

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023  
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL, 14230 NORTHLAND DR.  
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
1:00 PM  
APPROVED**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 p.m. ROLL CALL: Stanek, Saez, Currie, Bean, Everett, Geib, Routley present.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Ordinance 140, Nuisance Party Ordinance**

Brian Miller – Ordinances give us a tool to help with the parties, disorderly conduct. Very helpful to have these in the City when it came to dispersing them. Met with some of the Management of the Apartment complexes, then brought them to the township because it will benefit all in the long run.

Hillcrest Oakwood Rep – very excited to have this ordinance change.

Currie – Only one concern, squatters

Dep. Sheriff – can still be cited for hosting the parties even if not a tenant. Miller – in my experience all it takes is one time for people to catch on.

**A motion to approve of Ordinance #140, Nuisance Party Ordinance was made by Bean, and supported by Currie. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.**

**2. Invitation to join committee on Sewer with Green Township & City**

Bean - Thoughts on that - need some sort of a commitment for our taxpayers regarding environmental issues and lack of a CFIUS review - problems with this project for a reason.

Currie - Details such as appropriate shares of any - this additional flow would not be excluded during the current contract. We as a board need to know what the concerns are and we haven't had time to review the contract.

Stanek - May not be anything we want to entertain - unsure of what we would want to do, but just considering addition of 2 people on a committee. Need to start committee right away, they can do it right away.

Bean - Motives for offer was to save money on infrastructure costs

Currie - Bill you're a little bit of an expert with contract; user wastewater charge

Bill - I think we could gain, but need to find out the details first, but haven't seen figures, but would assume 75k for that. Usage fee - even if we gain 25k a year.

Currie - Under impression that sewage cannot be metered unless using a master meter. All current customers on meter. Water that flows in is what current customers are paying.

Bill - Would be separate - would be master meter right on their discharge.

Bean - Tie into the twp. sewer system with Gotion's waste - is that twp.?

Bill - Twp. share would increase which would lower costs

Bean - Higher costs for repairs etc. Can't have use and volume go up and cost not go down

Currie - Why would we consider being responsible for their usage when it's a Green twp. resident?

Bean - If we do this and consume capacity, we're deeming our industrial park to not have the capacity

Currie - Even if 18 mile gets developed?

Bill - Why we need to sit down with committee

Bean - If you would share sewer info asked for months ago. Would like to discuss - If this is only licensed for one computer (sewer mapping) then we should get another license for others to access.

Bill - Can check into price but set up through engineers. Will not give you a network license. (ArcGIS)

Contact info of ArcGIS to Bean

Currie - Basically, agreed that if to sell our water plant, land etc. that we agreed that they should complete a CFIUS review. One currently sitting dormant. If they're willing to supply us with the info necessary for us to move forward with them to begin with, that would sit me at the table.

Bill - Don't think they will allow it

Currie - Then they will come back and say the twp. will costs us xyz. We are willing to, but we want them to comply with the CFIUS.

Bean - They sent Paul as an ambassador - cannot fathom how it will be a positive to the twp.

**Currie – I motion that we have Hannah create a letter including Paul, Green twp., in regards to the fact that we would be willing to consider meeting with them on the terms that Gotion supply us with a full CFIUS review that we requested in February before shovels hit dirt.**

Bean - Also need information on an environmental study. Can't they give us some information upfront? So, we can decide if we'd like to join.

Currie - EIS question to public- answer - wetlands put them under EPA federal review. In addition, numerous environmental protection acts because of the wastewater treatment.

Marjorie - Gotion may not be aware that they are under federal guidelines themselves

Currie - Plant manager giving them current information?

Developer/engineers job?

Bean - Misleading of the public that Gotion is already working with watershed - but watershed went on record that they've had no contact from Gotion

Everett - very troubled that nobody from Green twp. has tried to represent their twp. interests. Communication with them is pathetic. We've went to their meetings and spoken as citizens. Not a conversation. Asking us for help without even having courage to come and speak with us. Forming a committee - why isn't Chapman here requesting that we do this rather than sending someone. Escapes me how we can consider this a serious offer to work together. Putting up walls between us. Not participating in discussion, makes me uncomfortable to think we should do anything with them until they're willing to sit with us.

Currie - Made a request to us to partner with them in good faith and assist them in good faith. We in turn are saying that we will, but in turn we want something of them.

Everett - Separates them so much from the process.

Currie - Have never had any first-hand information from anyone

Bean - Out of character - Jim not hesitant to act unilaterally without his board and now he's sending an ambassador. **I support the motion.**

Bill - I think we should stay out of it completely.

