



**Call to Order:** Supervisor Mike Trout called the July 9, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Mike Trout	Township Supervisor
Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

**Board Members Not Present**

David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee

**Others Present**

Greg Need	Township Attorney
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**Agenda Additions & Changes:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

- \* **Clerk Moreau moved to approve the Consent Agenda as published. Trustee Vallad supported the motion.**

Diana Walls 8055 Marquoit, Davisburg, asked where the Garden Club will plug in the holiday lights downtown.

Trustee Hensler responded she believes they will be plugged in at the top of the light poles. Ms. Walls stated that DTE would never allow the Garden Club to plug in the lights at the poles.

Trustee Hensler responded the Garden Club wanted permission from the Township before investigating further.



**Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Moreau, Trout, and Vallad;  
No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0  
vote.**

- a) Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2009 Regular Meeting with bills and additional disbursements of \$224,257.50
- b) Acceptance of June Treasurer's Report
- c) Receipt of June 2009 Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Ordinance, Police and Fire
- d) Authorize payment of bills as presented, totaling \$45,233.83
- e) Authorize the Fire Chief, Charles Oaks, to purchase a new thermal imager not to exceed \$5,500.00
- f) Authorize Springfield Garden Club to install holiday lights on the lamp posts in the downtown area
- g) Authorize the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to attend the MGFOA conference with a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00

**Receipt of Communications**

- Received letter from Road Commission for Oakland County concerning Tri-Party Program funds
- Received notice from Consumers Energy regarding a public hearing scheduled for June 24, 2009
- Received letter from Comcast regarding Channel lineup

**Public Hearing:** None

**Old Business:**

1. Second Reading: Amendments to Zoning Ordinance #26, Article II and Article XVI

Supervisor Trout stated the amendments address Wind Energy Conversion Systems and were recommended to the Township Board, with changes, from the Planning Commission.

Clerk Moreau confirmed the Notice of Second Reading includes all of the comments and changes recommended by the Planning Commission and Treasurer Dubre.

Trustee Vallad asked Supervisor Trout if he attended one of the wind energy programs given by Michigan State Extension Service. Supervisor Trout responded he has.



Trustee Vallad stated all the maps he has seen show there is no wind available near the Township that would be economical to produce a wind farm. Supervisor Trout responded that is correct for commercial structures but the Township could see some residential uses in the future.

- \* **Trustee Vallad moved to adopt amendments to Ordinance No. 26, Article II and adding Section 16.26 per the published Second Reading notice before the Board this evening. Said amendments to take effect seven days following Notice of Adoption. Treasurer Dubre supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Moreau, Trout and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

2. Second Reading: Amendment to Zoning Map, Ordinance #26, 07-14-476-026

Supervisor Trout stated this is a request by Louis Demonaco to rezone property from R3 – One Family Residential to OS – Office Service. The property is located at 9158 Dixie Highway. P.I. #07-14-476-026.

- \* **Clerk Moreau moved to adopt the amendment to the Zoning Map – Ordinance #26 with regard to property located at 9158 Dixie Highway P.I. #07-14-476-026, from R3 – One Family Residential to OS – Office Service, to take effect seven days following publication. Trustee Hensler supported the motion.**

Trustee Vallad asked the motion be amended to indicate that all property taxes are current; this is something that has been done in the past. Clerk Moreau and Trustee Hensler agreed with this amendment.

**Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Moreau, Trout, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

3. Dixie Highway Safety Study

Colleen Hill of Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC) gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of the Dixie Highway Safety Study. The study included approximately 2.5 miles of Dixie Highway from Big Lake to Davisburg Road.

The first step was a traffic crash review. A traffic crash analysis was conducted for Dixie Highway from Big Lake to Davisburg Road for 2006-2008. The results of the analysis indicated:



- Dixie/Big Lake intersection – 29 crashes with an average of 10 crashes per year
- Dixie/Davisburg intersection – 35 crashes with an average of 12 crashes per year
- Dixie from Big Lake to Davisburg segment – 78 crashes with an average of 26 crashes per year for the segment

Ms. Hill stated crashes are on par with the County average. HRC was asked to look at ways of realigning Big Lake Road – to make Deer Hill Drive and Big Lake Road one intersection controlled by a traffic signal. One option is to realign south Big Lake Road to line up with Deer Hill Drive. She stated Independence Township residents had concerns about cut through traffic. If both roads are realigned, there is less cut through traffic.

Another issue is the limited access right of way at the I-75 ramp area across from Big Lake Road. It is deeded strictly for the ramp so moving Deerhill Drive any further north to align with Big Lake Road would take three to four years to get an answer from the Federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the answer would probably be no. One option moves Deerhill Drive as close to the limited access without breaching the access.

She stated on Dixie Highway, just north of I-75, there are issues at the Levon property. HRC looked at what impacts there would be if a median was constructed. She stated these proposals are only concepts and that MDOT guidelines state that for a four lane road, to turn a truck around, the median must be seventy feet wide. She stated seventy feet is quite wide, a narrower median of 56' with "loons" was proposed. A loon would allow large trucks to complete turns.

