

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OFFICES
14212 NORTHLAND DRIVE
7:00 PM
APPROVED

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Bean moved to have a meeting on 2/13 set for 2/15 at 7pm to discuss a potential CFIUS review. Currie supported and the motion passed unanimously.

Sept 15th executive order extension - Currie

Committee to review Foreign Investments in the United States - September 15th, shortly after announcement/before Ren Zone

Currie - Concerns: in the resolution in corporate minutes of Gotion - clearly noted Mr. Li was on a committee called peoples PPC - directed and supervised directly by PRC - suggesting direct ties. Another concern may seem trivial but I don't believe so - Michigan houses the Austin Gas Fields - single largest gas reservoir in the US. Additionally, Camp Grayling, just 70 miles North of us - currently 148000 acres of national guard training - largest in US - looking at an additional 162k acres to their camp - to conduct training and exercises that uses sophisticated communication systems.

I have information from a senator speaking with a congressman on Friday in regards to the feasibility of this review and if he thinks it's warranted.

There are so many similarities with Gotion/ CATL - hot off the wire - Speaker of the house for FL and announcing CFIUS review of licensing agreement between FORD and CATL.

Multitude of things could happen - they could reject/approve the review and give a negative or a positive result.

Everett - Main complaint has been a lack of info so this would be responsible to allow someone more qualified to look into.

Bean - Board getting heat for research it's doing - think it's biased - but a lot of info passed on. All the good stuff has been said, nothing is questioned and it's our duty to question - We are buying the "car facts" and I commend each of you. We need to make sure we do it right, because if we are wrong it could be catastrophic for the community.

Currie - Question if this met criteria of CFIUS review - did read over executive order - there are some key elements that say it does meet criteria such as:

- Use of lithium and rare earth elements,

Saez - shared text on how automakers had to make sure vehicles were free of conflict materials such as tin and tungsten

Bean - Unsure if cobalt is a conflict material

Schrivver - Timeline on that? Confliction with Gotion's plans if filing a CFIUS review?

Currie - A review is typically done within 45 days. Unsure if this board - Again only speaking for myself - is comfortable moving forward without a review.

Bean - Cost for transaction less than 5 million - only \$750.

Currie - I feel it is really important to note that if the speaker of the house and Senator from FL feels it's important to do a CFIUS review on CATL - what makes this project any different? Still meets criteria.

Currie - I motion that BRT contracts with our attorney Mika Meyers to submit an immediate request of CFIUS in regards to the Chinese company Gotion in Big Rapids MI, Mecosta County. Included in the request should be the Gotion shareholder minute meetings from 1/18/23, the Gotion Resolution of the Shareholder Meeting, suggesting ties to CCP, the complete Ren Zone Application, Incentive Package, Senator Rubio's request to the White House dated 2/14/23, documentation in regard to MI having the most underground natural gas storage in the US, and Camp Grayling, the largest National Guard facility in the US that uses sophisticated communication systems, and any other information relevant and required by the CFIUS. Everett supports. Motion passed unanimously.

Routley - Not sure if it falls within the motion, but what type of background info did the state do?

Jerry Garner - Have you checked with the state?

Saez - Randy Thelen with MCDC relaying that the state did their approval process at one of our December meetings, unknown what that process consisted of, no details or reports seen.

Routley - If this is an executive order why has nobody done this?

Bean - I think because this was right before that order.

Currie - Unsure if they had lithium included before and this order has been updated.

Currie - I motion to also ask our attorney to petition Green Charter Township and Mecosta County Commissioners to join us in our request - all you can do is ask; I think we need to do this as a unity if possible. Everett supports. Motion carries 4-1. Routley no; wants to ask them first.

Agreement/discussion on sending out email prior to the attorney sending correspondence.

Attorney withdrew from representing BRT and Green Twp, and Mecosta County Commissioners passed a resolution to support Gotion following this meeting

Bean - Rather contentious board meeting 3 weeks ago - minutes all published now. A lot of comments made - I made some comments in retrospect; I think my tone should have been different and I stand by them - so recently I was contacted by the Pioneer - letting you know upfront whatever I've said in print I stand by it. I do believe we all feel this way and I don't want to speak for the board - there's a lot of potential either way - just doing our due diligence.

Public comment: Cate Arro - Green Twp has passed a resolution to move forward - on their website discussing things beginning in March and April - so the whole project can still move forward? Bean - Yes it could in Green

Currie - No skin in game - no property (in Green) but only stating their support in the project.

