

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Public Meeting Room B
Delta Township Administration Building
7710 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing MI 48917

**TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FOR
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Ken Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Supervisor Ken Fletcher, Clerk Janice Vedder,
Treasurer Howard Pizzo, and Trustees Jan Cunningham, Barb
Poma, Jeff Hicks, and Cara Spagnuolo

Members Absent:

Others Present: Manager Richard Watkins, Financial Director Jeff Anderson,
Planning Director Mark Graham, Utility Director Tom Morrissey,
and Assistant to the Manager Jenny Wohlfert

III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA

TREASURER PIZZO MOVED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED WITH THE
ADDITION OF TOWNSHIP CLERK'S DEPARTMENT REPORT.

TRUSTEE POMA SUPPORTED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 TO 0.

IV. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said the Township had been working with LEAP and regional partners on a grant with Google that would bring a high speed network to several communities in the region. He noted that the Township was in receipt of a Noise Ordinance waiver request from St. Gerard Church for their annual festival they held in May which would be placed on a future Board agenda. He continues to meet with management from different area communities on regional cooperation which was an on-going effort in the county. The Sustainability Committee had met to discuss various topics that the Committee had been working on and that a report to the Board would be forthcoming in the near future. Mr. Watkins indicated that the Township's efforts to decrease its utility usage had been extremely positive and that there had been a 12% reduction in the Utility Department's electrical usage over the past couple of months. He noted that the improvements that had been made to the Administration Building had

resulted in an 11% decrease in electricity usage. Mr. Watkins said he would be providing the Board with an update on the Township's energy usage next month.

Trustee Hicks encouraged the Board to fill out the advocate form in addition to the municipality form which served as an advocacy for why the high speed network should be provided to the community.

Mr. Watkins said a resolution would also be brought before the Board in support of this effort.

Supervisor Fletcher indicated that Eaton County should be represented when regional issues are discussed. He noted that recently LEAP invited Delta Township to participate in a regional event, but Eaton County wasn't asked to participate.

Mr. Watkins said the Township would be discussing the Google initiative with Eaton County representatives.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. Accounting Department Report

Jeff Anderson, Township Finance Director, said in 2009, the Township focused on cost savings and technology. He said in the past, the Township provided a tax receipt to every tax payer that mailed a tax payment to the Township. However, he said with today's technology, the Township didn't feel it was necessary to continue this process and had provided a box on the tax bill that taxpayers could check if they wanted to continue getting a receipt by mail otherwise, they could go on line and print their own receipt. Mr. Anderson said this resulted in 8,000 less tax receipts being mailed which resulted in a savings to the Township of approximately \$3,500. He said the Township also implemented a no bill option for Township utility customers who had ACH (Automated Clearing House) monthly payments or customers who paid their utility bills through the internet. He said providing this option to residents resulted in a \$1,500 savings to the Township. He noted that the Township received a GFOA Distinguished Budget award for 2009 and he was confident that the Township's 2010 budget would receive the same type of recognition. Mr. Anderson stated that the Township's revised surplus property policy was a huge success last year and that the Township experienced a higher return on their surplus property than in the past.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Township had implemented a back office check scanning operation which processed checks electronically. He said this process cut the Township's armor car service expense in half and reduced the amount of NSF (Non-Sufficient Funds) checks the Township handled. Mr. Anderson said this process also resulted in the Township receiving their money three to four

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Page 3 of 15

days quicker than in the past which wasn't much of a monetary difference at this time, but the Township would see a major difference in their returns when interest rates increased in the future. Mr. Anderson noted that the Township typically received 4,000 checks a month which was difficult to process due to the lack of billing information. He said to help reduce the number of checks the Township handled, an electronic lock box system was initiated which was a payment service banks used to send payments directly to the Township in a more efficient and timely manner.

