

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 2022
MECOSTA COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING
14485 Northland Drive – NORTH ENTRANCE DOOR 3
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.

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to meet with the Residents of Big Rapids Township and general public regarding their comments, questions and concerns regarding the Sale of the Industrial Park to Gotion. The board plans to address questions from the prior meeting, if any additional answers are given and updated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Brief statement from Supervisor Stanek** – Thank you for attending, responses, etc.
- 2. Presentation of Slides, summary of questions from 11/21/22 Meeting** – All information listed on BRT website -Saez
- 3. Bill Pink - FSU Presentation – Local/responsive/relevant.** Providing what's needed, acknowledging opportunities, creating training, skills, help with the State of MI, Mecosta County. "Shame on us" if not considering opportunity. Appreciates more conversation, content that Ferris doesn't have, needs to state (College of Engineering). States with electric batteries/cars emerging we ought to be doing this work, FSU known for responsiveness in the industry. If we have the space/bandwidth to join into the community, people with experience and FSU can help partner, they will. Knows nothing about a standing offer with Gotion and FSU. This is our community, good to communicate, good dialogue, hard questions, treat each other that way.
- 4. Review of Gotion High-tech Co History** – Bean presents information on History, Pros/Cons/Incentives (all on website presentation)
- 5. Review of Incentives, Pros/Cons-** Bean also gives ESG (environmental, social, governance) rating insight (32.5 high) – Ormand Hook asks if high is good or bad – Bean response "The lower the better"
- 6. NEW Questions from BRT Board** - Currie – any known timeline expediting – R. Thelen – none. Extensive due diligence timeline, still 3-31-23.
- 7. Mecosta County Road Commission question review** – Answers given via Gotion FAQ sheet from 12/13, on website, Nestle states no questions, but MCRC is very "under-funded". Question asked if Revenue changes if Gotion does come, he stated no, funded on certification and funds remain the same. One comment given from Road Commission on not being able to commit any funds to the project. MDOT not using incentives and they are piecing together the application to discuss funds, separate grants for roads. Conversation regarding changes to 220th and timely coincidence.
- 8. Wastewater Treatment Plant/City question review** - Answers given via Gotion FAQ sheet from 12/13, on website
- 9. Airport expansion City Statement** – City mentions potential expansion of runway as Gotion has noted needing larger airport
- 10. Public Comment**
Tim Haist – Schools are excited about opportunity – want to be involved with training. Growth/capacity – prepared for amount of people? Unknown, hoping for gradual growth, upgrades. Student count currently strong.
Consumers Energy – Figured into Gotion's rate, question asked – increase in demand, increase in price? Unknown, they don't set and rate is submitted and approved. Confident they can meet energy demands of Gotion. Clarification regarding CMS signing bonus (Consumers incentive)
Paul bullock - Taxes for co. taxes collected not compare to housing developments that will come into community. Money never seen if project doesn't happen. Taxes won't go up more than 5% or the rate of inflation - county controller

Tom white - 2300 employees - employed within 10 years, does WWTP have capacity/will it affect nearby wells? Proximity?
Stanek – " No.city water wells nearby"

Patti Downey –

1. 11/21 meeting minutes – "board does not agree with Stanek representing MCDC before Township" in regards to project elephant - conflict of interest – Saez clarifies minutes – Stanek serves as MCDC Treasurer, Twp ethics states cannot put needs/interests of other committees/boards above those as elected official position.
2. Pioneer - Randy Thelen quote on company currently has 500 acres under contract? No, not under contract yet. Contracts currently up for renewal in Green Twp.
3. Chuck Thelen "At the end of the day 11 manufacturing sites with 2 in the US - where? They did not answer.
4. Under contract "purchase agreement, appraisal, development agreement"? No, not yet.
5. You can talk about grants, incentives, state money, fed money, bottom line is it is tax payer money. For myself I cannot fathom why we would want our taxpayer money go to support a Chinese company coming to this area - distinction between Chinese government and Chinese company - naive if didn't recognize Chinese companies under strict control of Chinese government

6. Asked Township board to be skeptical - constituents deserve that - work for the residents not Gotion, The Right Place, Ferris, Governor, etc.

Tracy Ruelle - Our state does have taxpayer money - wants money here. Wants infrastructure upgrades, if we could get this paid by grants why wouldn't we. Reduction in school bonds. Opportunities for builders, housing commission wants space UOFM research seminar - decline in Mecosta Co in population and opportunities and this is opportunity for us. Education/training with MOISD in battery technology/certification for adults. People driving to GR daily to make over \$25 an hour and improving family life with children. Plant built somewhere, built in US, why would we not want opportunity for it to be there. 20 other places have reached out to expand area according to Gotion, not one person in this room knows anything about environment but EGLE does and they will control. Cultural change - university gotten better because of diversity. CO must abide by to operate. Rules/regulations

If we don't bring it here, what will we do to replace that opportunity?

Dave Eisler - 3 numbers keep in mind

40, 30, 67

40 avg twp household income; 36% below national average

30% in BR Township are at or below poverty level less than 25,000

67% of elementary children qualify for free or reduced lunch

Economic development/responsibility for creating jobs and opportunity for family.

Dan Hay - Green Township - Some friends worked for BMW part of training team that came over and hopes they were accepted by community and hopes that Big Rapids will do the same.

