

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL, 14230 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:

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Everett – Rescinding Ren Zone Discussion
Stanek – METRO Act Permit
Saez – Landscaping update**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Bean to approve of the consent agenda. Supported by Everett. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion on offer from Green Township to partner with sewer:** Stanek asked about meeting that Bean and Currie went to. Bean – took it as if they didn't acknowledge our letter and moved along. Currie – They acted like our concerns were not valid, and that they had money and resources to do things another way. However, if we did partner with them, they could use that money to improve Green Township roads, possibly the city wastewater treatment plant, which should concern people. When improving a public utility that will only benefit customers of that utility. Did discuss some improvements to 19 Mile Rd, since most of the improvements will be on the South side of 8 Mile, the bulk of the improvements would belong to 19 Mile. They did not share information with anyone other than themselves, or other partners in the projects. Talk from Jim on doing work on 220th North so they could make a full connection to 10.
Stanek - Would any savings come to township?
Currie - He acted like some money would come, but all we could charge would be our fee to maintain our lines, not a source of income, would only benefit sewer funds.
Bean - One thing that came up - Jim had mentioned a couple different times on fire protection - have we authorized him to negotiate on behalf of our FD? Because he doesn't have one.
Stanek - Not that I'm aware of.
- 2. Water Plant Operator:** Jim Bowman - interested in running the plant. Kevin trained Jim at the city - good operator. Punctual, lot of ability. Confident in him. Same licensing. Takes care of the city pool as well. Kevin can back him up when he goes on summer vacation etc. if that's what the township wants. Jim - got hired at city full time at 23 - over 7 years ago, Kevin was one of main guys training him. Live pretty close, concerned about sensaphone. Kevin - updated software on it and it's working well. Used to get a lot of calls, when it would go on and offline.
Bean - comfortable doing what you need to do and having full time job with the city?
Jim - from what I've seen - looks like normally 3 times a week would be sufficient.
Kevin - quarterly samples, still doing lead/copper samples.
Currie - when you (kevin) first started we had contract with you - got it down to a science and figured out what we needed from you. In the last 3 years, you've cut your contract down, where would we be starting with Jim? Stanek - shared contract -original.
Kevin - original was 1,250?
Currie- no problem, not asking him to do it for half, just informing board.
Board - we've appreciated you and everything you've done.
Kevin - have appreciated you guys and working for you. Pump demand/sequence. Still, plenty of water for a fire. Might do 1200 gallons per minute. Fill up a tanker in 3 minutes. First open hydrant, might be slow but when pump kicks on it's quick.
Currie – We ran an ad, hard time getting response, grateful to you for the years put in, recruiting Jim.
Discussion on changes in samples/ requirements of secondary samples.
Kevin - a lot of corrosion where chlorine is. Running humidifier helps a lot with the pipes. Don't have open water like they do at the city. Chemicals are still corrosive, keeping moisture down helps. Bean - understand one of the pumps is inoperable - kevin - 1 had some issues, can use if we have to. Jamie from DHD10 came and did audit. Annual mainly for chlorine injection. Showed her what

happened at city plant, wasn't working right and burnt the wall. For now, we can use that pump at 300 gallons/min. I can pump all water we need in a minute in a day to do what we use out there. Plant is designed, could easily push 500,000 gallons a day out of that plant. Motors used to start up at full speed, now with variable frequency drives, it starts pump slower and is easier on the equipment. Bean - the 500,000 gallons daily - as the plant sits right now with nothing there, what is capacity right now? Kevin - running pump 2 we could have a tremendous amount of water. Didn't want to run the other pump because of it acting funny. (DFD?) could just be programmed wrong. Well 2 set at 300 gpm, well 1 set at 500 gpm. Reservoir is a little over 300,000 gallons. Pump 1 not inoperable just being cautious. Everett - monitoring system? Kevin - yes it calls if pump fails etc.

Stanek - do we want to offer Jim contract?

Currie - I motion to contract with Jim Bowman with the same contract that Kevin started with. An annual with a 90-day trial. Bean - support that as long as we have certification and a license on file. Kevin - Now allowing D5 at entry level to run those plants. Jim is D3 and overqualified. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. Other: Rescinding Ren Zone - Everett passed out copy of resolution to rescind the ren zone - wanted everyone to have a copy so that at the next meeting everyone has had ample time to research/ask questions, so comfortable with a decision on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Veteran's charges at cemetery:** Currie - another situation with the daughter's father given a plaque. Foundation needed to be poured for the plaque. Would be about \$150 to pour the foundation. Why are we charging vets to display something they were awarded?