Mr. Anderson said the Township conducted a property tax seizure and sale last year and he noted that unfortunately, the Township would be seeing more of this happening in 2010 due to the high number of delinquent accounts. Mr. Anderson recognized the hard work of the Employee Benefit Committee which led to changes in the employee benefit package for the year 2010, as well as a savings to the Township. He noted that the Township had also made changes to the utility turn off policy which provided residents an additional two weeks to pay their water bill. He said this change resulted in a decrease in the amount of turnoffs per month. Mr. Anderson indicated that as of March 1st, the Township would no longer be collecting real property tax payments and that all payments would be sent to Eaton County. He noted that the Township would continue to collect personal property taxes until they were resolved. Mr. Anderson mentioned the fact that the Township's audit was completed and that the Township handled approximately \$85 million every year. Mr. Anderson commended his staff for a job well done.

Mr. Anderson noted that one of the key items the Township had hoped to accomplish in 2010 was the integration of new software. He noted that the Township's Assessing Department had already installed a new BS&A software system that the Township would be integrating throughout the administration building in the near future. He noted that the Accounting Department would be handling the administrative budget process which had previously been handled by the Manager's Office. Mr. Anderson noted that he would be spearheading a Wellness Committee to help staff achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Mr. Anderson said as the Township's revenue decreased, he felt more time would have to be spent on budget forecasting and how the Township planned for the future. He said the Township would have an OPEB actuarial prepared this year, as well as other post employment benefits that would take place this summer. Mr. Anderson noted that the Township would be implementing a radio read system for its utility readings which would be very beneficial for the Township and its residents. He noted that the integration of new software would also be helpful in the Township's efforts to explore on-line payment options for its residents.

Mr. Watkins said he had met with the auditors last Friday who had informed him that they found the Township's records to be flawless which he felt was a reflection on a job well done by Mr. Anderson and his staff.

2. Clerk's Department Report

Clerk Vedder noted that there would be a Constitutional Convention proposal presented to the voters this November which occurred every 16 years. She noted that if voters vote in November 2010 for a Constitutional Convention, there could be a February primary and a May general election. Ms. Vedder noted that any proposed constitutional changes would go to the voters. She said the State was projecting that \$45 million would be spent on the election. Ms. Vedder said the 2010 Census was up and running and that the results of the census were to be submitted to the President by December 31st. Everyone was encouraged to be counted in the census as it determined the number of congressional seats each state occupied, as well as projected revenue. Ms. Vedder said she had been successful in getting the Grand Ledge and Waverly School Districts to hold their annual elections every November as opposed to May which would be a major cost savings for the school districts. She noted that two school elections were held last year in May and November and in an effort to save money, precincts and the number of election workers were consolidated for both elections. Ms. Vedder noted that it was possible to lower expenses further on elections, but it would necessitate the Clerk's Office having to send out multiple mailings to every resident in a precinct notifying them of changes in their polling locations which she didn't feel was very cost effective. She said it also confused voters as to where they were supposed to vote.

Ms. Vedder indicated that the legislature had been unsuccessful in passing legislation on "no reason absentee voting" and "early voting". However, she noted Clerks were proposing a change in its procedures for AV Counting Boards. Ms. Vedder noted that the Township had 16 precincts, but she was required to order 32 ballots for primary elections because an AV Counting Board was considered a different styles precinct. She noted that each precinct was considered different with different rotations which ended up being very expensive. She said if her office ran short on what was going to the polls, they would have to reorder because AV ballots couldn't be used. Ms. Vedder said in the past, she had always done it the way she was proposing, but with new election equipment, the State wouldn't allow it. She said now we are looking at changing the legislation which should save time and money. Ms. Vedder said that she had always provided hands on training for the election chairmen's, but last year, she provided hands on training for all election inspectors which she felt had been very beneficial. Ms. Vedder noted that she would be conducting training classes again this year. She said voter turnout for the elections held in 2009 was minimal in that there were 1,552 residents who voted at polling locations and 4,126 residents who

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Page 5 of 15

voted by absentee ballot. She said that absentee voting was very popular, but as long as there wasn't an all mail in election, the Township would have to continue to provide polling locations for walk-in voters.

