

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019**

APPROVED MINUTES

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Dempsey, Trustee, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Lewis, Chief Building Official
Thomas Tiderington, Police Chief
Kevin Bennett, Township Attorney
Laura Haw, AICP, NCI, Planning Director
Dennis Cebulski, Chairman, Planning Commissioner
Jim Harb, Planning Commissioner
Bill Pratt Planning Commissioner and ZBA Member
Michael Carlin, Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals
Timothy Boyd, Zoning Board of Appeals
Don Schnettler, Zoning Board of Appeals
Sandra Groth, Deputy Clerk
Cheri Palmarchuk, Building Administrative Assistant
Kenneth MacDonald, Building Inspector
Sara Visel, Solid Waste Coordinator
Guy Villet, Firefighter/Paramedic
Chris Smith, Firefighter/Paramedic
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary
9 Members of the Public

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Heitman and seconded by Clerk Vorva to approve the agenda for the Board of Trustees study session of March 5, 2019 as presented. Ayes all.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance No. 99 – *Planning Director Laura Haw and Attorney Kevin Bennett.*

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Planning Director Haw reviewed the history of increased Zoning Board applications for 6-ft. fences in the past five years because of children, often with special needs; larger dogs, and wishes for privacy from neighbors. This led to the study of the current ordinance by the Zoning Board, Planning Commission and administration. Many neighborhoods with Cluster Housing developments and Residential Unit Developments have more restrictive covenants which will take precedence over the Zoning Ordinance.

She reviewed changes proposed for the ordinance which include allowing 6-foot fencing for side and rear yards only; limitation of chain link fencing to 4 foot and only when powder coated; limitation of fencing to midpoint building lines, with exceptions permitted for enclosure of side doors; provisions for evaluation of fencing requirements on corner lots by Building Department; mandating fencing to be at least 1 foot from any sidewalk; and new provisions regarding maintenance, location, clear vision, process for appeal, and general appearance.

Discussion centered on the need for allowing the 6-foot fencing to extend to the midpoint building line, rather than just the rear and side yards. Planning Commissioners Pratt and Harb and Zoning Board members Carlin, Boyd, and Schnettler expressed their support for this change. Board members discussed further the ordinance changes and Attorney Bennett recommended the Board hold an additional public hearing. It was agreed to hold the public hearing and continue discussion on April 9.

Trustee Doroshewitz asked that clarification be made regarding the last text amendment that came before the Board regarding the Cluster Housing Option. It was not initiated by the Planning Commission, but by the developer.

2. Future of Recycling Service with GFL – *Supervisor Heise*

Supervisor Heise reviewed the options presented by GFL regarding recyclables in light of the changing market. They've offered to continue to make collection in recycling carts for processing at an MRF with an increase of \$2.07 per household per month; or collecting all materials either in trash or recycling carts for disposal at a landfill or the Detroit incinerator, which uses waste to generate steam heating/cooling and electricity, at no increase in rates.

Supervisor Heise also mentioned the proposal by GFL at their meeting to reimburse the Township out of the fee, but he has yet to receive this offer in writing. He did get an e-mail regarding their sharing in the commodity revenue when the markets return.

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Board members discussed the options and the difficulty of having the public return to recycling if it is abandoned.

Supervisor Heise had questions for Attorney Bennett as to whether the present contract would preclude this request or whether a discount could be obtained if they take the material to a landfill because GFL does not have to pay processing fees for recycling.

3. Discussion on Employee Salaries and Benefits Online Posting - *Trustee Bob Doroshewitz*

Trustee Doroshewitz indicated his request is in the interests of transparency and dispelling rumors. He said it wouldn't have to be by name, but could be by role.

Discussion included the effect the timing of the posting might have on upcoming negotiations with several labor contracts expiring soon.

There was input from the Township's labor lawyer on the effects, perhaps resulting in Unfair Labor Practices charges; from Cheri Palmarchuk, representing TPOAM, asking that names not be included; from Guy Villet, representing the Fire Department who asked that actual hours worked be included; and from the Deputy Clerk on the creation of a document that would be obtainable by a FOIA request by out of state companies whose motives may not be clear.

D. SUPERVISOR AND TRUSTEE COMMENTS – There were none.

E. CLOSED SESSION

At 8:40 p.m. Clerk Vorva moved that a closed session be called for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with the labor attorney in accordance with OMA Section 8(c), MCL 15.268(c) Seconded by Trustee Heitman. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

F. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 10:07 p.m. Trustee Heitman moved that the Board return to open session. Seconded by Clerk Vorva. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

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G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Heitman and seconded by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m. Ayes all.

Jerry Vorva, Township Clerk

Approved at Board of Trustees regular meeting of March 13, 2019.