

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022  
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP OFFICES, 14212 NORTHLAND DR.  
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
7:00 PM  
APPROVED**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. The purpose of this Special Meeting is to meet with the Residents of Big Rapids Township regarding their comments, questions and concerns regarding the Sale of the Industrial Park to Gotion.**

**A motion was made by Currie "I motion to ask the board to agree to the purpose of this special meeting. Questions, comments, and concerns. The Township board would like to take this opportunity to compile questions, comments and concerns. By first allowing Big Rapids Township Residents the opportunity to freely voice their questions, comments and concerns to the Township Board, regarding anything associated with Project Elephant. Including the sale of Township property. In the near future, the Township board will be asked to consider selling 115.33 acres of the Industrial Park and Water Plant to Gotion. Please state your name and whether or not you are a BRT resident. Limit your questions, comments and concerns to 3 minutes.**

**All questions comments and concerns will be noted by the Township Board. We understand that the majority of the questions, comments and concerns will be regarding waste water, air quality, roads, housing and impact on local businesses. I do not believe we have solid answers to these questions yet. However, we will make every attempt to get you the answers and therefore additional meetings will be scheduled.**

**Second, to allow all others the same opportunity to freely voice their questions, comments and concerns. At this time the Board would like to ask the Chairperson to conduct the meeting in this fashion.**

**Supported by Everett, motion passed unanimously.**

- **Eric Everett – Strategic development, expansion, resources, environmental impact? Time between now and Whenever that may be addressed/ voted on?**
- **Does it bother us that it's a Chinese company?**
- **Lenny Scheibil – Water impact, lifeline of battery? How exposed of, recycled etc. Need to concern ourselves with downfall of battery**
- **Seth Madison – Materials used?**
- **Cate Arroe – runs animal shelter, very concerned about environmental impact/water/disposal/wildlife**
- **Joe Bechaz – Transparency – why lack of w/ taxpayers funds involved and going forward will we be more transparent**
- **Patti Downey – Requests board to use common sense and not make bad decisions even though the area is desperate for jobs and to remember Hayworth; not desperate to make bad decisions**
- **Ormand Hook – Energy usage/Government shutting down electrical use, concerns of the company to come and take off. Concerned about communist Chinese owned company**
- **Sean Downey – Board not knowing anything**
- **Pat Currie – Living in fear – not knowing answers, Deans food reference**
- **Jeff Jenenon – Environmental side, urges the board to consider outside 3<sup>rd</sup> party source and pass along the cost to Gotion. Noted footprint rendering substantial in comparison to California location of storage for Gotion.**
- **Kevin Tucci – Why don't we have answers**
- **Jean Cousineau – Chinese company not good for Big Rapids**
- **Tracy J? Another battery plant, track record, research and development, noise/light pollution**
- **Smalley – wanted to know Board's questions**
- **General consensus of voting no until answers are given**
- **John Holsworth – May flood reference and the water plant – we should not sell that, robots manufacturing and less actual jobs**
- **Michelle Graham – only voted on Ren zone so far**
- **Rod Madison – China #1 threat**
- **Mary Lou Kuehn – Prepared for the growth of area?**
- **Joe McNally – liaison supports clarity and wants answers**
- **½ Chinese Tu Phan (Canadian Lakes) – Concerns about communist China buying land, why not lease? Will we demand insurance policy?**
- **Dealing with economic development corporation, "When they fail what happens? Does the land come back?"**