Ms. Vedder said the Clerk's Office continued to cut back on part-time help during elections. She noted that improvements were continually being made to the qualified voter file which helped save time. Ms. Vedder said the Board held 32 meetings last year and that paperless agenda packets had been implemented to help promote a "Greener Delta". She noted that the Township had experienced a decrease in the issuance of licenses last year and felt the repeal of the Township's Coin-Operated Amusement Devices ordinance was a contributing factor. Ms. Vedder noted that she continued to work on her Master Academy certification classes and that the Clerk's Office continued to participate in the Township's recycling programs and the distribution of CFL bulbs. She noted that a Freon removal program had been offered in September of last year with 75 vouchers being issued to Township residents. Ms. Vedder indicated that the Township had experienced a decline in Dejunking vouchers that were issued last year from previous years and that 872 households participated in 2008 and 783 households participated in 2009.

Ms. Vedder felt that last year's Greener Delta had been very successful and that this year's event was being handled by Heather Pettinger, Jeff Huard, and Gary Bozek who were doing an excellent job. Ms. Vedder said due to the fact that cemetery rates were increased in November of 2009, the Township sold 117 cemetery plots before the November deadline. She noted that the Township was one of the largest sellers of EATRAN tokens and that the Clerk's Office had sold \$12,000 in bus tokens in 2009. She said the Clerk's Office continued to support the Historical Society. Ms. Vedder noted that every spring and fall, the Planning Department and the Clerk's Department hosted a program for the 2nd and 5th grade classes from Delta Center Elementary School which exposed the students to the workings of their local government. She said it was anticipated that the two upcoming elections this year would generate a large voter turnout. She noted that her office had completed an updated Procedural Manual which outlined the functions that were conducted in the Clerk's Office. Ms. Vedder said she would also be implementing electronic poll books in all of the polling locations this year which would improve accuracy during elections. She noted that the Clerk's Office was not as affected by the poor economy as other Township Department's were due to the fact that jobs performed in the Clerk's Office were statutory. However, she noted that the Clerk's Office continued to be cognizant of their costs and continually researched ways to keep costs down.

VI. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

2. Utility Rate Increase

Mr. Anderson reviewed a water and sewer rate analysis that had been provided to the Board. The analysis provided the Township's current rates, as well as a comparison of utility rates charged by surrounding communities. Mr. Anderson said from an historical perspective, the analysis provided the Township's rate increases since 2001 and that the average rate increase had been 4.8% for water and 3.3% for sewer. Mr. Anderson said the Township had incurred an additional 5% increase from the Board of Water & Light, in addition to a 16% rate increase the Township anticipated based on the Township's contract with the Board of Water & Light that gave the Board the ability to pass their rate increases onto the Township. Mr. Anderson said with that in mind, he projected that if the Township's utility rates were not increased; there would be a \$170,000 revenue shortfall for 2010. He noted that the Township's 1% rate increase last year, coupled with the Township's decline in water sales, was not enough. Mr. Anderson said he also projected the revenue that a 3% to 4% rate increase would generate and what the average residential household would pay.

Mr. Anderson said a similar analysis had been done for the Township's sewer fund. He projected that the Township would experience a revenue shortfall of \$79,000 if the Township's sewer rates were not increased. He said a 2% increase in the Township's sewer rates would help the Township break even. Mr. Anderson also recommended that the Township increase its water rates a minimum of 5% which would cover the rate increase passed on by the Board of Water and Light. Mr. Anderson said the Board of Water & Light's water rates had increased a total of 21% in 2010. He noted that the Township had budgeted for a 16% rate increase, but did not budget for an extra 5% increase. He also stated that the Township would see a 16% rate increase from the Board of Water & Light in 2011.

Trustee Cunningham said if the Township's water and sewer rates were increased by 5%, the total increase for the average single family residence would be \$2.10 a month.

