

EUREKA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 13, 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, May 13, 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, Clerk Linda Ruwersma, Treasurer Cindy Hanson, and Trustees Shayne Becher, Dennis Magirl, and Tim Johnson. Trustee Jeremy Austin was absent. These minutes will not be approved until the June 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Approximately twenty-three others were in attendance including Planning Commission Member Holly Schmeltzer, Assessor Megan VanHoose; Zoning Board of Review Members Lee Beard and Rod Roy; and Zoning Official Darcia Kelley.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the April 8, 2024 Board Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson moved, with a second by Trustee Magirl to approve the Treasurer's reports showing a balance of \$1,278,266.71 as of 3-31-24; and \$1,304,119.39 as of April 30, 2024. Motion carried.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Johnson to approve the payment of the bills paid in April in the amount of \$41,719.64 covering direct deposit payroll, e-bills 1641-1649, and checks numbering 2852-2883. Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The reports available were from the Planning Commission, Zoning, Sheriff, and the Transit showing 214 runs. No fire report was available.

The April sheriff report showed a total of 4,562 patrol miles, with 330.5 patrol hours, 56 traffic stops, 6 traffic citations, 315 property inspections, and 2 arrests.

Trustee Becher gave a brief Planning Commission report stating they are reviewing the Master Plan and there will be a Public Hearing at the next Planning Commission Meeting. He also stated that Holly Schmeltzer was selected as vice-chair at the last meeting.

Zoning Official Kelley gave a brief zoning report stating there will be a special use permit public hearing at the next Planning Commission Meeting.

At approximately 7:08 pm Supervisor Lower opened the discussion concerning the Sample Road Maintenance Agreement for Burgess Lake developed by Township attorney James Scales from Mika Meyers. Several persons were in attendance for this topic. There were several questions, one being what the road is expected to look like after it is worked

on, and will an emergency vehicle be able to travel down the road from Avalon to Palmer.

After a twenty-minute discussion, several agreed they did not want an HOA or a Special Assessment. They did agree to have a road maintenance agreement, to meet at the hall, and maybe have the township lawyer present to help create a maintenance agreement.

Supervisor Lower gave an update on the Voucher System for Pitsch Sanitary Landfill rather than having the Spring Cleanup Day. To date, there have been fifty vouchers issued.

Tim Rozell from Security Benefit Advisors was present to hand out literature for any township employees who would like to participate in the 457 Government employee program.

Assessor Megan VanHoose was present to give her yearly update with a slide presentation and to answer any questions from the Board.

Library Board member Holly Schmeltzer gave a brief Flat River Library update stating they are currently working on the 2024-25 Budget. She also stated the library put in a bid for Black Field and are waiting to hear back from the Greenville School Board.

Treasurer Hanson gave a brief audit update stating Berthiaume & Company has successfully completed the audit for 2023. The Board will discuss the results at the June meeting.

Clerk Ruwersma moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the following Fire Millage Resolution #2024-001 to be placed on the August 6 Primary Ballot instead of the fire millage language that was approved last month:

PROPOSAL NO. 1
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION
FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES MILLAGE

Shall the Charter Township of Eureka, Montcalm County, Michigan, renew the increase in the constitutional limitation on the total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property for all purposes in the Township by 0.7253 mill (\$0.7253 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation), and levy an additional 0.0247 (\$0.0247 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) to restore previous millage reductions under the “Headlee Amendment” since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of 0.75 mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of six (6) years (2024 through 2029, inclusive) for the purpose of funding fire protection services within the Township? This is a renewal of the 0.75 mill for fire protection services for six (6) years which expires in 2024; if approved, it is estimated that the revenue generated by this millage in the first year would be \$134,716.78, of which \$4,436.67 would result from the

additional 0.0247 mill. Funds derived from this millage will be disbursed to the Charter Township of Eureka.

Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Becher, Hanson, Johnson, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Clerk Ruwersma moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the following Road Millage Resolution #2024-002 to be placed on the August 6 Primary Ballot instead of the road millage language that was approved last month:

PROPOSAL NO. 2
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION
ROAD MILLAGE

Shall the Charter Township of Eureka, Montcalm County, Michigan, renew the increase in the constitutional limitation on the total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property for all purposes in the Township by 0.4836 mill (\$0.4836 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation), and levy an additional 0.0164 (\$0.0164 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) to restore previous millage reductions under the “Headlee Amendment” since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of 0.50 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of six (6) years (2024 through 2029, inclusive) for the road maintenance purposes, including but not limited to construction and repair of roads, within the Township? This is a renewal of the 0.50 mill for road maintenance purposes for six (6) years which expires in 2024; if approved, it is estimated that the revenue generated by this millage in the first year would be \$89,811.19, of which \$2,945.81 would result from the additional 0.0164 mill. Funds derived from this millage will be disbursed to the Charter Township of Eureka.

Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Becher, Hanson, Johnson, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Clerk Ruwersma moved, with a second by Trustee Johnson to approve to have KCI print and mail the 2024 summer tax bills and newsletter for an estimated cost of \$2,206.16.

Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Quotes for pickleball lighting came in from the following: Bazen Electric Company for \$34,822.00; G & D Electric, Inc. for \$18,285.00; Westmaas for \$11,309.00; and JZ Electric with three options \$14,220.00, \$12,780.00, and 8,8080.00. The prices varied on the placement of the lights and poles.

Trustee Johnson moved, with a second by Treasure Hanson to approve JZ Electric for the pickleball lighting for Option #2 for \$12,780.00. Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Magirl moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to accept the resignation letter from Lee Gilman from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. His term ends December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson then moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to post the vacant ZBA position in the *Daily News*, and appoint this position next month. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about a possible hourly rate paid to the sexton for fixing grave markers, etc. in the cemetery. Supervisor Lower will check with other townships and report back next month.

Treasurer Hanson moved, with a second by Trustee Johnson to approve updating the website with Shumaker Technology Group, who currently hosts our website, for a one-time setup and design cost of \$1,495.00, plus the \$350.00 yearly support, and a one-time \$300.00 aerial drone photography and videography fee, for a total of \$2,145.00. Ayes: 6, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Becher, Magirl, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower reported that the stabilizer bar links have recently been repaired on the brush truck owned by the Township. The truck has also been inspected and seems mechanically sound.

Lower also reported that the Greenville Triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am, and stated that some roads in Eureka Charter Township will be impacted by the race.

The next Montcalm Township Meeting/Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 6:00 pm, and will be hosted by Crystal and Bloomer Townships.

During the Second Public Comment, four persons talked for approximately five minutes.

Supervisor Lower adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:32 pm.

Linda J. Ruwersma, CMC
Eureka Charter Township Clerk

Kristen Lower
Eureka Charter Township Supervisor