

EUREKA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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, November 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk Ruwersma stated that the following Board Members were present: Supervisor Kristen Lower, Treasurer Cindy Hanson, and Clerk Linda Ruwersma; and Trustees Jeremy Austin, Shayne Becher, Joseph Rykse, and Tim Johnson. These minutes will not be approved until the December 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Approximately nine others were in attendance including Zoning Official Darcia Kelley, Zoning Board of Appeals Member Paul Ruwersma, Board of Review Members Evelyn Mosier and Rod Roy; and Planning Commission Members Holly Schmeltzer and Linda Weger.

Nothing was said during the first Public Comment.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Austin to approve the October 14, 2024 Board Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$786,762.98 as of October 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Austin to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$48,093.97 covering e-bills 1690-1698 and checks numbering 3065-3014. Ayes: 7, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Rykse, Austin, Becher, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The reports available were from the Planning Commission, Sheriff, and Zoning, with the Transit showing 196 runs, and the Fire report showing 7 incidents.

The October Sheriff report showed a total of 378.5 patrol hours, 102 traffic stops, 14 traffic citations, 188 property inspections, and 3 arrests.

Trustee Becher gave a brief Planning Commission report stating it was a quiet month, and no new business was discussed.

Zoning Official Darcia Kelley gave a brief report stating she gave out one demolition permit and has been dealing with officials from MDOT regarding a service drive at Frugthaven Farms. She also brought up a blight issue on Johnson Road. She will be sending a letter out to let them know we are serious and about the situation, and tickets will be issued if necessary.

Supervisor Lower announced that Paul Ruwersma was voted in as a write-in candidate for Township Trustee and will take the position on November 20, 2024, at noon, at which time he will resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher, to accept the resignation of Paul Ruwersma from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective November 20, 2024. Motion carried.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Treasurer Hanson, to re-appoint Randy Klepper to the Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Johnson to re-appoint Holly Schmeltzer to the Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027. The Board approved the appointment. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Treasurer Hanson, to re-appoint Shayne Becher as the Board liaison to the Planning Commission for his term ending November 20, 2028. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher, to re-appoint Linda Weger to the Board of Review for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson moved, with a second by Trustee Austin, to re-appoint Evelyn Mosier to the Board of Review for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher, to re-appoint Rod Roy to the Board of Review for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Austin, to appoint Joe Rykse as an alternate to the Board of Review for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried. (Rykse recused himself from this vote.)

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Clerk Ruwersma, to appoint Evan Hansen to the Zoning Board of Appeals beginning November 20, 2024, and continuing for a three-year term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to accept the proposed 2025 Fee Schedule to include a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit on a land split and lower the present fee from \$170.00 to 125.00 with the deposit going towards the final cost. Ayes: 7, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Rykse, Austin, Becher, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower gave a brief Parks and Recreation Master Plan report.

The Annual Eureka Township Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024, with dinner at 6:00 pm, at the Eureka Charter Township Hall. All elected and appointed members from the Township and their guests are invited.

Supervisor Lower stated that the picnic tables were installed and the paint on the pickle ball courts will be touched up in the spring.

Trustee Becher moved, with a second by Trustee Johnson to approve the snow removal rates with North Shade for \$95.00 per plowing and shoveling; and \$80 for salting parking lot and sidewalks for the 2024-25 winter season. Ayes: 7, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Rykse, Austin, Becher, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the proposed 2025 insurance plan from EMC Insurance Hartleb Agency with \$1,169,758.00 total coverage for \$10,507.00. Ayes: 7, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Rykse, Austin, Becher, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lower stated that she will be meeting with the Montcalm County Road Commission in the near future and asked for any suggestions for the 2025 year.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Becher to approve the purchase and installation of a used lightbar from the City of Greenville for the Township brush truck for \$550.00, up to \$800.00 if any extra expenses incur. Ayes: 7, Ruwersma, Hanson, Johnson, Rykse, Austin, Becher, and Lower. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Lower reported that the Greater Greenville Transportation Committee met on October 30, 2024. She stated that the prospective light at M57 and Youngman Road is off the table with MDOT.

Large trucks have recently been rerouted by GPS down Satterlee Road to Baldwin Lake. Their size and weight have caused issues for the drivers to maneuver around the lake. A sign has been erected on Satterlee Road north of Barber Road to warn truck drivers that the road is inadvisable for larger trucks.

There was some discussion of headstone cleaning at Eureka Township Cemetery. Supervisor Lower stated that she will be getting a quote from Grave Tech LLC from Crystal for the cleaning of the headstones.

The next Montcalm Townships Association Meeting/Dinner hosted by Montcalm and Fairplain Townships will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The Montcalm County Road Commission has agreed to pay for the meals of each elected township official attending the dinner.

There was some discussion of a name and sign for the trail. Supervisor Lower will get a quote for the cost of a sign and this will be discussed again next month.

The 2025 Budget was distributed by the Clerk, along with the Profit and Loss sheets.

During Board Comments a discussion of having a Pavement End sign on West South County Line Road. Supervisor Lower will check into this.

After the Audience and Board Member Comments, Supervisor Lower adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:57 pm.

Linda J. Ruwersma, CMC
Eureka Charter Township Clerk

Kristen Lower
Eureka Charter Township Supervisor