Mr. Anderson said if the Township's water rates were increased 5% and the sewer rates were increased by 2%, the cost to the average single family residence would be \$1.67 a month or \$20.00 a year. Mr. Anderson felt the economy had played a role in the Township's decision to raise utility rates last year and that the 2.5% increase in sewer rates helped the Township break even which was why he was comfortable with a similar increase in 2010. However, he didn't feel the Township could absorb the cost from the Board of Water & Light if the Township's water rates were not increased.

Trustee Cunningham noted that a 2% increase in sewer rates would not cover the projected shortfall.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Township had budgeted \$175,000 for the reconstruction of the bio towers at the wastewater treatment plant which was not an operating expense and that it was a one-time expense.

Trustee Cunningham noted that if the water rates were increased 5% and the sewer rates were increased 2%, the cost to the average household would be \$1.66 a month.

Mr. Anderson noted that a 2% increase would not provide the Township with any reserves, but a 2% increase would cover the cost of the reconstruction of the bio towers and radio read equipment which was one-time expenses provided for in the 2010 budget. Mr. Anderson felt a 2% to 3% rate increase would generate approximately \$30,000 in the sewer fund.

It was the consensus of the Board to recommend a 5% increase for water rates and a 2% increase for sewer rates.

3. Possible Moratorium regarding Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Mark Graham, Township Planning Director, noted that on January 19th, he provided the Board with an update on the status of the Medical Marijuana law that was passed in Michigan in November 2008. He said the law was silent on the issue of dispensing marijuana which had resulted in a considerable amount of controversy with various legal and zoning issues. Mr. Graham said the Board had briefly discussed placing a six month moratorium on the dispensing of medical marijuana which other communities in Michigan had done in order to deal with this issue. Mr. Graham said one issue that he would like to mention was that he had improperly used the word "dispensary" in describing the distribution of medical marijuana. He noted that dispensaries were allowed under the California law where medical marijuana could be purchased, but he noted that this had become a problem in California. He said the Michigan law did not use the word "dispensary" and that it was silent on the distribution of marijuana. Mr. Graham said he would research this issue further and attempt to come up with different language.

Mr. Graham said another item of concern was the issue of marijuana growing facilities. He said there was an effort in Ingham County where an individual had purchased a 3,000 square foot warehouse and had proposed to divide the warehouse into 10 cubicles with irrigation and lighting systems so that caregivers could lease space to grow marijuana. He said there were several issues the

Township needed to look into and that a six month moratorium would provide staff the time to further research this matter.

It was the consensus of the Board to go forward with a six month moratorium.

4. Land Use Study – Nixon/M-43 Intersection

Richard Cooley, Land Planning Consultant, noted that he had been the lead consultant on several different projects in the Township over the past 37 years. Mr. Cooley said, as the Board was aware, the Township had entered into a Consent Judgment in 2002 for the 160 acre parcel located at the southwest corner of the M-43/Nixon Road intersection which resulted in commercial zoning at the southwest corner of the intersection, bordered by high density and low density residential. Mr. Cooley said after sanitary sewers were installed in 2003, development in this area of the Township commenced. He noted that the Consent Judgment created an unusual situation with commercial zoning on one corner of the intersection and agricultural and low density residential zoning on the other three corners of the intersection. Mr. Cooley said property owner Tom Dible had organized a meeting in 2008 with property owners and Township officials to explore the possibility of amending the Township's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Cooley said property owners Art Arvanites and Tom Dible had hired him to prepare a land use study in order to identify suitable alternative land uses for this area of the Township.

Mr. Cooley noted that in order to provide a thorough evaluation and analysis of the Township's Comprehensive Plan, he felt it was necessary to look at Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18 of the Township and what the land study could provide to the Township in terms of an alternative land use scheme. Mr. Cooley said the commercial and multiple family land uses located at the southwest corner of the intersection seemed out of place compared to the agricultural zoning that existed on the other three corners of the intersection and that he had attempted to come up with "suitable" alternative land uses for the other three corners of the intersection, as well as the adjacent sections of land. Mr. Cooley noted that he had made a few projections regarding population and households in the area and that those projections were based on the densities contained in the Township's Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Cooley noted that he had used the high density residential zoning classification so that it would comply directly with the existing classification described in the Comprehensive Plan. He said the study recommended alternative land use classifications and emphasized smart growth on the basis of mixed land uses and a variety of housing types within a concentrated area. He said the study advocated conditional zoning as a tool that he would like the Township Board to consider and he indicated that the study made note of the successes that other municipalities in the area had experienced with conditional zoning.

