

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Anita Beavers.

Board members present were Mike Morofsky, Mary Bechtol, Evie Bush, Kathy Miles and David Tkacz. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Anita introduced representatives from MDOT that came to answer questions regarding the spraying of chemicals along MLK. Carol Wood requested they come to allay concerns about this program. It has been in use for several years but this is the first time in our area that it has been used in residential areas. Manager Steve Bower, central maintenance for Lansing Scott Wheeler and maintenance Rick Tyre informed us about the use and effects of the chemicals. Spraying is being done as a cost-cutting measure due to budget constraints. They anticipate a 40% savings with this program combined with cutting only 4 times this season (there are 2 mows left); along highways there will be only 1 cutting. There will be only 1 spraying done this season. We were reassured that once the chemicals were dry they present no danger to people or animals.

Carol Wood asked if future projects would involve citizen input so that maintenance issues are considered in the initial cost projections. Mr. Bower said that is already being implemented. It is possible that in the future e-mails may be sent to Neighborhood web-sites and City Council to help disseminate information in advance.

A'Lynne said that business owners were not kept informed either.

Dr. Graesser mentioned that people are always told to 'contact your doctor' but that he has no information to give patients and that there is now only 1 Poison Control Center in Michigan.

In the future questions can be addressed to Steve Bower at 324-2260; e-mail bowers@michigan.gov. Or to resource specialist Bob Batt at 517-750-0410.

Police Report

Jason Boch passed out crime maps. Current problems are unlicensed door-to-door peddling, vandalism at Elmhurst school and an attempted break-in on Rundle. He spoke about the new computers in squad cars that allow officers to dictate reports in the car which is a great time saver for them. There was a discussion about the large number of complaints of illegal fireworks in the weeks around the 4th of July. Jason said that officers were overwhelmed and that this year seemed much worse than in the past. Carol Wood, A'Lynne Robinson and Brian Jeffries all spoke about things the City Council are working on with Captain Hall of LPD to clarify the code and get that information out to the public in newsletters and online. Carol mentioned that if a citizen witness illegal acts and is willing to sign a complaint a process can move forward against that person without an officer witnessing it. That is a change from the past. Carol further stated that there are members of the City Council who do not feel that illegal fireworks are a problem and that if you disagree you should make your voice heard. Congratulations were also given to Jason on his upcoming wedding in October.

Joan Bauer spoke about her positions as chair of higher education, vice-chair of community colleges and her position on Economic Development. She brought up the 26% decrease in revenue and that the budget must be approved by September 3rd. Possible cuts would be to Community Health, Human Services, Corrections and School Aid. There is a possibility of cuts to the Promise program and a proposal to have MSU take over running of the Michigan Historical Museum and the State Library. This would require 1 million dollars on the part of Lansing. Under consideration a 1% raise in the sales tax and a possible graduated income tax.

Ms. Bauer feels that it is wrong for legislators to receive health benefits for life and that their benefits should end when their term ends. She is also forfeiting 6 days pay in accord with the sacrifices that state workers are being required to do. She wanted us to know that she reads all her e-mails and that her next breakfast meeting will be at Mama Bears in Old Town on August 4th.