.

Daniel Carlton pointed out that we currently have a tall structure at Rosewood Park, and Maplewood Park would offer the splash pad and universally accessible playground equipment, and that by having something different for 8th Avenue Park would provide another option for park users.

The consensus of the committee was to continue with the original proposed equipment design for 8th Avenue Park, and also to include the piece for younger children that Rod presented.

Attachment: [Picture](#) of playground equipment for smaller children

#100419-07 – Senior Center Request for Vans

Attachment: [Request](#) from Senior Center

Daniel Carlton explained that the Senior Center has the opportunity to receive two (2005) vans from another transportation program that needs to get rid of the vehicles. He explained that they have not budgeted for the insurance and use of additional vehicles.

Pam Haverdink explained that she would be interested in the two vans with the lowest mileage (322 and 323 on attachment). She explained that having two additional vans would be helpful with trips needed in the middle of the day when there are only a few people needing rides rather than using a whole bus. She also explained that her hope is to use these vehicles for three years to help the current minivan through until they are able to buy a brand new one (with a lift).

Daniel Carlton asked what the cost would be for buying similar vans brand new.

Pam Haverdink said that she was not sure of this cost.

Richard VanderKlok asked if it is worth spending money on vans which will need parts and labor, or if it would be better to buy something new. He asked what it would take to get a grant to purchase a new van/bus.

Pam Haverdink explained that we have to keep the three current buses for at least ten years, and if we had vans to use instead for small trips it would help save on wear and tear on the buses.

Daniel Carlton explained that we are currently offering a service at a very low cost to schools and programs by providing rides for the same low fee. These additional rides are filling up time slots making it harder to take additional appointments at times. He explained that the schools and programs are required to provide these services to their students/clients anyway, but currently are able to get the service much cheaper through the senior center. He asked if we can afford to handle all of these services.

Richard VanderKlok asked if there was a policy for the use of buses and transportation.

The consensus of the committee was to gather more information and continue the discussion at the next Services Committee meeting.

#100419-08 – Senior Center Request for Credit Card Billing

Attachment: [Request](#) from Senior Center

Moved by Carol Scholma, seconded by Richard VanderKlok, to authorize Daniel Carlton to prepare an amendment to the credit card policy in order to accept monthly payments by credit card from regular business clients of the Senior Center.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-09 - Parking Lot Repair

Daniel Carlton explained that the original plan for the parking lot at the Township Office was to re-surface this year; however, the patches held up pretty well over the winter and it could be an option to hold off on the re-surfacing for another year.

Carol Scholma asked what the cost would be to re-surface and if we have the funds to complete it this year.

Daniel Carlton said that he does not have estimates, but the cost would be significant. The township is budgeted to complete the re-surface this year.

The consensus of the committee was to authorize Daniel Carlton to obtain cost estimates for review and to make the decision at the next Services Committee meeting.

#100419-10 - E-Unit Equipment

Attachment: [Required Equipment](#)

Daniel Carlton explained that the Township is due for a new E-unit vehicle in 2011. Normally the equipment from the old vehicle is switched over from the old vehicle. He explained that Sergeant Tease is providing an option to purchase new equipment for the new vehicle and use the old equipment for a backup vehicle. This would provide the Township with an additional fully-equipped E-unit vehicle.

Moved by Carol Scholma, seconded by Del South, to include \$11,000 in the 2011 budget for the purchase of new E-unit equipment for the new vehicle.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-11 - Communications System Update

Daniel Carlton reminded the committee of the communications network they had discussed at past meetings which would provide a direct connection to the fire stations and eventually to the parks for security purposes. He explained that last year the Township applied for a grant under Homeland Security but was denied for not meeting the requirements for the grant. He asked the committee how they would like to proceed.

Carol Scholma asked if we could wait to move forward with the network. She also asked if the cost might go down if we wait longer.

Richard VanderKlok said that at some point it will be a necessity to have this communications network in place and wondered when would be a good time to re-visit the topic.

Daniel Carlton explained that new technology comes out every year, and the cost of an outdated system may be cheaper in a few years, but the cost of the new technology will likely be the same.

Carol Scholma noted that we will want to have the network for security at Maplewood Park once the park renovations are complete, especially with the splash pad.

The consensus of the committee was to discuss moving forward with the communications system in about a year.

#100419-12 – Library Complaint

Attachment: [Letter](#) and fees

Daniel Carlton explained that we are receiving more and more complaints about charges at the library for repair fees. He explained that the Georgetown Library has a high

standard for its materials, and every item is checked before it goes out. He said that other local libraries have gone to a self checkout, which does not allow them to check for damage before materials are checked out.

Del South said that he would prefer to come to Georgetown Library to get a higher quality of materials.

Daniel Carlton said that by having higher standards our materials will last longer.

Richard VanderKlok asked if patrons are aware of the policy for damaged materials before these items are checked out, or if we could start handing out the policy at check out.

The consensus of the committee was to consider the policy at the next Services Committee meeting.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to deny the request to clear Ms. Kemp's repair charges based on the current policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100419-13 - Communications, Letters, and Reports

Attachment: [Letter](#) requesting a community garden at Woodcrest Park

Daniel Carlton explained that Township property cannot be used for personal use. In other words, we cannot have a community garden area for a family to plant vegetables for their own family's use. He explained that if a garden was used for the benefit of the whole community it would be permitted, for example, if Love, Inc. raised produce for the whole community and provided the produce at no charge to the whole community. He said he would also be open to a flower garden which could be enjoyed by the whole community.

The consensus of the committee was to not allow the use of a community garden at Woodcrest Park as Township Property cannot be used for personal use.

#100419-14 – Adjournment

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.