- The community seems way too eager with regards to negotiating – FBI director recently out of Coma, Investigating Chinese Police Stations
- Joe Bechaz – Any more costs? Will we be reimbursed for the money we spend towards building/development/planning process? What 50 million will cover – legal fees/permits/costs etc.
- Bruce Baker – Public vote bad idea – bus metaphor
- Paul Bullock - Paid attention when Chuck Thelen spoke – we won't know answers until blueprints done
- Rod Magnuson – Why are there meetings that elected officials are not allowed to attend?
- Carleen Rose – How often do we talk to them, why not utilize them
- MCDC Reps – they should be telling us
- Food availability, electricity availability – cannot afford electric cars
- Tom Kunse – Clare State Rep soon – once deal in place, no authority with EGLE/DEQ etc.
- LaDeanna Smalley – so far from auto industry, how much transporting? Wear/tear on roads
- Randy Thelen The Right Place – On questions/no answers – Stated company did 3<sup>rd</sup> party study and Gotion is Chinese owned, but not Chinese Government owned. State of MI approved them for Grant with long study involving FBI and deemed them “safe”. Water – no final numbers, no “issues” found. Contamination? Financially the Right place gains “nothing”, requests reimbursement for legal/engineering costs through grant. Currie asks what happens to interest from grant, Randy stated he believes they cannot gain interest on grant money.
- FSU President Pink – Spoke on his belief in company – believes Chuck wouldn't want something bad here because he lives here, serves on MCDC Board, came to Ferris 4 months ago when everything became discussion of topic for MCDC
- Tu Phan – why not lease land, majority of companies owned by Japan do in Ohio
- Restrict stock of Chinese
- Set performance Milestones

In attendance: Eric Everett, Lenny Schebil, Carleen Rose, Amanda Starkey, Mary Lou & John Kuehn, Scott LaCourse, Bruce Baker, Michele Graham, Kelly Wawsczyk, Cate Arroe, Rod Magnuson, Joe & Mary Bechaz, Susan Bean, LaDeanna Smalley, Ormond Hook, Tom Kunse, Pat Currie, Jeff Jenenon, Dave Hamelund, Jeremy Mishler, Tu Phan, Debbie Dygert, Patti & Shawn Downey, Randy Thelen, Jean Cousineau, Tom Rundquist, John Holdsworth, Kevin Tucci, Craig Clark, Joe McNally.

**ADJOURNMENT:8:45 pm.**

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.

## **Unanswered Questions Remain:**

1. What impact on labor force for current local manufacturers?
2. What are Gotion's plans to indemnify Green Charter Township, Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County and The State of Michigan in the event of a major environmental issue?
3. What are the milestones that must be met regarding the project?
4. Why is Gotion so hesitant to disclose its affiliation with the Chinese, specifically the VW China ownership structure?
5. Is Mr. Zhen Li or any other sitting Board member currently a member of the CCP?
6. What is the expected water usage demand – we can be given parameters within percentages.
7. What is the strategic development plan?
8. When will the timeline be made public?
9. Why would we sell our farm land to China?
10. Scope of Operations waste?
11. What happens to water once it's used to “cool” the lithium, how can it be guaranteed not to contaminate water supply?
12. Life expectancy of lithium batteries? How are they disposed of?
13. Why are there still no answers/transparency?

14. How will we know that the water plant is to be protected – concern of it being distributed to our schools, nursing homes, etc.
15. What is the plan for the actual waste water? For the City as well.
16. How much of the factory will be controlled by Chinese/and or eventually robots?
17. How is this going to affect our schools, hospitals, etcetera? What are the plans in place? Will Gotion help support such local factors?
18. Can the Governor override the Township's decisions?
19. What does the 50 million grant The Right Place will be put in charge of cover? Will they receive interest?
20. Why not lease the land?
21. Why are elected officials not being included on the weekly updates?
22. How will this effect our cost of food and electricity because of the demand increase in area?
23. Does anyone know of any more costs to tax payers coming in the future?
24. Has there been any discussion of involving American Companies to be involved in this project? FBI, CIA Etc.
25. What is the plan of prevention for a major disaster/fire? How will they train our local Fire Departments?
26. Will the storage facility foster 100% capacity or will it be produced and shipped within a certain timespan?
27. What is the potential size of a fire of a storage facility of this size?
28. What has Gotion done to support local community programs?
29. What is the solution for light and sound pollution?
30. How will the airport be affected?
31. How many hours/days a week will the factory operate?