



Village of
Lake Isabella

Charter Commission
November 20, 2018
Meeting Minutes
1010 Clubhouse Drive
Lake Isabella, MI 48893

Before the start of the meeting, Village Clerk Grey administered the Oath of Office to Charter Commission member Torgerson.

M. Cross called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Secretary L. Cross called the roll.

Members Present: L. Cross, M. Cross, Preuss, and Torgerson

Members Absent: Ochander

Agenda Approval:

The meeting agenda was accepted as presented without objection or modification.

Approval of Minutes:

The members reviewed the minutes which submitted. Draft minutes were prepared by both Clerk Grey and Secretary L. Cross.

A motion was made by L. Cross, which was seconded by Preuss, to approve the draft minutes prepared by Clerk Grey. VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0.

Public Comment: None

Business:

The members discussed the status of *Article IV Elections* in the Village Charter. Village Manager Wolff discussed several issues that the Village has requested guidance on from the Bureau of Elections in light of our local Charter provisions and areas of state law where preemption may have occurred. Specifically, what powers are still granted to the Village under the Home Rule Village Act if a Village matter or race is the only item being voted upon at a Special Election.

Preuss and Torgerson both stated that they supported leaving Article IV as is. They stated it was best to have this in place in the event that the Village were to hold a Special Election where Village matters were the only item being contested. They stated that this hopefully could give the Village the ability to hold the election at the Village Hall rather than at both townships.

M. Cross asked if any other members had areas of the Village Charter that this wished to discuss.

Torgerson discussed whether there was still a need for the 10-year requirement for codification. Village Manager Wolff replied that Village ordinances are codified now as they are adopted. Grey discussed how all of the adopted ordinances are on the Village's website in a codified format.

Section 16.01 was discussed as to whether there is a need to hold a Charter Review Committee once every ten years and to present the question of Charter Revision, as required by Section 16.03, before the electorate once every ten years. Members stated that these time periods should be extended to perhaps 20 years intervals.

Section 10.02 was discussed regarding the 1 Mill "tax cap" on property taxes. Preuss stated his concerns over road maintenance and police protection in the future without additional revenue. He stated he would support a change to increase the limit from 1 Mill to 3 Mills, and the limited millage timeframe for an additional 1 Mill approved by electorate from 3 years to 5 years.

Torgerson asked what other communities levy for their millage rate. Wolff shared the rates for several other local smaller communities.

Wolff was asked his opinion on millage needs. He stated one or two mills for police and two to four mills for roads would be the two dedicated revenues he would target. The ability to levy a special assessment for public safety was discussed, and that in a worst case scenario that Village has the ability to levy an additional 1 Mill on top of the currently levied 1 Mill for Fire Protection if there was a pressing public safety need.

M. Cross spoke to the need for additional public input and support if a proposal is presented to amend the tax cap. She stated that if this group wants to propose that change, then the members should be willing to advocate for the change.

L. Cross discussed concerns about the limited ingress and egress on the west side of the lake due to the closure of Duquesa Road.

Torgerson spoke to increasing the tax cap and whether that would provide better services to the community. Grey stated that additional revenue would provide services such as police protection and help with road maintenance.

Wolff stated that the Village, through previous proposed Charter Amendments presented by the Village Council, have attempted three times in the past to amend this section of the Charter, and voters have rejected all three amendments. Wolff highlighted the three previous amendments and discussed the differences in each of those proposals.

Torgerson asked if it would be better to present a Millage proposal that was specific in how the revenue could be spent, such as roads and police. Or, if it would be better to leave open-ended. Grey stated that open-ended

would give greater flexibility, but would likely be hard to get passed than specific revenue for specific programs or services.

M. Cross asked Torgerson if there were any other areas he wished to discuss.

Section 10.02 was identified as the main area of focus for the members. The feeling of those present was that an amendment to this section should be considered to better secure and stabilize village finances in the long-term.

M. Cross again stated that if this is an item that they wish to present to the community for adoption, it would also be incumbent on the members to publicly support the proposal.

The members asked Wolff to make a recommendation on the on the number of mills to propose in order to support future Village funding needs entirely.

Preuss asked if it would be wise to inquire about what level the Village Council would like to see as the millage need. The timing of this was discussed as the Council's next meeting is not until December 4th.

M. Cross reminded everyone that the next meeting scheduled is planned for 5 PM on Thursday, November 29th.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Torgerson made a motion, seconded by Preuss, to adjourn at 6:10 pm.
VOICE VOTE: 4-0-0.

Jeffrey P. Grey
Village Clerk