

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017
APPROVED MINUTES**

Supervisor Heise called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Heise, Supervisor
Jerry Vorva, Clerk
Mark Clinton, Treasurer
Charles Curmi, Trustee
Jack Dempsey, Trustee
Robert Doroshewitz, Trustee
Gary Heitman, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Fellrath, Dir. of Public Services
Dan Phillips, Fire Chief
Thomas Tiderington, Police Chief
Kevin Bennett, Township Attorney
David Richmond, Spalding DeDecker
Sandra Groth, Deputy Clerk
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary
6 Members of the Public

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Study Session - Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Moved by Mr. Heitman and seconded by Mr. Vorva to approve the agenda for the Board of Trustees regular meeting of July 18, 2017 as written. Ayes all.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS – There were none.

C. BOND REFINANCING PROPOSAL – Supervisor Heise/Treasurer Clinton

Mr. Heise introduced Thomas Colis of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone who explained the current services supplied by the firm regarding bond issues. He also explained that a banking firm identified the possibility of refinancing two current bond issues, the 2007 and 2009 bonds that are secured by the General Fund of the Township, for considerable savings, about \$20,000 annually after expenses. A resolution would be introduced to the Board that would authorize issuance of lower interest bonds to finance these two series of bonds.

Board members requested additional financial information and will consider the proposal of engaging Miller Canfield as bond counsel at their August 8, 2017 regular meeting.

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D. WATER AND SEWER RATE ANALYSIS – Treasurer Clinton

Mr. Clinton gave a presentation on his recommendation to immediately increase the water and sewer rates 5.0% with an overhaul of the water and sewer fee schedule upon completion of the Asset Management Plan (SAW Grant) next year.

Board members discussed the current fee schedule, rates of neighboring communities, Great Lakes Water Authority rates and changes, WTUA sewage rates and changes, charges needed to be covered, breakeven rate analysis, and the impact of a 5.0% water increase on the customer. Requests were also made by Board members for information regarding the impact of higher percentage water increases to cover additional anticipated capital expenses.

Also discussed were future considerations such as fixed vs. variable, metering sewage, increasing late fees to 10% or 15%, adjusting benefit fees, and eliminating the 25% summer sewer credit.

E. WTUA UPDATE– Aaron Sprague

Mr. Heise gave an update of progress on withdrawing from Wayne County, noting the hope of assigning excess capacity to Novi and the City of Plymouth, with the compensation paid then to be used to pay a \$1.4 million exit fee to Wayne County. There is also a possibility of assigning a part of Plymouth Township’s capacity in a particular neighborhood to the City of Plymouth as an offset to other sewer improvement projects that need to be made.

Aaron Sprague, Executive Director of WTUA, reviewed the three original options: sending the flow to WTUA, passing it to Wayne County, or separating. The swap option was identified this spring and this entails considering two sewer districts in Canton Twp. and two sewer districts in Plymouth Twp. as sewer service areas and a portion of the City of Plymouth would be considered part of the Plymouth Twp. service area. He will have updated budget and capital improvement figures soon.

Also discussed was a possible water-buying consortium of Northville, Canton and Plymouth Townships; and installation of infrastructure at Five Mile and Beck Roads,

F. SUPERVISOR AND TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Curmi had questions about reimbursement for damage in the DDA area, parking lot resurfacing and striping, Fire Department hiring, and fireworks complaints and enforcement.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

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I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Heitman and supported by Mr. Vorva to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.
Ayes all.

Jerry Vorva, Township Clerk

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on August 8, 2017.