Bean - If they do move forward, I hope they will get ahold of some folks that do this because big business isn't exactly nurturing. Still approaching landowners that they haven't before.

Currie - Any additional land purchased would not be in Ren zone - they would have to pay tax on that property.

Schrivver - Do they have enough acreage in Green?

Garner - From what I gather yes; if it goes through it could be good for the Industrial Park, potential to get an American company in.

Schrivver - Is Green asking their residents? General public answer/not that we have known - Joe Bechaz has asked specifically, but no answer/response.

Schrivver - Getting the word out better? Monday didn't say public meeting. Do we need to advertise? No do-overs on this.

Bean - Roughly 70 chairs at the last meeting, perhaps another 30 people, a max of 120 individuals show interest in what Chuck Thelen called a "nuclear" project - very controversial. With 7800 citizens in the city with the latest census and close to 4000 in ours, you'd think there would be a few more - possibly filling the charter school auditorium; while a lot more there than typical, a bit disappointed in the attendance. Very good dialogue - great conversation.

Vodry - Survey information coming?

Saez - Will go through entering them into a spreadsheet with Bean and hopefully within the next month share results.

Chuck Healey - I appreciate that the board is looking into the national security issues and appreciate the board looking into economic issues - the FBI director wrote about China threat and very well outlined what China does to infiltrate local governments 'killing puppy metaphor.' If not looking for information you're ignorant, and want to publicly advocate for the board.

J. Bechaz - Big advocate for public vote - this is the biggest issue the board has ever had since the annexation - people got to vote on it.

Marybeth Beamer - People do not research, they listen to what friends say and start throwing nasty comments out. Scares me to say that some people will vote and only listen to part of things. At least the ones before us - we voted them in and we have them to research for us. 120 people at a meeting and this is important. I'm for change - went to the meeting with an open mind but such anger and resentment and people joking.

Currie - We have to put some trust in elected officials.

Sue Bean - Unfortunate that some people on FB are not attending meetings and saying very mean things.

Discussion on how to get a larger attendance/word out about meetings and current happenings.

Marybeth - I've heard some businesses in town upset they didn't get a survey - come here and get a survey?

Saez - Send us anything pertaining, or request the city to do their own surveys?

Marybeth - Comfortable with who I voted for - taking a look and doing what's in our best interest. Don't mind change but frustrated with what it has done to the community.

Bean - Each individual here is not afraid of research. I know how much I've done - shy of 1000 pages and 3 full binders. Each one up here has a lot. It's actually one of my hobbies, because I don't like opinions and I look at both sides. The true concept is to argue both sides. Lots of economic advantage and lots of opportunity for the opposite.

Garner - We should be able to say how we feel and have a respectful conversation.

Arroe - Very persuasive - not discerning enough to know the other side. Having the right place at that meeting. One thing hit home - very logical - these jobs are not necessarily new jobs created. Hope everyone pays attention - many of these jobs will be taken from others in the area. Johnson is a perfect example as a small business owner. Higher wages - potential of taking employees. Unemployed people are not the kind of people they will hire here and I wish someone with expertise would address that.

Bean - My profession is auditing manufacturing companies. I have to talk about risk and how they mitigate risk. Quality and management, not employee audited - the number one risk is availability of retention and workforce. 3-5 years to train the average employee.

Bean - What impact will these jobs have on local manufacturers? - still no answer/study

Schrivier - Concerning; claw backs and government amending them. At businesses recently - asked why always shorthanded - since marijuana became legal - not enough people that qualify or pass drug tests. Worry that they will go to the government and ask to bring more people from overseas to work if they can't fulfill requirements/job positions.

Norm McClain - Ice mountain is hiring at 26.50/hr. w/ benefits and still trying to find people.

Marybeth - When did the questions (to Gotion) go out?

Saez/Bean - February 10th most recently, first set in October

Norm McClain - Someone saying that the CCP and any communist government, the government owns all of their businesses so yes direct involvement with communist party - another thing - lack of info should send up red flags. Scares me and boggles my mind how Green Twp can just rush it through and reminds me of a football game when a challenge flag is thrown, so the offense will try to snap the ball through before officials can call for replay; rushing it because it feels as though they are sneaking things through. Very concerned with the amount of land China is buying in the US. Millions of acres of land.

Bean - Recommend some research for anyone - suggest research on what's called Project 2049.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:07 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.