Ms. Hill also addressed concerns at Springfield Town Square. Two options were suggested to improve operations at the driveways:

- Option 1 – install traffic island at the north driveway to force exiting drivers to turn right
- Prohibit left turns into south driveway and install a center island on Dixie to prevent violations

She stated there is a mostly vacant parcel to the south of Springfield Town Square and when it develops, if connection is provided to that parcel, and possibly further south to the car dealer, a traffic signal might help.

HRC next looked at the Dixie/Davisburg intersection. One issue is the timing on the signal does not change at different times of the day. Traffic counts were taken at the intersection and in the afternoon, 450 drivers made the left turn onto westbound Davisburg Road from northbound Dixie Highway.



HRC recommended the following for the Dixie Highway/Davisburg Road intersection:

- Reconstruct the traffic signal with a left turn green arrow for north-south left turn lanes at Dixie/Davisburg intersection with detection cameras and an actuated controller. Funding may be available through RCOC.
- Discuss suggested options with the Springfield Town Square owner to determine the measure(s) that they are willing to implement
- Reconstruct the area north of I-75 to include a boulevard design in selected locations. Reconstruction of Dixie Highway to a boulevard may best be accomplished with redevelopment in the area.

Ms. Hill stated if the Road Commission agrees to the left turn phasing they would reconstruct the signal, add the left turn arrow and make the signal more visible. When the signal is reconstructed, cameras would be installed to sense traffic and would retime the signals accordingly to improve safety at the intersection.

Ms. Hill summarized the next steps to take to address the traffic concerns on Dixie Highway:

- Dixie/Davisburg traffic signal
  - RCOC is evaluating left turn phasing
  - RCOC will retime signal
- Springfield Town Square driveways
  - monitor crash and operations
  - Work with RCOC and property owner to find a solution

Clerk Moreau asked if the crash analysis takes traffic volume into account. Ms. Hill responded a crash rate is done that equates everything equally. The crash rate in Springfield is on par with city and county roads across the State.

Regarding the boulevard option, Clerk Moreau stated she was under the impression it was not an option because of utility lines. Ms. Hill responded there will be utility and property impacts, and the boulevard is not an easy solution.

Trustee Hensler asked if consideration was given to walk signals at the Davisburg/Dixie intersection. Ms. Hill responded if the signal is reconstructed, typically the pedestrian push buttons are installed and traffic is not affected unless the button is pushed.

Trustee Vallad asked about moving the entrance of Springfield Town Square to the north entrance and asked Ms. Hill if traffic stacking from the light at Davisburg/Dixie would be a problem.



Ms. Hill responded there is about 400 feet between the intersection and north entrance which would allow for at least 8 vehicles. She watched the intersection during peak hours and never saw more than four or five.

Trustee Vallad stated his concern is traffic moving at 50 miles per hour with the left turn lane occupied to turn into the plaza and people may not realize they have to go around vehicles waiting to get into plaza if they want to turn left at Davisburg Road. He stated the intersection is not safe and the left turn from southbound Dixie Highway onto eastbound Davisburg Road is almost blind because of elevations.

Supervisor Trout asked what the cost of the intersection would be. Ms. Hill responded \$80,000.00-\$120,000.00 but as more intersections are done, the cheaper they become as contractors become more familiar with the signals.

### **New Business:**

1. First Reading: Amendments to Zoning Ordinance #26,  
Landscape Provisions

Clerk Moreau stated the Landscape Provisions were first set for public hearing back in November and was in front of the Planning Commission for a long time and there was a lot of discussion regarding invasive plant species. She put together a proposal to take into account the Michigan Invasive Plant Council's concerns, which did an analysis of the plants and found there are plants that may not pose much of a threat if used properly. In addition to the "Prohibited Plant Species" list, a "Restricted Use Plant Species" list was created.

Clerk Moreau stated minor language changes were made to Section 16.06.12 to reflect the restricted use plant species. Some items on the prohibited list have changed. Language was also added to indicated that these plants are prohibited for use in any development requiring Site Plan Approval. A reference to the Michigan Invasive Plant Council website was also added.

Supervisor Trout stated the amendments also add criteria for modifying screening and buffer requirements based on the site which will provide some latitude during Site Plan review.

- \* **Supervisor Trout moved to publish amendments for Second Reading. Trustee Vallad supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Moreau, Trout, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**



2. Appoint Parks & Recreation Subcommittee

Clerk Moreau stated Trustee Hensler has agreed to be a Township Board representative. At the end of the last month's presentation Kelly Hyer from Friends of the Park requested a second Township Board member be appointed to the subcommittee.

Supervisor Trout stated no schedule or agenda has been received and it sounds like an ad hoc arrangement and if so, maybe more than one Township Board member would want to attend.

Supervisor Trout stated Trustee Hensler can be the official Township Board representative at this point, and can keep the Board informed of the subcommittee's actions.

