

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – SPECIAL MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008**

Supervisor Reaume called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Reaume, Supervisor
Ron Edwards, Treasurer
Marilyn Massengill, Clerk
Kay Arnold, Trustee
Robert Doroshewitz, Trustee
Steven Mann, Trustee

ABSENT: Charles Curmi, Trustee, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Cronin, Township Attorney
Eric Cholak, Labor Attorney
Joe Bridgman, Clerk-elect
Michael Kelly, Trustee-elect
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary
18 Members of the Public

D. Approval of Agenda
Special Meeting – Saturday, November 15, 2008

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the agenda for the Board of Trustees special meeting of Saturday, November 15, 2008, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

E. Approval of Consent Agenda – N/A

F. Public Comment and Questions – There was none.

G. Public Hearing – N/A

H. Community Development – N/A

I. Unfinished Business – N/A

J. New Business

J.1 Elected Officials Compensation and Retirement Benefits
Ordinance No. C-2008-02

Township Attorney Tim Cronin explained there was a change in state law in 1989. Chapter 5 of the Township code deals with pension benefits and Chapter 4 deals with other insurance benefits. Chapter 5 was revised, as it had to be, because of the change in

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law in 1989. Chapter 4, for whatever reason, was not changed and it's necessary to put that in order. There is no specific mention in Chapter 4 regarding elected officials health insurance retirement benefits, although there were elected officials who received health insurance retirement benefits previously.

When all of the acts are read, there has to be an ordinance and the current ordinance is based on a repealed statute, Clerk Massengill is retiring shortly, and there are a number of policies that need to be revised. It would have been very difficult to have all the policies revised for an ordinance at this meeting, so the most important one has been picked—to see that Clerk Massengill's health care retirement benefits are insured.

Mr. Cronin recommends approval of Ordinance No. C-2008-02 today so a final reading can be held on Tuesday prior to Mrs. Massengill's retirement; and the revision of Chapter 4 going forward, because the act upon which it is based has been repealed. He believes that Labor Attorney Cholak's services are going to be required to revisit those policies.

Board members discussed the possible risk to Mrs. Massengill's and others who have received benefits without adoption of the ordinance. They also discussed eligibility requirements for the ordinance and added "five" between "of" and "full terms as a full-time elected official ..." to Section 2, and inserted the word "current" between "the" and "contract between the Charter Township of Plymouth...." in Section 3.

Mr. Edwards presented a chart comparing other township's benefits for elected officials.

Mr. Mann moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. C-2008-02, Elected Officials Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Ordinance, as changed. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

A copy of the ordinance is on file in the Clerk's office for public perusal.

J.2 Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer Compensation and Benefits

Attorney Cronin said the resolution deals with setting the salaries of the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer. Copies of MCL 41.69 and 41.77, excerpts of Revised Statutes of 1846, were distributed to the Board. They allow for the appointment of deputies by the Clerk and the Treasurer with payment for them to be determined by the township board. Mr. Cronin said he did not find any limitations as to required salaries, mandatory limits, or compensation packages.

Ms. Arnold moved to table Item J.2, Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer Compensation and Benefits, for an opportunity to review the material just presented. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill.

AYES: Arnold, Massengill
NAYS: Doroshewitz, Edwards, Mann, Reaume
Motion defeated.

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A heated discussion followed between Board members and Clerk-elect Bridgman which included the need for cost-cutting in light of the economic situation, the budget for the Clerk's office, and investigating the possibility of the deputies being able to purchase their own insurance through the Township plans.

Mr. Edwards moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-11-15-24 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Mann.

AYES: Edwards, Mann, Doroshewitz, Reaume

NAYS: Arnold, Massengill

Motion carried.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of 1846, and specifically MCL 41.69 (copy attached) and MCL 41.77 (copy attached), provide that the Clerk and the Treasurer shall appoint deputies; and

WHEREAS, MCL 41.69 reads in pertinent part as follows:

“The township clerk shall appoint a deputy, who shall serve at the pleasure of the clerk The deputy shall be paid by salary or otherwise as the township board determines.” MCL 41.69; and

WHEREAS, MCL 41.77 reads in pertinent part as follows:

“(5) The treasurer shall appoint a deputy who shall serve at the pleasure of the treasurer The deputy shall be paid as the township board determines.” MCL 41.77; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is desirous of setting the salary, with no other fringe, pension, healthcare or retirement benefits, for the deputy clerk and the deputy treasurer.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:

1. The annual salary of the deputy clerk, effective November 20, 2008, shall be Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) with no other fringe, pension, and healthcare or retirement benefits, except reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of the deputy's duties.

2. The annual salary of the deputy treasurer, effective November 20, 2008, shall be Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) with no other fringe, pension; healthcare, or retirement benefits, except reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of the deputy's duties.

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K. Supervisor's Comments

Mr. Reaume indicated there will be a follow-up budget session on Tuesday, November 25. Swearing in for the new positions will be done prior to the November 18 regular meeting at 6:15 p.m.

L. Trustee Comments

Mr. Doroshewitz apologized for his earlier outbursts and Mr. Mann thanked Mr. Edwards for his work in putting together the elected benefits information in the past couple of days.

M. Public Comments

Carol Pyykkonen, AFSCME employee of the Township, expressed her surprise that their negotiations would also affect the elected officials.

Richard Pyykkonen expressed confusion by statements in the newsletter that the Township is doing so well, then hearing otherwise at the meeting. He also questioned the foresight in building Township Hall .

Don Schnettler said in 2003 there was excitement about building Township Hall, but now state revenue sharing is down, court revenues are down. Now the building has more room than people. He suggested the leaders take a cut and lead by example.

Mr. Mann said he believes they are leading by example, having just discussed pay cuts.

Darlene Bacyinski asked if the board is concerned about hiring new blood.

N. Adjourn

Mr. Mann moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all.

Mr. Reaume adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Marilyn Massengill, Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth

The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Human Resource Office, Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170, (734) 453-3202, TDD users: 1-800-649-3777 (Michigan Relay Service)-

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