



**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walls called the September 11, 2017 Special Workshop Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Rd., Davisburg, MI 48350.

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

**Board Members Not Present**

None

**Strategic Planning and 2018-2020 Budget Priorities**

Supervisor Walls stated that the agenda should include “next steps” and also specific discussion regarding Davisburg Road Mill and Fill. Board Members determined that Mill and Fill would be covered during the Public Works discussion and next steps will be discussed for each priority.

Supervisor Walls asked Clerk Moreau to summarize the purpose of the meeting and how the discussion will proceed.

Clerk Moreau stated that she proposed holding a budget priorities meeting when the Board held their first budget workshop on August 23. As part of a policy manual review in May, she also brought to the Board specific policy statements about tying budget planning to a Strategic Plan. Board Members expressed support for developing some type of strategic plan or “guiding principles” document. That document will be a work in progress for some time, but identifying budget priorities for 2018-2020 is a good start. The meeting packet included charts that are similar to the categories Clerk Moreau proposed at the August 23 workshop. The charts were updated to include priorities submitted by Board Members in advance of the meeting and a column was added for “Assigned To” as suggested by Supervisor Walls. Clerk Moreau suggested that the Board



could work through each category and she will enter the Board's feedback in the charts, which were projected on the screen, as decisions are made.

**1. General Strategic Planning / Economic Development**

Board Members determined that joint meetings should be scheduled annually with the Park Commission, Library Board and Planning Commission. Supervisor Walls will schedule the joint meeting with the Planning Commission to coincide with their November 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting. The Township Board and Planning Commission will discuss updating the Capital Improvement Plan and Pathways Plan among other priorities at this meeting. Clerk Moreau will schedule joint meetings with the Park Commission for April and Library Board for June of each year. Clerk Moreau also will continue working on a Strategic Plan and/or Guiding Principles document and will have a draft format to the Board by November. Supervisor Walls and Trustee Vallad will participate in a Senior Services Master Plan initiative; this priority will be discussed with the Park Commission and Parks Director at the joint meeting.

**2. Dixie Corridor**

Several Board Members identified mowing and maintaining the Dixie and Davisburg intersection as an immediate and on-going priority. This effort will likely be assigned to the mowing contractor and the Supervisor's Office will contact the Road Commission as soon as possible for approval to maintain the right-of-way. Several priorities were assigned to the Strategic Planning Committee including Dixie/Davisburg intersection streetscape, revising the Dixie Overlay District, updating the Dixie Corridor Plan and creating a developers' guide or "sales brochure" for the corridor.

Clerk Moreau suggested that the Dixie Corridor Plan could serve as the "sales brochure" if it is revised to focus less on background studies and more on incentives and the strategic plan for the corridor.

Trustee Cooper asked when a welcome sign will be installed at the north entrance to the Township and suggested that the Dixie Highway Design Guidelines should apply to all of Dixie Highway, not just the portion from I-75 to Davisburg Rd. The Board discussed if the same design guidelines should apply throughout the corridor. It was determined that the Strategic Planning Committee should consider design guidelines and a welcome sign for the north end.



Supervisor Walls and Clerk Moreau explained that Groveland and Holly Townships are working with Oakland County Planning on a vision for Dixie Highway in their communities. Walls and Moreau recently attended a public presentation and, if asked, will continue to participate in the effort as part of a steering committee to promote the “Dixie Heritage Corridor” from I-75 to I-75 in Oakland County.

**3. Davisburg (Civic Center, Village Center, Hart Community Center, Mill Pond Park)**

Trustee Hensler would like to pave the Storybook Trail from the Library parking lot to the Shiawassee Basin Preserve (SBP) Pavilion. Clerk Moreau added that she would like to see the path continue past the pavilion and play structure and run along the north side of the SBP entrance drive so that it connects back with the existing path, forming a complete loop at the Civic Center. This priority along with the pathway link from the Civic Center to Mill Pond Park will be discussed further during the Pathways discussion.

Clerk Moreau included a proposal and a preliminary concept in the meeting packet to remove the Mill Pond Dam and redevelop Township property downtown including Mill Pond Park, Hart Community Center and the “lumberyard” property. The concept includes improvements to Hart Community Center, adding pathways at Mill Pond Park, a boardwalk over the Shiawassee River from the lumberyard to Mill Pond Park, and a pathway along Davisburg Road linking the loop at the Civic Center to the loop downtown. Clerk Moreau explained that this is an ambitious concept but noted that this redevelopment would drive revitalization downtown in a way that the property owners either cannot or will not be able to accomplish. She added that the condition of the dam has been in discussion for many years and the option to remove it and restore the river corridor was presented by Oakland County Parks in early 2012. A report prepared by ECT in late 2011 identified grant funding available for dam removal and restoration; no funding is available for dam repair. Currently the Board has set aside \$50,000 for repairs. Some progress has been made toward repairing the dam, but even if the Township gets by with minor repairs, the expense of major repairs or complete replacement will always be looming. Clerk Moreau acknowledged that removing the dam would be a big change and would be an emotional decision for some, but she asked the Board Members to consider what benefit the dam currently provides the community. She stated that the beach is hardly used but is a maintenance burden for Parks & Recreation. She also summarized problems with water quality, controlling weeds and silt build-up in the pond. Clerk Moreau would like to explore options to remove the dam and reimagine the park and downtown area to serve the current and future needs of the community.



Trustee Cooper questioned what the river would look like without the dam and if there would be flowing water or a dry river bed. He questioned why the beach and pond had deteriorated and had concerns about who would maintain pathways.

