

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF AUGUST 7, 2017**

Mayor Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. The following members of City Council were present via the conference phone line: Councilmembers Richard Ford, Jim Pearson and Patricia M. Randall. Councilmembers Claudette Reid and Terry Urban were absent with notice and excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk James Hudson.

Under Item F.4, Delta Dental Plan of Michigan Insurance, Councilmember Ford asked why there was a 2.9% decrease in the premiums with no change in coverage, and Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis responded that the determination of the cost of the premium is *experience* rated, that it was hard to understand, and pointed out that the employees are going to the Dentist twice a year which reduces exposure. Under Item F.5, Other Post Employment Benefits (OPED) Trust Fund and Administration – Contract Renewal, Councilmember Ford asked why there was a reduction in the annual service fees, and City Manager Larry Shaffer responded that the fees have been sliding down for a couple of years now based upon expenses, administrative costs and the improvement in investments. Deputy City Manager Boulis pointed out that OPED is part of the Michigan Employees' Retirement System (MERS) and has a system wide basis, while Delta Dental Plan of Michigan Insurance has a basis of City of Portage employees only.

Mayor Strazdas asked if the three bid tabulations on the Agenda wraps up all of the road construction, and City Manager Shaffer responded in the affirmative along with some additional Act 51 funds and some additional work on Centre Avenue. Mayor Strazdas indicated he was getting a lot of calls regarding the Oakland Drive Bridge, and Mr. Shaffer pointed out that the Bridge is a State project and all calls should go to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

When Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari asked when the Angling Road project would end, Mr. Shaffer indicated it should be completed by the end of September. As further explanation of the amount of time necessary, he made reference to the extra time spent on the public relations aspect of the project when it was initiated, and he mentioned that the sewer line was 30 feet deep which wreaked some havoc owing to the dewatering requirement.

ADJOURN: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

James Hudson, City Clerk