

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COOPER CHARTER
TOWNSHIP BOARD HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Cooper Charter Township Board was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at the Cooper Charter Township Hall, 1590 West D. Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Members Present: Buiskool, Schiedel, DeHaan, Sorensen, Sytsma, Janssen, and Vlietstra.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Township Attorney Michael Homier and approximately eighteen interested persons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by all joining in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board and citizens were asked if they wanted to have any items removed from the consent agenda. There were none.

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Janssen to approve the consent agenda consisting of February 9, 2015 Board Minutes, Payment of Bills, and Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Janssen to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried.

State Senator Margaret O'Brien was introduced and gave an overview of the Governor's Budget and the transportation funding ballot proposal to be voted on May 5, 2015. She explained that the sales tax collected on the purchase of gas and diesel goes primarily to schools and some local governments to fund fire and police protection services and not roads. If voters approve the ballot proposal the sales tax is raised from 6% to 7% and a new wholesale tax on fuel, vehicle registration along with increased truck registration fee goes only to road and bridge repair along with transportation needs. School aid revenue constitutionally would go only to K-12 Schools and Community Colleges and low income earners would receive tax relief.

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the board regarding subjects not on the agenda.

Mr. Martin Moon, 5131 North 20th Street asked who will be paying for the extension of the public water line that will go from Cooper to Alamo Township.

It was explained that Alamo's Service Fee Ordinance would be reimbursing Cooper for the cost to get the water line into Alamo as they get hook-ups and the line that Alamo builds in their Township they will pay for.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Vlietstra to accept the Fire Department Payroll and Stats reports. Motion carried.

Motion by Buiskool, supported by Schiedel to appoint the firm of Siegfried Crandall as Township Auditors for the fiscal year 2015 – 2016 and sign the letter of understanding for audit. Motion carried.

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Janssen to appoint Prein & Newhof as Township Engineers for the fiscal year 2015 – 2016. Motion carried.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Buiskool to appoint MidWest Civil Engineers as alternate Township Engineers on special projects for the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Sytsma to appoint Russ Wicklund, A.I.C.P. as Township Planning / Zoning Administrator for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Vlietstra to appoint Michael D. Homier as Township Attorney with Roxanne Seeber of Bauckham, Sparks, Rolfe, Lohrstorfer & Thall, P.C. as Ordinance Enforcement Counsel for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Buiskool to adopt the hourly wage and per diem schedule for 2015 – 2016 fiscal year. Motion carried.

Motion by Janssen, supported by DeHaan to adopt the 2015–2016 fiscal year meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Buiskool, support by Vlietstra to allow the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer to abstain from voting on their individual salaries. Motion carried.

The Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer's salary is the same as the last three years.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Buiskool to adopt the Supervisor's salary in the amount of \$56,662.56 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Vlietstra, Janssen, Sytsma, DeHaan, Buiskool and Schiedel.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Sorensen.

Motion carried. Salary adopted.

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Janssen to adopt the Clerk's Salary in the amount of \$56,662.56 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Buiskool, Schiedel, DeHaan, Sorensen, Vlietstra, Janssen.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Sytsma.

Motion carried. Salary adopted.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Vlietstra to adopt the Treasurer's Salary in the amount of \$56,662.56 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Janssen, Sytsma, Sorensen, Schiedel, Buiskool and Vlietstra.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: DeHaan.

Motion carried. Salary adopted.

Motion by DeHaan, supported by Buiskool to renew Township Insurance Binder with Burnham and Flower Insurance Agency for \$16,711.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Schiedel, supported by Buiskool to approve the 2014-2015 current fiscal year budget transfers with all transfers within the General Fund Budget amounts. Motion carried.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Schiedel to appoint John Corke and Mark Reynolds to a three-year term on the Planning Commission with the expiration date of April 2018. Motion carried.

Motion by Janssen, supported by Buiskool to purchase BS&A Cemetery Management Software in the amount of \$4,915.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorensen, supported by Vlietstra to purchase from Applied Imaging the Ricoh C5503 multifunction copy machine in the amount of \$8,038.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Vlietstra, supported by Schiedel to adopt the Cooper Charter Township Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan for Retirees and approve the coverage amount of \$3,800.00 for single and \$8,500.00 for two.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Buiskool, Schiedel, DeHaan, Sorensen, Sytsma, Janssen, and Vlietstra.

No: None.

Absent: None.

Motion carried.

The Coggan Farm/Kalsec Composting site was discussed.

Several residents voiced displeasure with the composting of Kalsec spices on Don Coggan’s farm because they feel it is commercial and not a “Right to Farm” operation, they have complaints of odor and health problems they feel are associated with the compost site due to volume of material and the variety of chemicals in the raw material being composted.

Township Attorney Michael Homier explained that even though the residents considered this to be a commercial composting operation, the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture considers it to be compliant with GAMPS as soil supplement program and therefore a Right to Farm protected activity.

The Township Attorney also explained to the citizens that if they feel they are being harmed by the chemicals in the composting material, they may bring a lawsuit against Kalsec and Coggan Farms. The Township Attorney advised that there is the risk that they could be held responsible for paying legal fees for the Kalsec/Coggan Farm attorney if they are not successful.

A list of the phone numbers for Stephen Mahoney from Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD), Rhonda Wilcox from the Lansing Right to Farm, Don Berdahl, Chief Tech Officer at Kalsec, and the Cooper Township Supervisor were available on the back table.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Bonnie L. Sytsma, Clerk

Jeffrey R. Sorensen, Supervisor

I, the undersigned Bonnie L. Sytsma, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Charter Township of Cooper, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 9th day of March 2015.

**Bonnie L. Sytsma, Clerk
Cooper Charter Township**