

**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

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

In the absence of the Supervisor, Clerk Linda Regan called the meeting to order in the Township Hall at 7:00 pm.

Regan moved, Stougaard seconded, to appoint Trustee Bill Thompson as chairperson for the meeting. Motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL – Stougaard moved, VanderZiel seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES – Stougaard moved, Blough seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 17, 2009. Motion carried.

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

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

Addorio Tech	Comp Maint	\$2,531.82
City of Lowell	Wtr, Swr	\$26,901.48
Etna Supply	Wtr Meters	\$1,422.07
Falcon Printing	Newsletter	\$1,082.78
Grand Rapids Teleco	Phone System	\$2,999.86
Infrastructure Altern	Water/Sewer	\$2,277.25
Lowell Area Rec Auth	Annual Cont	\$1,000.00
Luscious Landscapes	Lawn Maint	\$2,420.00
MainStreet Planning	Planning Svcs	\$2,341.80
SOS	Office Supplies	\$627.16
Stormzand Asphalt	Park Repair	\$1,600.00

Motion carried.

Stougaard moved, Regan seconded, the current bills be approved; General Fund - \$24,962.09, Sewer Fund - \$7,563.72, Water Fund - \$24,197.22: Check Nos. 17935-17972 Payroll Nos. 8745- 8765. Motion carried.

REPORTS – The Ordinance Enforcement Officer submitted a written report. Blough reported for the Fire Authority.

CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence.

WHISPERING HILLS PLAT NO. 5 – FINAL APPROVAL - Mike Berg, Dykema Escavating, was present to request final plat approval for Phase 5 of the Whispering Hills Plat. They have posted a bond with the Road Commission for the road and street lights. This phase has 22 lots and should be completed and recorded with the County in October or November. Blough moved, VanderZiel seconded, to approve Whispering Hills Plat No. 5. Motion carried.

ASSESSING CONTRACT RENEWAL – The contract between Assessor Marla Platt and the Township reads under paragraph 6 – “ The assessor shall be paid separately to

process splits, at \$50.00 flat fee per split.” It should read “The assessor shall be paid separately to process splits, at 50% of the split fee.” VanderZiel moved, Stougaard seconded, to change the wording to “...at 50% of the split fee.” Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE REVISION – ORDINANCE NO. 04-2009 – Dave Simmonds, Planning Commission Chair, was present to give an overview of the changes to the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance. This is a re-format of the existing ordinance with changes to numbering, Table of Use, and references to other Township Ordinances. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 10, 2009 and at that meeting recommended to the Township Board that the revised Zoning Ordinance be adopted. Stougaard moved, VanderZiel seconded, to adopt Ordinance No. 04-2009 to repeal the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance adopted on May 19, 1980 in its entirety and adopt the revised Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. Motion carried. The revised Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance will go into effect on October 7, 2009.

WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL – A proposal to clean and spot paint the Township water tower was received from H2O Towers LLC for a total cost of \$4,450; \$3,500 for cleaning and \$950 for spot painting. This is the same cost they charged in 2003 when the tower was last cleaned. Regan moved, Stougaard seconded, to approve the proposal from H2O Towers LLC for cleaning and painting. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMIT FEE INCREASE – A letter was received from Butch Visser, Building Inspector, requesting the Township increase building permit fees. There were questions about the fee for a commercial building permit and the availability of the inspectors. After discussion, no action was taken and the Clerk will bring back more information to the next meeting.

GYPSY MOTH SURVEY CONTRACT – A contract to survey for gypsy moths was received from Aquatic Consulting Services. The cost is \$7,975, which is the same cost as last year. This would have to be paid from the Township’s fund balance. There was discussion about asking for a millage next year at either the August primary or the November general election. Blough moved, Regan seconded, to authorize Jerry Hale to sign the contract, paying the cost from fund balance. Motion carried. VanderZiel moved, Blough seconded, to prepare the ballot language for a millage request for gypsy moth surveying and spraying to be placed on the August or November ballot in 2010. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – One citizen commented.

ADJOURNMENT – VanderZiel moved, Stougaard seconded, the meeting adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Charter Township of Lowell

William Thompson, Acting Chairman