Mr. Cooley said with the new smart growth approach, the use of conditional zoning, the Township's planned development regulations, and the adoption of the Township's mixed use building regulations, he felt the land study had justified the need for commercial zoning at the other three corners of the intersection. Mr. Cooley mentioned the fact that the Township's current Comprehensive Plan was drafted in 2004 and was required to be reviewed every five years. He said this was mentioned by Mr. Graham in the 2008 meeting with the property owners when he had indicated that a study may be done in 2009 to consider amendments to the Township's master plan. Mr. Cooley said based on the cost of preparing a study of this nature, and the fact that there was a new census underway at the present time, he understood why the Board may have elected to wait to conduct a land use study, but he felt it was time for the Township to consider updating their Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Cooley said the study mentioned the use of a subplan which was an alternative to creating a completely new master plan if the Township found that the remaining areas of the Township outside of the overall study area were sufficient. He noted that the study listed several reasons why it was felt the alternative land use classification should be considered by the Township.

Treasurer Pizzo said he was trying to picture what the property owners may have in mind in terms of development opportunities. He noted that Mr. Cooley had mentioned the fact that there had been several inquiries of interest regarding the properties located at the intersection. Mr. Pizzo said the Board had frequently discussed the Saginaw Highway corridor and the fact that there were a number of vacant commercial locations. He felt this was why the current Comprehensive Plan recommended that Broadbent Road be used as a boundary for commercial development which he felt made sense when the Township couldn't utilize the retail space they already had. Mr. Pizzo understood that these were tough economic times, but the Township had certainly thought about what the economic development potential was for the Saginaw Highway corridor and that a few of the parcels east of the study area offered limited opportunities for development. Mr. Pizzo questioned what type of land use concept the property owners were considering and whether it would consist of a mixture of land uses. Mr. Pizzo asked Mr. Cooley what the property owners anticipated would be developed at the intersection. He inquired as to whether there would be a green easement bordered by a parking lot with adjacent store fronts and then behind it may be some apartments. He asked if these properties could attract development addressing smart growth resulting in ingenious approaches to development where you have a first floor being a commercial office or a business and then above it would be apartments and then maybe some townhouses behind it with brick and a nicely landscaped area.

Mr. Cooley said Mr. Pizzo had raised several key issues that he would like to respond to. He noted that Mr. Arvanites had had his property listed with Vlahakis Commercial Real Estate for approximately six years. He said Nick Vlahakis had

indicated that he had received several inquiries a month from people who were interested in Mr. Arvanites property. However, Mr. Cooley said once the contacts were informed that the property wasn't zoned for commercial, their interest ended. He indicated that the interested parties had already done their marketing studies and the prospective users were convinced that the property they were inquiring about would work for their use. Mr. Cooley felt the fact that there had been several inquiries made for this area of the Township illustrated that there was a demand and an interest for commercial uses at this intersection.

Mr. Cooley said Mr. Pizzo had questioned what type of uses would be utilized on the property. Mr. Cooley felt there were a wide variety of physical layouts that could be done at this intersection. He said the focus of the commercial uses at this intersection would be categorized as neighborhood convenience commercial uses consisting of the types of uses that residents who lived in the adjacent areas and drive by traffic on Saginaw Highway would utilize on a daily basis. He noted that there were several types of uses that could be supported at any given time based on the growth of new households, along with existing households, within this area of the Township. Mr. Cooley said that was what he called the primary market area for this property and that there was over 80,000 square feet of commercial uses that could be developed on the four corners of the intersection based on his projections and the typical need that those individual uses generated for population base and per square footage. Mr. Cooley said he was confident that the recommendation that he had made in terms of the amount of acreage and the projections that he had made were as good as he could make right now without new census information. Mr. Cooley also felt that using developmental tools such as smart growth principles and conditional zoning, as well as the Township's planned unit development and mixed use building standards, presented many different ways in which the property could be laid out.

