

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

Present: Hale, Regan, Blough, Thompson, VanderZiel
Absent: Anderson, Stougaard

Supervisor Jerry Hale called the meeting to order in the Township Hall at 7:00 pm.

AGENDA APPROVAL – Hale asked to add M21 sidewalk and bridge repairs to the agenda after minutes. Thompson moved, Blough seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition. Motion carried.

MINUTES – Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2011. Motion carried.

REPAIRS – Hale wanted to update the Board about the cost of repairs to the sidewalk and pedestrian bridge on M21. The initial estimate for repairs was \$13,000, which was to be divided equally between Lowell Township and Williams and Works. The actual cost of the repairs is \$16,244. Several Board members were not convinced that the Township had any responsibility for the repairs. Dan Vander Heide from Williams and Works was present to explain their position. Mr. Vander Heide stated that they were willing to take responsibility for some of the problem, but part of the damage was caused by an unusual rain event that could not be foreseen. There is also a problem with the drain along the road which will have to be addressed by the Kent County Drain Commission. After discussion, Blough moved, Thompson seconded, to pay the Township's 50% share (\$8,122) as long as there are no more costs related to the engineering provided by Williams and Works. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

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

City of Lowell	Water/Sewer	\$21,226.96
Dirt Cheap	Burials	\$750.00
Etna Supply	Meters	\$750.00
Infrastructure Altern	Water/Sewer	\$3,261.00
Kent Cty Road Com	36 th Street	\$20,900.00
Law, Weathers	Attorney	\$1,237.50
Lawn RX	Maint	\$782.00
Lowell Area Rec Auth	Annual Fee	\$1,000.00
Luscious Landscapes	Mowing, Maint	\$1,207.50
MainStreet Planning	Planning Svcs	\$1,690.60
State of Mich	Water Supply Fee	\$1,046.34

Motion carried.

Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, the current bills be approved; General Fund - \$38,072.99; Sewer Fund - \$9,0154.17; Water Fund - \$19,093.50; Check Nos. 19013-19054; Payroll Nos. 9307- 9326. Motion carried.

REPORTS – The Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Assessor and Fire Authority submitted written reports. The Assessor is asking for approval to participate with the entire county in purchasing the .NET database for BS&A. The cost for Lowell Township is

\$10,950, but if Lowell Township purchases it now it would qualify for a \$2,650 joint purchase discount bringing the cost down to \$8,300. Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to approve the purchase of .NET for \$8,300. Motion carried. Blough reported on the MTA educational meeting he attended earlier in the day. It was about Township Boards working with Fire Departments and Authorities. He would like to see the Fire Authority meet with MTA for guidance. He will look into setting up a future meeting with MTA and the Fire Authority.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

HALL HOURS – Hale suggested that the Township Hall hours on Thursdays be changed to 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. all year instead of just during the summer months. Regan stated that this would reduce the number of hours worked to do the same job and that the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer have not had a pay raise in almost two years. She suggested a raise of \$1.50 per hour and moving the Deputy Clerk to full time status. Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to authorize the Township administrator to reduce the open hours to Monday and Tuesday 9 am to 5 pm, Thursday 9 am to 1 pm, to review the hours annually every December, and to increase the hourly rate and status for the Deputies. Motion carried.

TAX ABATEMENT POLICY – Hale asked the Boardmembers to review the packet provided. It will be discussed at the December meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2011 LED/DIGITAL BILLBOARDS – Planning Commission Chair Dave Simmonds was present to give an overview of the proposed ordinance amendments. These billboards will be allowed in the Industrial and Light Industrial PUD zones within 200 feet of the public right of way of the I-96 expressway. The Planning Commission at their October 10 meeting recommended adopting the ordinance. Thompson moved, Regan seconded, to adopt Ordinance No. 06-2011, Ayes – Hale, Regan, Blough, Thompson, VanderZiel; Nays - none. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2011 TOWERS AND ANTENNAS – Mr. Simmonds reviewed the proposed amendments to the ordinance for towers and antennas. Thompson wanted “and antenna” added after the words tower in Section 4.33 (c)(1). After discussion, Thompson moved, Blough seconded, to adopt Ordinance No. 07-2011 adding “and antenna” after the word tower in Section 4.33 (c)(1), Ayes – Hale, Regan, Blough, Thompson, VanderZiel; Nays – none. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-2011 MEDICAL MARIJUANA - Mr. Simmonds reviewed the proposed amendments for medical marijuana. The ordinance adds definitions for marijuana, medical marijuana and medical marijuana dispensaries, and prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries. Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2011, Ayes – Hale, Regan, Blough, Thompson, VanderZiel; Nays – none. Motion carried.

These ordinances will go into effect December 7, 2011.

PROPOSAL FOR WATER STORAGE TANK – A proposal from Dixon Engineering to prepare the documents and specifications for painting the Township water tower for a cost of \$2,800 was reviewed. Thompson moved, Regan seconded, to approve the proposal from Dixon Engineering. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL PARKING AT GRAND RIVER RIVERFRONT PARK – Two proposals to expand parking at the township park were reviewed. Hale is getting two more proposals. This will come back for decision at the next meeting.

MDOT CONTRACT FOR PARK AND RIDE LIGHTING – A contract from MDOT to define the terms for lighting improvements for the Park and Ride lot on Alden Nash near I96 was discussed. MDOT will put in LED lighting when they expand the lot and the Township will be responsible for paying the light bill. Thompson moved, VanderZiel seconded, to authorize Hale and Regan to sign the contract. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL FOR LIFT STATION ALARM CONTROLS – A proposal from GrandTech, Inc. to upgrade the monitoring system for the lift stations was discussed. They recommend that the Township change from a phone line based system to an electronic/cell phone system. The basic cost is \$1999 per site with a monthly monitoring fee of \$28.95 per unit. Blough and Thompson stated that they would like to see the latest technology installed. GrandTech can look into other options that could be available. The Board discussed allowing Hale and Regan to decide which system to purchase. After discussion, VanderZiel moved, Blough seconded, to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to enter into a contract for a new monitoring system.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No comment.

ADJOURNMENT – Thompson moved, Blough seconded, to adjourn the meeting a 9:40 p.m.. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Charter Township of Lowell

Jerry Hale, Supervisor