

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023
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, present, Routley absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Greg Vodry - How much has been put into the building down there?

Saez - 90k first time, 15k labor, this time to correct the prior mistakes around 75k. We won't make the mistake of not working with a licensed contractor again.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Communications, Venlo LS pump, App pulled from Assessor help

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **February 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes:**
2. **February 13, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes:**
3. **February 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes:**
4. **March 1, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes:**
5. **February Financial Report:**
6. **Building Department Report:**
5. **Cemetery and Grounds Report:**
6. **Fire Department Report:**
7. **Sewer Department Report:**
8. **Water Department Report:**
11. **Planning Commission Minutes:**
11. **Supervisor's Report:**

A motion was made by Currie to approve of the consent agenda. Supported by Saez. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Landscaping around front building:** No action taken.
2. **Other:**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Recommendation to Hire Brad White to help David Kirwin:** Application withdrawn.
2. **Fireworks Application:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of the 2023 Fireworks Application. Supported by Geib. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Camera/security System install:** A motion was made by Saez to contract with Ontech, to install the security cameras system not to exceed \$500. Supported by Geib. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. **Table & chairs for hall:** No action taken.
5. **Contract for hall rentals:** Briefly discussed, future special meeting.
6. **Venlo LS Pump: Bean** – request of asking NW Kent for inventory and recommendation of what to have on hand for emergencies. A motion was made by Everett to approve of the Venlo LS pump from Dubois-Cooper for \$9,200. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
7. **Communication** – Everett – getting information for the township from unexpected places and the timing is questionable. It came out that BRT is back in the running for Gotion project and the first place I read about it was the Pioneer.
Saez – told by Stanek that Chuck Thelen called him and that we would be receiving a letter saying they were pulling out from BRT, but Stanek did not inform entire board before going to the Pioneer.
Currie – spoke with Chuck yesterday per his request. Asked him to come to Township, refused stating it could be a potential FOIA situation and it was under a NDA. Very disconcerting things discussed and one of them was intentions of how they plan to use our property. But until they decide to come to us or put it in writing I will not discuss further.
Bean – only way I meet is in public forum.
Currie – looking to try and mend relationship; however, going about it the wrong way – should be right here addressing us all and answering what questions they can legally
Bean – no formal sit down with Gotion – only people that know anything are those with a financial gain
Saez – something to be discussed – policy on collaborating public information and having the boards agreeance to speak to news/anyone regarding information
Bean – familiarizing ourselves with the process – very long process with 6 pages of requirements
Saez – but we will see it through

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$22,209.04 for February. Supported by Bean. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Accounts Payable:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of Accounts Payables for \$133,169.98. Supported by Saez. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Beth Ranger – want to thank the board for asking questions; watched the county, city, Green Township – none have asked anything

Bean – during ren zone meeting the county did ask one question – about wifi requirements

Beth – that’s what bothers me, no one has tried to figure out anything, can’t get 2 questions answered. Their own VP couldn’t admit it was a Chinese company. I work at the airport. They’re trying to extend the runway, we were told one year to do environmental assessment, how is Gotion moving forward so quickly? EGLE?

Currie – because of the Industrial Park, Grant, wetlands federally protected, believe our property and airport property does not fall under criteria.

Beth – regarding latest article in pioneer – mention running 100 percent on green energy – do we know what that means?

Currie – don’t understand to full extent, we’ve posed this question to them & they did not answer

Michelle M – I’ve heard something about a train in the latest article? What area?

Saez – Muskegon is what we’ve been told, but now we’ve heard “shipping”

Bean – shipping because of weight, not a lot of waste from material but unknown on waste bi-products

Michelle – 100k cathodes – can we get a list of the materials used at the plant?

Saez – We’ve asked for that, not provided

Cate Arroe – (Question for Stanek) if Gotion/ The Right Place contacted you to move Green twp wetlands to BRT would you consult with the board?

Stanek – I would say no to that but I would bring it to the board

Cate – So that hasn’t happened? So the latest rendering of the plant looks like it covers the whole area and that’s all wetlands so where would they move those to?

Currie – we don’t know the answer to that. Buildings are proposing 70 ft tall, cannot do so due to airport restrictions. What they want the IP for is uncertain. Assuming they want it for parking lots and warehouses.

Cate – Pink flags all over properties outlining wetlands and just moving them and not caring about the species or what is there. Don’t think EGLE is doing its job. What Gotion/The Right Place say – of course it will be okay with EGLE overseeing it

Currie – article in paper – worked out a plan with EGLE? Plan to move forward with the process

Cate – the VP (Chuck Thelen) also quoted saying he loves habitat

Joe Bechaz – are you going to hire a 3rd party to double check all EGLE’s criteria?

Currie – hard pressed to believe any organization can challenge EGLE

Bean – IF we get to that point – we will not rely on them. Far too many disciplines, lots that know about this, but do not know “everything”

Bill Schriver – Any idea if they are going to treat the wetlands the same way they do the carbon footprint?

Marybeth Beamer – Number 1 – this far into it – questions asked tonight unbelievable that we don’t know the answers – some people making hasty decisions as to what will happen, we need to look at this environmentally – if we vote yes, it could be a

legacy in a good way or a bad way. We vote you in – could this be a meeting that all of us could listen to the questions we've asked that we haven't been given answers to? Mr. Stanek – disappointed in you. I want you all to take a look. Listen to us. Ask these questions and come back.

Patti Downey – Reading articles in pioneer - flabbergasted when I read them. It sounds to me like the plan is the wetland mitigation in BRT. No communications from EGLE, no plans. Stanek - have you talked to EGLE? I think a FOIA request to EGLE –

Cate – have done several FOIAs nothing yet because no permit.

Patti - VP Chuck Thelen mentioned mending fences and meeting with board members individually – not appropriate. Dividing to conquer. Another thing – VP stated next week we will get final vote from “Congress” on whether or not any of this is applicable, does he even know what he means? That's what I want, someone who doesn't know the difference between Congress and State Legislature. The original letter that attorney sent to Gotion - do not accept anything other than written answers. Nothing from pioneer.

Teresa Schuller? – Muskegon river concerns. From Newaygo county, we've already seen how the government handles huge catastrophes with Ohio. Trains, trucks, shipping, heaven forbid anything happens. What we're involved with isn't just affecting here; huge portion of the state in danger. Ask of Stanek – do you support the Chinese Communist Party?

Stanek – Cannot ask questions; states does not support the CCP

Marybeth – is it a Chinese company?

Bean – Yes. Hard to dissect shares. Number of various shareholders. Shows Li's owning 68%. VW China owns 26%, therefor 73% owned by others.

Marybeth – so letting a Chinese company buy our land, and giving them the money to do so and a tax break?

ADJOURNMENT: 8:01pm

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.