3. Davisburg Cemetery: Update and improvements proposal

Clerk Moreau gave a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding maintenance at Davisburg Cemetery. She highlighted tree and shrub trimming that has already taken place. Additionally, there are two large dead evergreen trees and a dead section of a Maple tree that need to be removed. Preliminary quotes indicate the cost will be \$600-\$800 per tree removal, and \$300-\$400 to remove part of the Maple tree.

Another item that needs to be addressed is Records Management but that this item will not impact the 2009 budget. Currently the Township uses Pontem Cemetery software and it is very cumbersome and inefficient. Because of the difficulty, a card catalog system is relied on to retrieve accurate information. The mapping feature on the software is not interactive and is just a scanned copy of the physical map and she would like to have an interactive map. She stated BS&A is coming out with a cemetery program by the end of 2009 that includes an interactive map. She wanted to make the Board aware, before the budget workshop, that she would like to budget (approx. \$5,000.00) for a better records management system in 2010. Annual support would also need to be budgeted for and BS&A current annual rate is \$250.00. She would like to present the BS&A Software to the Board at a future meeting.

Clerk Moreau presented pictures of proposed signage to be placed at the center drive of the cemetery. She would like the sign to be placed this year. Two proposals were received and she is recommending the proposal from Rich Sign Inc.

Clerk Moreau stated the estimated costs of maintenance and improvements is approximately \$11,575.00, which is approximately \$4,500 more than what was budgeted but there are monies available in the elections budget that can be used toward these expenses. She is proposing the following:



DAVISBURG CEMETERY

Proposed Maintenance & Improvements

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| • Estimated general maintenance expense                   | \$6,500   |
| • Tree & shrub trimming (completed)                       | \$475     |
| • Dead tree removal                                       | \$1,800   |
| • New entrance sign & landscape                           | \$2,800   |
| TOTAL   | \$11,575  |
|   |           |
| • 2009 Cemetery Repairs & Maintenance<br>Budget line item | \$7,500   |
| • Proposed 2009 expenditures                              | \$ 11,575 |
| • Required Budget Amendment                               | \$4,075   |
| ➤ Elections Cost Center: Reduce \$4,500                   |           |
| ➤ Cemetery Cost Center: Increase \$4,500                  |           |
| ➤ NO CHANGE TO TOTAL EXPENDITURES                         |           |

Trustee Vallad stated he has no problem with what has been proposed tonight and asked if Clerk Moreau has looked at historical designation for the cemetery with the State. Clerk Moreau responded this has been looked at in the past, and is something she would like to do.

Trustee Hensler stated she is in favor of tonight's proposal. She believe a sign is needed that indicates the Cemetery name, who owns it, when it was started, etc. and believes this is a step towards promoting the whole community.

Treasurer Dubre stated she is fine with everything that was proposed tonight but wants to make sure the sign is placed so a variance is not needed.

Attorney Need stated the Zoning Ordinance does not apply to Township property so a variance is not legally necessary.



- \* **Trustee Hensler moved that the Clerk go ahead with the removal of dead trees and proceed with ordering and installing the sign as presented. Also, to amend the budget as follows:**

- Elections Cost Center: Reduce \$4,500
- Cemetery Cost Center: Increase \$4,500

**Trustee Vallad supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Hopper, Lamont, Moreau, and Trout; No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

4. Rotary Park: Proposal for combined native plantings effort

Clerk Moreau stated many people have put effort into maintaining Rotary park. The Rotary has put a lot of effort into maintaining the buildings and bridge; Oakland County Parks is responsible for mowing and the Springfield Garden Club is working on putting plantings in the whiskey barrels downtown and thinks all these efforts working together can make an improvement to the downtown area. She is proposing to combine efforts with these organizations to make significant improvements at Rotary Park.

Davisburg Rotary and Oakland County Parks were approached with the idea of installing native plantings beds to soften the look of the concrete and stone dam. Both entities expressed an interest in plantings, but noted there is regular use of the park by remote control car enthusiasts and feels their interests should be kept in mind.

Clerk Moreau stated Penny Mason of NOHLC has volunteered to design the flower beds and that design has been forwarded to Oakland County Parks for consideration. Rotary has agreed to help with the planting and will contribute toward the plant purchase. The Springfield Garden Club has indicated an interest in the project but has not confirmed a donation amount or level of involvement.

Trustee Hensler stated this topic was brought up at the last Garden Club meeting, but a quorum was not present to decide on how to spend the funds but the response was positive.

5. Principles of Governance Statement

- \* **Treasurer Dubre moved to table this item until all Board members are present. Trustee Vallad supported the motion. Vote on the motion: Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Moreau, Trout, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Hopper, Lamont. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**



6. Budget Workshop

A budget workshop was tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Supervisor Trout thanked Colleen Hill and Clerk Moreau for their presentations tonight.

**Adjournment:**

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Trout adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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Mike Trout, Township Supervisor

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Laura Moreau, Township Clerk