Mr. Cooley said the Township Board had complete control over what was developed on the property and how the property was laid out. He said based on what he had proposed in a new future land use plan, and utilizing the type of development tools that were available to developers, the Township would have an extra measure of control over and above what they already had in place. He felt there would be more creativity in the kinds of architecture that was used and the type of site planning. Mr. Cooley said he would like to see several hundred acres committed to a plan at one time rather than a piece meal plan being presented as property sold. He noted that he was aware of the fact that the Saginaw Highway corridor from Waverly Road west to the subject parcel consisted of a lot of vacant buildings, but he didn't feel that what he was presenting this evening had anything to do with the rest of the Saginaw Highway corridor. He didn't feel that the development of the subject parcel would take anything away from the corridor east of the subject parcel and he didn't feel it would be a hindrance. Mr. Cooley said the east portion of the Saginaw Highway corridor was a unique situation that

required some time and patience and different type of incentives the Township may come up with to interest new tenants in those vacant buildings.

Mr. Graham asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with this matter. He said Michigan's Planning Enabling Act of 2008 gave the primary responsibility for the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Commission. Mr. Graham recommended that the Board pass a resolution acknowledging receipt of Mr. Cooley's land use study and then forward the plan to the Planning Commission for the necessary public hearing as per Act 110 of 2008.

Treasurer Pizzo asked when the Township would be reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Graham didn't feel the Township should attempt to review the entire Comprehensive Plan at this time. He said staff had already started collecting data, but the major issue driving an amendment was the census and that he recommended that the Board not proceed with a full plan review until the census was completed. Mr. Graham felt the Board should acknowledge receipt of Mr. Cooley's study and consider his "subplan" initiative independent of a major review. Mr. Graham said in 2011, he would like to budget for a plan review and have a decision made as to whether the Township was going to attempt to do the review in-house or hire a consultant.

Treasurer Pizzo said he understood the issue of revising the plan, but he said the present Board had never reviewed the Comprehensive Plan to know exactly what state the Township was in. He felt there were advantages of looking at this in terms of redoing Mr. Cooley's proposal and being provided background. Mr. Pizzo felt there was value in the Board and the Planning Commission working jointly in implementing the Township's goals.

Mr. Graham agreed with Mr. Pizzo and felt a joint meeting with the Board and the Planning Commission to review the status of the existing Comprehensive Plan was a good idea.

5. Township Manager's Contract (Executive Session)

CLERK VEDDER MOVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE. THIS IS ALLOWED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (ACT 267 OF 1976), SECTION 15.268 (H) AS AMENDED.

TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Page 12 of 15

ROLL CALL:

AYES: CLERK VEDDER, TREASURER PIZZO, TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM, TRUSTEE POMA, TRUSTEE HICKS, TRUSTEE SPAGNUOLO, AND SUPERVISOR FLETCHER.

NAYES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

MOTION PASSED 7 TO 0.

The Board adjourned the executive session at 7:37 p.m.

The Board reconvened to the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Trustees Poma and Cunningham expressed concerns with the computer stations in front of Board members not working properly during meetings. Ms. Cunningham said she had made it very clear at the last meeting that her computer was not working and that she wanted the computer stations checked before the meetings to make sure they were in working order.

Trustee Hicks inquired about the Township's policy regarding the renewal of lease agreements with private parties who leased Township property, specifically the large parcel the Township owned on Mt. Hope Highway, east of Nixon Road.

Supervisor Fletcher said concerns with vehicle parking along Franklyn Street had been brought to the attention of the Manager's Office that the street was narrow which made it difficult for snow plows and garbage trucks to maneuver when vehicles were parked in the road. Mr. Fletcher questioned whether the Board may want to consider a ban on parking on streets that experienced problems similar to Franklyn Street.