Geib - At this time I don't think it benefits us to join their committee. This is a "you" problem, we have a sewer system that our taxpayers paid for, not theirs. Don't see a benefit.

Currie - Also no harm in coming to table with a request of our own

Routley - Motion worded reminds them that we asked them to do CFIUS in specific way

Bean - If we pursue, needs to be a deadline

Geib - nothing joined/done until we receive it

Currie - if they really want to save their taxpayers money, they will do it

**Motion passes, 5-2. Stanek, Everett no.**

3. **Rescission of Ren Zone Discussion** – Everett - We asked Eric to draft resolution for us to rescind support for the Ren Zone and wanted everyone to have opportunity to review the letter, make sure it doesn't need to be updated. Want to have prepared and ready to vote on at our next meeting. Add to next agenda.
4. **FD Capital Reserve Fund** – discussed but no amount was ever in Minutes. **Bean moved to allocate \$26,000 annually to a restricted fund for PPE and for the FD personnel, effective 1/1/22. Geib supports. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resignation of Gavin Booher** - Saez - Would like Marc to give us his interests moving forward

Currie - Add on indeed for part time help?

**Bean – I move that we run add to replace Booher as a temp grounds part time assistant**

**Currie - Supports.** Hannah to follow up with Marc before posting Aug. 25th - oct 31?

Geib – In the meantime Marc will have to open/close

Currie - Additional topic in regards to cemetery as well. Cooks brought to my attention that arch weighs 1000 lbs. and spans 60 feet. Very large. Upon doing so, and knocking old columns down. Large block of cement that original arch was attached to. So, Bob Cook and son both have major concerns of pouring foundation on existing block thinking they won't join. Currently they have put in rods, discussed heavier. Concerned that wind could take arch etc. What I'm recommending with board's approval is that we have Mike Oezer formulate plans so we know it's going to be secure.

**Saez – I move to contract with Mike Oezer/Progressive to formulate a plan moving forward with the cemetery arch.**

**Geib supports. Motion passed unanimously.**

Saez – FYI reached out to landscaping companies regards to front of Township/retaining wall to stop corrosion on hill down by basement window. Preventative maintenance needed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Carol Yacavone - very concerned about septic waste worked into soil. (Routley Septic). Want to make sure water quality not effected.

Drains into swamp and that the start of Winter's Creek is not affected. Want to make sure there are no odors and that my property value isn't affected.

Patti Downey - Went to zoning board meeting. Concerning that a situation like this could happen. Concerned that Routley septic, a commercial business is going to inject human waste from septic systems into the ground. The zoning board has taken the opinion that this is a farming operation. In my opinion this is a commercial operation. Questioning if this is a zoning issue due to it being agriculturally zoned.

Unsure what the volume will be. Heard Carman say when talking about Gotion sewage unsure what's in that but that's going to treatment plant. What I find amazing, is unless the township residents read blurb in zoning meeting minutes from June they wouldn't know. Bill Stanek shared details of EGLE app and that zoning had no action to take on it. Asked zoning for app and they didn't have it but got it from EGLE. I have more info as a resident than the twp. board/zoning board. I would think that the twp. board would have learned lesson in last couple of years that they need to investigate. Thankfully after going to the last couple of meetings, Carman said he would investigate.

Bean - Have to understand the permit already issued from EGLE. Routley septic did everything they should have done legally. Number of different types of waste - Nick chime in if I misspeak here - waste has to be analyzed. Local entity of government can do that - can have ordinance to regulate it but if a permit has already been done before you have an ordinance you cannot prevent it. Adjacent property has to be within 50 feet. Is property line within 100 feet of where being put in? That's one of qualifiers. Only sharing what I've learned this far.

Carol - Who will be looking at on site to be sure that it's meeting that criteria?

Currie - Material is to be tested before put into ground?

Routley - No issue explaining or reexplaining - unsure if it's appropriate for me to have that in this capacity. Would be more than happy to meet with both or any of you that have questions/concerns.

Carol - Meeting at my house with neighbors, we'd like to have you because we all have questions

Bean - New operation that's never been here, don't think it's been here/in county

Routley - Common practice, several in Mecosta County.

Currie - Favor, if you could include in that question about unsure with Gotion. Already explained that ground will be tested but interested to know if material will be tested.

Bean - Legally Nick went through all requirements. Up to local legislative body.

Patti - Deemed a commercial operation

Bean - Ag can be deemed commercial too

Patti - But Ag dairy is done on that farm. This material is he is gathering from all over and bringing to that property

Bean - Defined as fertilizer. Know where coming from and not saying disagree but research done so far is just informing you of what I'm told

**ADJOURNMENT: 2:02pm.**

**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.**