

**NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
JANUARY 19, 2010
REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Kidwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 320 Bell Road. Goodwin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler.

Approved Agenda:

Ringler motioned to approve agenda as presented, Noble supported.
All voting in favor

MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda: Durm-Hiatt motioned to approve consent agenda items, Bailey supported.

1. Minute approvals for January 4, 2010, regular meeting,
2. Expenditures and Transfers: General O&M \$43,923.79, Fire O&M \$32,548.72, Sewer O&M \$14,329.37, Water O&M \$9,397.64, Special Assessment \$2,651.88 GRAND TOTAL: \$102,851.40.
3. Authorization for the treasurer to negotiate agreements for summer tax collection for Brandywine Schools, ISD, and Lake Michigan College.

ROLL CALL AYES: Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell
NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence/Announcements: Durm-Hiatt announced that the township has received a copy of the traffic study completed by Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. The report is available for review.

Supervisor Report: The AED has been delivered and will be mounted in the hall as soon as we receive the secure cabinet. Kidwell presented certificates for file, for Gregory Exner, and Timothy Bunch.

Comments from the Public: Sgt. Miller presented the police detailed report for November and a year-end report of police services. Sgt. Miller advised that the Berrien County Sheriff's Department will start using part time deputies for road patrol for all contractual municipalities to be more cost effective. Tim Grey, director of SMCAS presented an overview of the ambulance service for the year. Several individuals spoke of their concerns with Eastgate Shopping Plaza the following is a synopsis:
Bob Shoemaker: semi truck and tanker truck parking, dumping of trash, fires and guns going off, people living in the abandon spaces, the proximity to Oak Manor School, and the overall poor image.
Mike McCauslin, Niles City Mayor: unsightly entrance to the township and city, also trash, rats, and crime.
Dr. Jeff Bolton: negative impact to the area both in residential and commercial development, public health, poor image for anyone coming to Niles.
Doug Law, Superintendent of School; unsure of drug activity, neighbor students play in the area, students seem to avoid walking through Eastgate.
Fr. King, St. Mark's Church: truck loads of trash dumping, community health issues, drug activity, exterminate before demolition.
Dr. Kimberly Morrow, The Gentle Doctor Veterinarian Clinic: drugs, crime, prostitution, truck parking, poor lighting, property values.
Dunnuck; negatively impacts the sale of homes in the Oak Manor area, generally unsightly.
Scott Clark; business owner, trash, crime, rodents, discourages development and lowers property values in the whole area.
Ollen Baldwin: definitely an eyesore, but do not use taxpayer's money to demolish the buildings.
Herschel Hoese; asked to see the demolition figures, make sure the township doesn't get stuck with the cost.
Sheriff Bailey: increases in crime in the area. Reiterated that to be more cost effective the Berrien County Sheriff's Department will be using part time deputies for road patrol for all contractual municipalities.

Unfinished Business: Eastgate. Kidwell made the following motion, I hereby move that Niles Charter Township authorize Township Attorneys, Lynch & Drew, LLP, to commence litigation seeking an order requiring the demolition of all structures located at the Eastgate Plaza; and further seeing an order allowing the assessment of all costs related to said demolition against the property, which shall be collectible in the same manner as a tax upon said real property. Bailey supported the motion. The board heard information from Dan Fette, County Economic Development, County Treasurer Bret Witkowski, Jerry French, representing Niles Area Economic Development and Local Foundations, and Jeff Dunlap, township Building and Safety Department. Following discussion a roll call vote was taken on the motion. ROLL CALL AYES: Ringler, Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Noble, Kidwell
NAYES: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business: None.

Comments from the Public: Bob Shoemaker asked if barricades could be put in place at the Eastgate entrances. The owner of Spansail Apartments added comments on the demolition of Eastgate and spoke to the long term benefits to the area.

Committee Reports:

Bailey: None.

Goodwin: None

Durm-Hiatt: reminded the public that the deadline for candidacy for school board is February 9, 2010.

Ringler: None.

Kidwell: None

Noble: None.

Cooper: None.

Bailey motioned to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Goodwin supported the motion.
All voting in favor

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Durm-Hiatt, Clerk