

EUREKA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024
Approved

Supervisor Kristen Lower, at the Eureka Township Hall, 9322 SW Greenville Road, Greenville, MI, called the Regular Meeting of the Eureka Charter Township Board to order on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 7:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, it was stated that there was a quorum with the following Board Members present: Supervisor Kristen Lower and Clerk Linda Ruwersma; and Trustees Dennis Magirl and Shayne Becher. Treasurer Cindy Hanson, and Trustees Jeremy Austin and Tim Johnson were absent. These minutes will not be approved until the May 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Approximately twenty-five others were in attendance including Deputy Nicholas Campbell, Library Board Member Holly Schmeltzer, BOR Member Rod Roy, and Planning Commission Member Linda Weger.

Nothing was said during the First Public Comment.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the March 11, 2024 Board Minutes as written. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was not available.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the payment of the direct deposits and the bills paid in April in the amount of \$45,613.44 covering e-bills 1634-1640 and checks numbering 2830-2851. Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The reports available were from the Planning Commission and Road Commission, the Transit showing 195 runs, and the Fire report showing 2 incidents.

The March sheriff report showed a total of 4,117 patrol miles, with 214.5 patrol hours, 61 traffic stops, 6 traffic citations, 326 property inspections, and 5 arrests. Deputy Campbell gave a brief report.

Trustee Becher gave a brief Planning Commission report stating that the review of the Master Plan must begin in 2024 for the amendments to be made in 2025, and Zoning Official Kelley was absent.

Supervisor Lower reported that she is attempting to arrange cooperation with Otisco Township, Ionia County Road Commission, and High Grade to complete stages two and three together of the South West County Line Road project in 2025, and pave the first section this year as planned in 2024.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Magirl to contract with the Montcalm County Road Commission in 2024 for the following four road projects:

1. Sealcoat with fog seal on Harlow Road from West County Line Road to Youngman Road (1.62 Miles) for \$39,428.00

2. Sealcoat with fog seal on Satterlee Road and Baldwin Lake Road from (M-57) Carson City Road to Baldwin Lake (1.75 miles) for \$35,812.00
3. Sealcoat with fog seal on Baker Road from Johnson Road west to end (0.56 miles) for \$13,194.00
4. Place asphalt mat on South County Line Road from (M-91) Greenville Road to River Road (0.74 miles) for \$147,517.00

For a total of \$235,951.00

Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to transfer \$180,000.00 from the 2024 General Fund into Roads Fund 446-948. Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower addressed a letter to be sent to those on Burgess Lake Drive, letting them know the Township is reaching out to help the owners establish a homeowner's association (HOA) and inviting them to attend the May 13, 2024 Board Meeting at 7:00 pm to discuss this initiative.

Because only one quote came in from Westmaas Electric Company for \$11,309.00 to install lighting at the pickleball courts, Supervisor Lower decided to wait until next month to discuss the lighting for the courts.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Quote from Williams & Works for \$7,500.00 plus with a required DNR Engagement Option, not to exceed a total of \$10,000.00. Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower gave a few Township updates as follows: the free little library is up and running, fresh mulch has been spread on the playground, the light above the trail has been fixed, and spring clean-up has been done at the cemetery. She also stated there will be Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 18 at the Montcalm County Fairgrounds, and Tire and Electronics Recycling will be held at the Central Sanitary Landfill on May 4, 2024.

Six applications came in for two open seats on the Planning Commission from the following residents: Evelyn Mosier, Duane Putnam, Stacey Roberts, Holly Schmeltzer, Chris Town, and Mark Wilken. Four applicants were given an opportunity to introduce themselves. Evelyn Mosier and Stacey Roberts were not in attendance.

Clerk Ruwersma moved, with a second by Trustee Magirl to appoint Chris Town to the Planning Commission to finish up the term for Marty Posekany which ends on December 31, 2025. Motion carried.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Magirl to appoint Holly Schmeltzer to the Planning Commission to finish up the term for Mary Sharp which ends on December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the following to be placed on the August 6 Primary Ballot:

This proposition will allow Eureka Charter Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, to continue to levy the previous voted increase on general ad valorem taxes of 0.75 mill, to provide funds for Fire Protection Services in Eureka Charter Township.

Shall the expired previous voted increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Eureka Charter Township renew, at the previous voted increase, up to three-quarter (.75) mill, (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value; example - a property with a taxable value of \$50,000 would be taxed \$37.50 annually for the millage), thereby levying a full three-quarter (.75) mill, for the years 2024 through 2029, inclusive, to provide fire protection services in Eureka Charter Township, which will collect in the first year an estimated total of \$135,015.00?

Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Clerk Ruwersma to approve to be placed on the August 6 Primary Ballot:

This proposition will allow Eureka Charter Township, Montcalm County, Michigan, to continue to levy the previous voted increase on general ad valorem taxes of 0.5 mill, to provide funds for road maintenance, repair, and construction in Eureka Charter Township.

Shall the expired previous voted increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Eureka Charter Township, renew, up to one-half (1/2) mill, (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value; example - a property with the taxable value of \$50,000 would be taxed \$25.00), thereby levying up to one-half (1/2) mill, for the years 2024 through 2029, inclusive, for road maintenance, repair, and construction in Eureka Charter Township, which will collect in the first year an estimated total of \$90,010.00?

Ayes: 4, Ruwersma, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower explained the Pitsch Sanitary Landfill voucher system with the Board. After a lengthy discussion, Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Magirl to approve a voucher system with Pitsch Sanitary Landfill and not have the Township Cleanup Day in the future. Ayes: 3, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 1, Ruwersma. Motion carried.

The next Montcalm Townships Association Meeting/Dinner hosted by Pine and Douglass Townships is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

During the Second Audience Comments, several residents asked questions about the South County Line Road project. Supervisor Lower adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:03 pm.

Linda J. Ruwersma, CMC
Eureka Charter Township Clerk
April 9, 2024