Mr. Watkins said every time he had received a complaint about parked vehicles on Franklyn Street, he had gone out to check on the situation, but he had never been able to determine what the issue was. Mr. Watkins noted that he had also asked the Sheriff's Department to keep an eye on the situation. Mr. Watkins said he would continue to ask the Sheriff's Department to monitor the situation and report back to him with any concerns they may have.

Treasurer Pizzo said the next department the Board would be hearing a report from was the Parks & Recreation Department. Mr. Pizzo said he had been attempting to review the Parks Master Plan due to the fact that it had been pointed out by Tri-County that municipalities were required to have a master plan

when seeking grants. Mr. Pizzo felt it would be beneficial for the Board to review the master plan with the Parks Commission because the plan impacted capital outlay and a number of on-going projects. He felt it was important for the master plan to stay current or otherwise the Township may fall behind and miss out on opportunities.

Ms. Poma said she would be interested in receiving a final report on the Township's transit study.

Trustee Cunningham questioned what the Township's match was for the transit study.

Supervisor Fletcher indicated that the EDC paid \$20,000 for the Township's portion of the transit study. He noted that this item was originally planned to be on this evening's agenda, but the EDC had provided the Board with a list of questions that they didn't have any answers to. He wanted to wait and have the transit study presented to the Board when some of the questions could actually be answered. He noted that the EDC had questions such as whether EATRAN would be able to offer a fixed route.

Trustee Poma noted that that was a question the former Transportation Committee had asked to be answered.

Mr. Watkins noted that the EDC had indicated that EATRAN would be able to provide a fixed route. Mr. Watkins noted that he had a meeting with a member of the EDC tomorrow and would follow-up with them regarding the transit study.

Treasurer Pizzo felt the EDC was somewhat frustrated that they didn't have enough time to thoroughly research questions that had been raised before passing the results of the study on to the Board, but yet the Board needed the results of the study because time was running out if there was going to be a millage election.

Trustee Poma said she had been frustrated with the transportation issue between CATA and EATRAN and the ability to communicate and solve some very real transportation issues.

Supervisor Fletcher said that a transportation plan had been drafted that would address the questions the Board may have.

Treasurer Pizzo felt this gave Mr. Watkins the opportunity to meet with CATA and answer some of the questions the Board may have in terms of going forward.

Trustee Hicks said when the plans to conduct a transit study were put in place, he didn't feel anyone went into the study with the foregone conclusion that EDC was to determine what was best for Delta Township, even though the transit study was also being conducted for EATRAN. He said what may be best for the Township may not be best for EATRAN.

Trustee Cunningham felt one of the main components of the transit study was to put in place an express route from the Township directly to Downtown Lansing.

Treasurer Pizzo felt that EATRAN was going to manage what happened in the Township and Eaton County and that Township residents paid the millage and EATRAN would provide a service to the Township that would provide a route to Downtown Lansing.

Mr. Watkins noted that the transit study had been proposed to extend the current CATA route from the Lansing Mall to Marketplace Boulevard. He felt the development of a transit system would take cooperation from everyone involved. Mr. Watkins said another option that had been explored was an express route from the downtown area that could be handled by a private hauler such as Dean Transportation, but there were still a lot of pieces to the puzzle that needed to be put together. He noted that Dean Transportation already handled a lot of transportation needs for CATA and that Dean Transportation actually drove CATA buses and in turn, CATA received money to purchase new buses and provide them to Dean Transportation in order to operate the routes. Mr. Watkins said a millage would still be needed in order to provide improved transit service.

This matter will be placed on the Board's March 15th agenda.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA

JANICE VEDDER, TOWNSHIP CLERK

KENNETH FLETCHER, TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Page 15 of 15

M:\Comm. Of the Whole Meeting\BD\MIN\2010\March 8 2010
Minutes Approved: