

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

VIRTUAL MEETING

**BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP OFFICES, 14212 NORTHLAND DR.
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
UNAPPROVED**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL: Stanek, Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Merendino, present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

SPECIAL APPEARANCE:

CONSENT AGENDA

1. January 5, Meeting Minutes:
2. January Financial Report:
3. Treasure's report-December:
2. Building Department Report:
3. Cemetery and Grounds Report:
4. Fire Department Report:
5. Planning Commission January Minutes:
6. 2020 Planning Commission Report:
7. Sewer Depart Report:
6. Water Department Report:
7. Supervisor's Report:

A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Bean. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Hemlock Park discussion continued: Will work with city to discuss possibility of exit point ADA kayak launch, will discuss contribution afterwards. Moral Support given by all.
2. Tax Tribunal update: A motion was made by Currie to allow up to \$15,000 to be spend for tax appraisals. Seconded by Bean. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
3. Junk problem on Woodward Ave: Noted.
4. Other:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution No 2021-01 Wage Correction: A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Wage Correction. Seconded by Geib. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. Resolution No 2021-02 Protest in Writing: A motion was made by Everett to approve of the Writing Protest allowance. Seconded by Geib. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
3. Resolution No 2021-03 Poverty Exemption Carry Forward: A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Poverty exemption. Seconded by Saez. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. Resolution No 2021-04 Poverty Guidelines: A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Poverty Guidelines set. Seconded by Bean. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
5. 2021 Budget adjustment: A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Budget adjustment from Metro Funds. Seconded by Bean. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Other:

Financial

1. Payroll: A motion was made by Currie to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$20,612.74. Seconded by Bean. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Currie to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of \$55,494.05. Seconded by Geib. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jim Sandy on completing 3rd round of grants for small businesses impacted by COVID.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:05pm.

Big Rapids Charter Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed material, if individuals with disabilities, upon five business days notice to the township. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Hannah Saez, Big Rapids Charter Township Clerk, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, Mi 49307- call 231 796 3603 or fax request to 231 796 2533.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6883493462?pwd=enNjTjVjQU8rK3lXa3BQRTRKNWxrZz09>

Meeting ID: 688 349 3462 Passcode aBH61Q

**BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-1
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2021 WAGES - CORRECTION**

WHEREAS, the proposed 2021 Wages by and between Charter Township of Big Rapids (the “Township”) have been submitted to the Township Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 2021 Wages
2. The Township Supervisor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the 2021 Wages and to deliver the same on behalf of the Township with such immaterial additions and deletions to the 2021 Wages.
3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be in the same are hereby rescinded.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Currie and supported by Geib.

Ayes: Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Merendino, Stanek.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Planning Commission/ZBA/BBA \$50.00 per meeting

Hannah Saez, Clerk

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Board meeting on February 2, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 3rd day of February, 2021.

Hannah Saez, Clerk
Big Rapids Township

**Big Rapids Township
Resolution No 2021-02**

Resolution to Allow Local Residents to Protest in Writing to Board of Review

WHEREAS, MCL 211.30 (8) of the General Property Tax Act allows for the board of review to accept protest in writing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that in order to ease the burden on the taxpayers of Big Rapids Charter Township and ensure that all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the board of review the township now resolves, that the board of review shall receive letters of protest regarding assessments from resident taxpayers from the first day of March until it adjourns from the public hearings for which it meets to hear such protests.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that notices of assessment change and all advertisements of board of review meetings are to include a statement that the resident taxpayers may protest by letter to the board of review.

The foregoing resolution offered by Everett and supported by Geib.

Ayes: Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Merendino, Stanek.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Hannah Saez, Clerk

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Board meeting on February 2, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 3rd day of February, 2021.

Hannah Saez, Clerk
Big Rapids Township

Big Rapids Township
Resolution No 2021-03
Resolution to Allow Poverty Exemptions to Carry Forward

In order to ease the burden on taxpayers that have been granted a poverty exemption in Big Rapids Charter Township, the Township Board hereby:

Resolves that an exemption granted in 2019 or 2020 may carry forward to the years of 2021, 2022, 2023 for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from, public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases (Federal Supplemental Security Income, Social Security disability or retirement benefits).

And also, that any new exemptions in 2021, 2022, or 2023 to remain exempt for up to three years for persons who receive only a fixed income from public assistance.

The above is allowed by Public Act 253 of 2020.

The foregoing resolution offered by Currie and supported by Saez.

Ayes: Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Merendino, Stanek.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Hannah Saez, Clerk

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Board meeting on February 2, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 3rd day of February, 2021.

Hannah Saez, Clerk
Big Rapids Township

**Big Rapids Township
Resolution No 2021-04
Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test**

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County, adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) Have less than the maximum combined assets of \$20,000 for one or two people or \$30,000 for three or more persons residing in the household. The value of the principal residence including up to five acres, one vehicle, and monies received pursuant to MCL206.520 (homestead property tax credit) are excluded. Assets include, but are not limited to, other real estate, personal property, recreational vehicles, checking/savings accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Currie and supported by Bean.

Ayes: Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Merendino, Stanek.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Hannah Saez, Clerk

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Board meeting on February 2, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

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Hannah Saez, Clerk
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