

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP
ESTABLISHED 1849
ALLEGAN COUNTY

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 19, 2022 7PM

1. Call to Order.

Supervisor Ken DeWeerdts called the Special Meeting to order. Introduced the Board and explained the purpose of the Special Meeting. Bob Yonker opened with prayer.

2. History.

Supervisor DeWeerdts explained the history leading up to this point, 30 years ago, a request which was denied, 1999 an unfriendly annexation due to another request being denied. Early 2000, another request denied. 2011 LG Chem came to the area requesting to build on property partly in the Township and City of Holland. Township property went into the City in exchange for water to be extended south down Blue Star Hwy should it be requested.

2020, Fillmore Township had parcels requesting development and needing BPW services. Meetings and negotiations began between the Township and City, these negotiations were all private.

The current document was prepared by Ron Bultje of Dickinson Wright PLLC. This water agreement which was approved by Township Board of Trustees at the April 12, 2022 Board meeting mirrors other agreements that are had with Park Township, Laketown Township and Holland Township.

3. Purpose and Procedure.

Ron Bultje, lawyer for Fillmore Township explained the procedure for this meeting and also explained the 425 Act.

4. Public Hearing.

Ken DeWeerdts, Fillmore Township Supervisor opened the Public Hearing for the Urban Cooperation Agreement with Revenue Sharing between Fillmore Township and Holland City.

Supervisor DeWeerdts requested those wishing to speak, to step to the podium and sign in.

5. Public Comments.

a. Frances Bos aired concerns regarding increased traffic, growth, safety and growth in increase of school needs due to the L.G. Chem addition of 1200 employees. Her concerns are for the East Saugatuck area.

Supervisor DeWeerdts pointed out the 425 area.

b. Jim Sebright concerned with lack of transparency with the 425. He stated he's a property owner in the Township, pays taxes and this 425 will impact his property taxes.

c. Courtney Garber had a handout for the Board. She wishes privacy from the growth of L.G.Chem and the employees.

d. John Garber questioned how the Township can take the benefits of the 425 and the 3 properties impacted by this will receive nothing.

e. Judy Woods a resident of Hidden Creek wonders if there will be a monetary raise in water services should Hidden Creek move to water services from Holland City.

Supervisor DeWeerdts has no information regarding this.

f. Ken Long, Manager of Hidden Creek Community stated the option to hook up to City water is a possibility if it makes monetary sense for the Community.

g. Amber Sebright wonders if the 3 residents affected by this 425 can remain in the Township. The State Boundary Commission can't make an Island of properties. Ms. Sebright also has concerns for children, water, and sewer hookup.

Ron Bultje stated that these properties would be subject to City zoning for future development.

h. John Garber questioned who brought the property and their future plans. He feels that his property has been given away and they are being disrupted.

i. Keith Potter stated he understand the history of past annexations and how to stop future annexations. Mr. Potter feels this is a good thing for the Township.

j. Peter Folkert recently moved from the City to Fillmore Township. While living in the City he and neighbors spoke to City Council regarding a development and their concerns were heard.

k. Courtney Garber asked of the Township can make requests of the City for these 3 residences. Supervisor DeWeerdts stated that these 3 residences have been a primary concern during the 425 meetings. Requests were for property tax breaks, leaving them out of the 425 and be grandfathered in with Ordinances.

l. Rick Vos wondered what areas the City water would be in – Supervisor DeWeerdts explained those areas.

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m. Rod VanGelder had questions regarding the sewer, the Township is part of the BPW area, can sewer be extended anywhere in the Township.

6. Close Public Hearing.

A Motion was brought by Chuck Schaap and 2nd by Leah Folkert to close the Public Hearing at 8pm.

PASSED 5-0. A roll call vote – Ken DeWeerdts – YES, Chuck Schaap – YES, Elaine Mokma – YES,
Leah Folkert – YES, Bob Yonker – YES

PASSED by Roll Call Vote 5-0.

7. Township Board Input.

Chuck Schaap Fillmore Township Trustee thanked everyone for coming and sharing their concerns. The Board of Trustees wants the best for the Township now and in the future, the 425 would have a long-term benefit. Ron Bultje stated that the 30-day waiting period would now begin.

8. Adjournment.

There being no other questions, comments brought to the Board regarding the 425;

A Motion was brought by Ken DeWeerdts and 2nd by Chuck Schaap to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm.

PASSED 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mokma, Clerk
Fillmore Township