Ladeanna Smalley - How is water well going to be protected, if something happens are we going to hold factory responsible for them to pay it for restitution done to human health or human life.

Chuck Thelen - questions answered long wait from engineers - will have waste water treatment facility and count on collection of water, currently working on wetland study for property

Bean on mark Giffords comment on policy - online? Post to site? When they have questions they don't have, where should they go?

Jean Cousineau - Why Gotion to US? Why China buying up farmland different places within US? - **Chuck Thelen** - "very nuclear question. Personally - global economics, battery industry in South Korea and China. economic driven topic, companies that make a product. Behind curve on electronic vehicles in US. Good work with politics past years to see changes."

Saez clarification on Chinese created jobs. "State not incentivizing non-American jobs. Incentivizing 2300 mi citizen American jobs"

Kate Roe - Have we had any relationship with Green Twp - Any relationship and could project go entirely in Green if not approved in BRT? Answered by board - yes, we have been, but refusal to participate in co-hosting meetings.

Jerry Everett - if more people came together and concentrate on building bridges rather than one organization pointing a finger and saying "they are the problem" no need for contentious relationship, can't respect each other's ideas; can disagree on things healthily.

Bean - different world views

Currie - decision not about Chinese co, battery factory, etc. is this a good fit for our community. Economically, yes. In other ways, just trying to discover if it is.

Wayne O'Neil - Water plant on how little it's used and what it costs per year to operate and big benefit to company coming in. Stanek - 3 customers, 20k per year to keep operating and hoping to get something in to use the water, big help to company. Size of tank 300,000 gallons. Designed for this size of a plant

Tom White on anodes/cathodes - not complete battery, only 62% of costs. Making components to finished goods location that will have even larger plant. Does Gotion make transformers - no.

Everett - if Gotion does get property, is there anything that would stop you from making full battery or more product? - Any further increase in scope would be discussed with MI government/ the right place

Kelly W - The right place - feel a lot better about this meeting, it's complex, challenging, everyone accepting answers to best of ability. Starting in January MCDC developing task force for the project. Help with communication process.

Brent Wheatlake - Please don't give any tax incentive - use that as money, sell the water plant to them and pay off debt. Asks us to please consider that. Get with Green Township and charge fee to do environmental testing. Options to consider.

Mike Battle - How many employees/local jobs compared to Chinese jobs (Chuck - goal is to have everyone employed from MI or nearby, Chinese only to come for set up).
Ground water usage rate expected to be?

Ladeanna Smalley - What are all of metals used for product? Chuck - Hire our own environmental team - a lot of energy to make energy and comes through raw materials. EHS directors that live on site. How many on team? >5<50

Joe Bechaz - thank you for more transparency - reconfigured MCDC site. Have we approached any American company 2 days ago in Detroit free press, ex governor, current, Stabenow agreement in Lansing with GM. Any inclining that GM interested at all? GM knew they wanted to be there. Inquiries from companies looking to locate in MI/west MI. Didn't actively start looking until June of 2021. Green twp same atty - voted to separate atty work

Sue Lenahan - Infrastructure? On 220th and widening the road has possibility of damaging properties, what happens to homeowners and if they have to sell property. Possibility of 18 mile on/off ramps?
Initial meeting - reinforcing on ramps/off ramps 19 mile. Road widening cannot exceed ordinances in place.

Saez - Lots of bad publicity/events where lithium fires have occurred. People not able to leave homes until safe. In event of a disaster, large fire etc. Please work on providing more risk analysis.

Mayor - Water coming out of that plant not needing any extra treatment.

Unknown "MI desperately needs it, not against battery plant and I hope people take it to heart. China does not like America, they want American resources they don't have. Don't treat own employees fairly. All for leasing land. Please ask people to take discernment in heart."

Ambulance/fire protection Aug 26th

Joe McNally - So much of concern heard is about China being involved - thought to propose, most people in room, phones in room made in China. Nike, Addidas, made in China. So many economic relations. News, yes hostility but US is extremely tied to China.

Bill Schriver - We're just getting started. Every question generates another question. Big question - do we want it? Gamble, irrevocable decision. Very important for as much info as possible

Gary Wells - Technology that is Chinese made - get technology from us and take it there and get cheap labor and ship back to us. Will just change the way we live in town. WWII vets in barber shop - the enemy (Chinese, why here, big grant) everything electric - China sent rocket up to destroy satellites not friendly company.

Can board make public referendum - ballot proposal? **Stanek** to "check"

Kevin Tucci - 220th major coincidence. Devil's advocate -other side gov. Publicly made this as "done deal". Kelly w/ The Right Place creating planning committee for this.

Brad Lubahn - MDOT 3-5 year plan, now class A road - water issues, sitework - ground water cost them about 50k, ground water so high in Holland. Superior excavating, multiple high drains, high water table. As civil engineer this project is safe, involved with EGLE, no issues there.

Ladeanna Smalley - fire safety - **Mark Gifford** on conference call with Steve Schroeder (city fire chief). Willing to share about warehouse where lithium batteries caught on fire. Takeaway was you could find pieces of fire issues but also information to better prepare. Last comment was congratulating BR on Gotion. **Mayor Guenther**- all fire codes upgraded to fight lithium fires.

Nick Routley - They didn't even know there were batteries in plant that caught fire referencing.

Thanks for attendance, conversation.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:09pm.

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.