Trustee Vallad also had questions about what the river corridor would look like and if restoration would be required. He noted many unknowns at this point but acknowledged the change in use of the beach and pond and supported exploring options for the dam.

Trustee Hensler, Trustee Hopper and Treasurer Dubre expressed support to gather more information and explore funding options for dam removal.

Supervisor Walls stated that improvements can be done to the park and pond without removing the dam. He does not see any benefit to removing the dam and is not in favor of doing so. He noted the history of the Mill Pond to the community and prefers to look at ways to improve the pond.

Board Members discussed dredging, weed harvesting, chemical treatments and other ongoing efforts that would be needed to restore and maintain recreation opportunities of Mill Pond. It was decided that a committee would be formed to explore options and funding to revitalize Mill Pond Park including dam removal and prairie restoration, improvements to the Hart Community Center and park facilities, development of the lumber yard property and installation of paths and boardwalk. Trustee Vallad, Clerk Moreau, Parks Director Sarah Richmond and Natural Resources Manager Mike Losey will serve on the committee. Director Richmond will present the proposal to the Park Commission and request one or two volunteers to join the committee.

#### **4. Pathways**

Supervisor Walls identified the need to review the Code provisions for pathways in Section 40-851 including implementation guidelines, standards and amount of contribution to the pathway fund. He also supports Trustee Vallad's priority to define limitations of the Pathways Master Plan and consider where to use road shoulder paving. The Code provisions and guidelines will be added to the Planning Commission's priority task list.

Clerk Moreau suggested that paving the Storybook Trail and the pathway loop at the Civic Center should be discussed at the joint meetings with the Park Commission and Library Board. The path connecting the Civic Center to Mill Pond Park is partially completed and



she would like to see the project get underway as soon as possible; this pathway link was already prioritized with the 2017 budget planning.

Supervisor Walls identified a challenging area between Cross Hill and Andersonville; he suggested having the pathway on the north side of Broadway in this area. Clerk Moreau agreed but suggested that either side presents challenges; she mentioned a triangular culvert she saw that fits in a roadside ditch and creates an instant path. Supervisor Walls stated that any pathway would be in the road right-of-way and would require a permit; he will contact the Road Commission to initiate that request.

## **5. Facilities & Grounds**

Approval for automatic doors for the Township Offices was already initiated by Erin Mattice.

Trustee Hensler supports signs for the historical cemeteries. Trustee Cooper requested that the familiar names be used for the signs rather than the historical names that Clerk Moreau listed. The majority of Board Members believed that most residents are not aware of either name, so the historical names should be used.

Regarding repairs to “old Fire Station 1” at 700 Broadway, Board Members discussed the short and long-term options for the facility. Property Manager Mike Forst, Director Richmond and Mike Losey described the plan to utilize the space for vehicle and equipment storage. Board Members discussed how long the facility could serve the needs of the entire Township. Mike Forst suggested that the building could be sufficient for 10-12 years for just Township and natural resources needs. Board Members indicated a preference to explore options for a combined facility that would include Parks & Recreation vehicles and equipment. Various locations were discussed including the Civic Center, Shiawassee Basin Preserve, Mill Pond Park, the gravel pit on Eaton Rd, and near the trail head on Eaton Rd.

Treasurer Dubre stated that some storage facility at the Civic Center is needed and it should be a garage; she does believe a car port is appropriate. Trustee Hopper stated that a car port could be constructed that would serve the needs and match the materials and architecture of the Civic Center.

It was determined that a committee of Mike Forst, Sarah Richmond, Mike Losey and Collin Walls would explore options for a new maintenance facility to serve the long-term



needs of the Township, natural resources and Parks & Rec. The committee will consider features, size and best location.

Another committee of Supervisor Walls and Trustee Hopper would look at options for vehicle storage at the Civic Center. The committee will consider design, size and location.

#### **6. Natural Resources & Stewardship**

Mike Losey explained that prairie restoration on the south of the Civic Center property is already planned for 2018. He also has already started a Stewardship Master Plan that Supervisor Walls requested.

#### **7. Resident Services & Accessibility**

Clerk Moreau explained that this might not be the best title for this category—the intent is to prioritize efforts that create a “user friendly” government. For example, Treasurer Dubre already spearheaded an effort to adopt a clear process and timeline for private road special assessment districts.

Supervisor Walls reported that he contacted Comcast regarding programs for seniors and low income adults, however that is only available to residents of the City of Detroit.

Board Members discussed improved PEG programming and providing cable access and televisions at Hart Community Center and the new fire stations.

Trustee Vallad and Supervisor Walls want to partner with the Park Commission on a senior services master plan.

#### **8. Public Works**

Supervisor Walls stated that the Rattalee Lake Rd. paving project west of Dixie to Sherwood is complete. Treasurer Dubre noted that residents have already commented on this when they're in to pay taxes.

Supervisor Walls explained that the mill and fill project for Davisburg Rd. required a minimum of 500 ft. sections to meet the standards of the new contractor. A second contractor recently agreed to complete our request, which was not known by the District

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**September 11, 2017**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Laura Moreau, Clerk

2 foreman. Supervisor Walls asked Board Members if they wish to use funds to continue work on Davisburg Rd. or utilize some tri-party and General Fund monies for a mill and fill project on Big Lake Rd. and paving Andersonville Rd. and its shoulders.

It was determined that the major concerns on Davisburg Rd. have been addressed and Big Lake and Andersonville should be the focus for the next budget year.

**9. Other items as unanimously agreed**

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Walls adjourned the meeting.

**Adjourned:** 9:03 p.m.

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Collin W. Walls, Supervisor

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Laura Moreau, Clerk