

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC HEARINGS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Present: Blumm, Regan, Stougaard, Blough, Bonn, Persha, Thompson
Absent: None

Supervisor Paula Blumm called the meeting to order in the Township Hall at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL – Blough moved, Bonn seconded, the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried. (Thompson arrived)

PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET 2008/2009 – Supervisor Blumm opened the public hearing for the proposed budget at 7:04 p.m. M. Seiloff asked about attorney and engineer expenses, fund balance, and funding for a proposed City skateboard park. The Supervisor closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

CUMBERLAND RIDGE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT – STREET LIGHTING – Supervisor Blumm opened the public hearing for the Cumberland Ridge SAD at 7:13 p.m. As there were no public comments, the hearing was closed.

WHISPERING HILLS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT – STREET LIGHTING – Supervisor Blumm opened the public hearing for the Whispering Hills SAD at 7:14p.m. A. Wolters asked for an explanation of the costs involved and who would pay for the empty lots. T. Sova asked about the cost per light and who is putting them in. K. Wolters asked why the district was not set up when first developed. The public hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

MINUTES – Bonn moved, Stougaard seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Thompson moved, Regan seconded, to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

BILLS – Stougaard moved, Thompson seconded, to pay the special bills:

Bowne Twp Treas	Del Sewer	\$2,135.90
Chettleburgh & Assoc	Park Survey	\$1,000.00
City of Lowell	Wtr,Swr,	\$14,144.52
City of Lowell	Fire, Rescue	\$22,722.50
Corrpro Waterworks	Wtr Tower Insp	\$555.00
Infrastructure Altern	Water/Sewer	\$2,708.00
KCI	Postage	\$756.00
Lee’s Trenching	Wtr Valve Repair	\$675.00
Lowell Ledger	Adv	\$877.25
Luscious Landscapes	Park	\$850.00
MainStreet Planning	Planning Svcs	\$4,369.08
Mika, Meyers	Attorney	\$4,110.35
Vtec Engineering	Engineering	\$922.50

Motion carried.

Thompson moved, Bonn seconded, the current bills be approved; General Fund - \$58,353.92, Sewer Fund - \$7,570.07, Water Fund - \$11,855.86; Check Nos. 17042-17085; Payroll Nos. 8307-8330. Motion carried.

REPORTS – Pat Allchin, Executive Director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, was present to give an activity report for 2007. Stougaard moved, Bonn seconded, to continue to support the Historical Museum at the same level as last year. Motion carried. The Ordinance Enforcement Officer and Kent County Sheriff's Department submitted written reports.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter was received from the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board notifying the Township that they have purchased the development rights to preserve 57.35 acres of the Merriman farm located at 5214 Bancroft.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2008/2009 - Thompson moved, Blough seconded, to adopt the 2008/2009 budget as presented. Motion carried. Blough stated that he would like to see the Township support the Purchase of Development Rights program.

LAND PURCHASE – A purchase agreement was presented for the purchase of eight additional acres of land for the Township park from Robert VanStrien. The price for the land is \$19,200.00. The Township will also pay \$300.00 of the seller's legal fees and \$1,000.00 for the survey and legal description. This money will be taken from the Township's fund balance. A condition of the purchase in the agreement states that the Township will not obstruct the glide path to and from the adjoining property to the west. Persha stated that he would like to see the covenant removed if the property owner ever abandons the airstrip. Abandonment would be described as no longer being recognized by the FAA. Persha moved, Blough seconded, language be added under #2 stating that the covenant would be nullified if the air strip is abandoned. Ayes – Regan, Stougaard, Blough, Bonn, Persha, Thompson, Nays – Blumm. Motion carried. Thompson moved, Bonn seconded, to approve the Supervisor signing the purchase agreement for the eight acres of land with the additional language. Motion carried.

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL – LOWELL TO ELMDALE TRAIL – Supervisor Blumm attended a meeting with the railroad, MDOT, and North Country Trail representatives to discuss the purchase of the abandoned railroad bed to be used as a trail. MDOT and the railroad are working to come to an agreement on the purchase price. The property would be purchased by MDOT, leased to the DNR who would then lease managing responsibility to the North Country Trail. More information will follow.

2007/2008 BUDGET AMENDMENTS – There are several proposed amendments to the 2007/2008 budget. There is an increase in revenues for Interest (\$20,000) and Grants (\$11,218). There is an increase in expenditures for General Government(\$20,118), Public Safety(\$15,000), Public Works(\$6,100), and Other(\$2,000) and a decrease in expenditures for Recreation(\$12,000). Thompson moved, Stougaard seconded, the budget be amended as presented. Motion carried.

MASTER PLAN COST – Tim Johnson of MainStreet Planning submitted a letter of request for addition funds to update the Master Plan. Additional time was spent on preparing information and an analysis of lot split formulas for the AG –1 zone and attending additional meetings. The amount requested is \$2,461.13. Thompson moved, Stougaard seconded, to pay the additional \$2,461.13. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Two citizens commented.

ADJOURNMENT – Thompson moved, Blough seconded, the meeting adjourn at 8:18 p.m.. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Charter Township of Lowell

Paula Blumm, Supervisor