Stanek - unfortunately 20% vets out there

Currie - 4-6 vets a year. If we pour one full size foundation with cement, we've purchased we've paid for all of those. Absorbed it in other fees. If board thought this was a good idea, it would only cost us Marc's labor.

Stanek - something nice to do but could get out of hand easily and problems with discrimination

Bean - I move that we honor the requests for missing in America for Mr. Delicia to bury the cremated remains of Kate Bronson at no charge. Currie supports. Motion passed unanimously.

Currie - I motion that we make policy change in our Cemetery policies and procedures, that when vet plaque requires a separate foundation that we supply that and absorb the cost. Saez supports. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Presentation of draft budget:**

- 3. Fire Department Request:** Nick Wyma - in order to stay with times, in compliance. Proposing to switch to either ESO or First due. Leaning more towards first due. Maintains a lot more of reporting requirements. Maintenance, calls, truck checks, all done in one program. Other additional things we can add on as we grow. One we liked was pre-incident planning. Something like a new build - can input data into new system and can link it to the county GIS for inspections etc. that type of documentation provided from inspections can show up on our planning. So, when we are on route, we are aware of size, hazardous material or any other special circumstances. Their software will read that aloud to us as we are in route so we don't have to read it as we're on the road. Current software is less. Currently using ESO for Emergency reporting. They have their own software, bought out smaller company.

Currie - said it will house pre-incident surveys and give them verbally. Still have a system that has all of that info, you should have all of that info now.

Jim - knowing it when we go to a call-in middle of the night.

Currie - we were told that info was available in trucks.

Wyma - it is available and is in platform but have to physically look it up to be able to read it, where new program firstdue will automatically read critical information to us as we are on route.

Currie - I get the important info, just want to be clear that the info should already be available.

Jim - yes, available but this way will be much more efficient and can also generate to our individual phones.

Currie - when is contract up with ESO?

Jim - should be first of year?

Currie - quote for ESO is 9500? Firstdue 8200?

Nick - #'s include implementation fee.

Saez - includes transferring everything over? Nick - yes

Stanek - if you approve, could I request one week to look over? I am going to MTA next Tuesday on FD and would like to wait until then. If we go with same platform as other local jurisdictions these will link to each other.

Geib - I motion that we allow the Fire Department to contract with Firstdue not to exceed \$9,000, out of the FD operating budget. Bean supports. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Other: METRO ACT**

Stanek - Telecommunication has a special license with state so they can use rightaways on public roads. TV has to have separate contract. Gas has personal property and we tax that and consumers. State allows charges of so much foot per line and then state reimburses municipalities for that. In order to, they have to apply and pay fee and municipality has to approve within 45 days.

Read through this, it is a lot of material (phones). Can be above and below. Once applied they have to produce drawings of everything. 15-year agreement.

- 5. Landscaping update** - Saez - shows draft mock up and quote from central landscaping services - 15-18k. Just informing board, likely to be looking at next year, need to do something soon due to the grounds getting closer to basement window.

Stanek - Ron Oleson working on sidewalk out front with state, support for cemetery arch with engineers.

Financial

1. **Payroll: A motion was made by Currie to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$38,916.28. Supported by Bean. Motion passed unanimously.**
2. **Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Currie to approve of AP in the amount of \$72,729.01. Geib supports. Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Patti Downey - 2 issues to bring up - when discussing partnership with sewer with Green twp. - maybe not remembering correctly but letter sent to discuss possibility, have Motion provide information that twp. asked for to do full CFIUS, not the declaration.

2nd issue - contacted 2 board members requesting it was discussed. Safety of township residents- can all agree that things have not gone well here in community. Another issue on campus recently and a campus police believed he heard a gunshot, but after investigation they determined it was not a gun shot. Last Thursday there was football game about 9:30 at night the UPS has one driveway blocked and security at their driveway. Feel like I'm not living in Big Rapids at all. What is happening? Want to believe that this is not a BRT issue. Not every incident will be in the township, but it is getting worse. It's unsettling. Lot of twp. residents upset about it. One more reason to leave area.

Bean – I did speak to that. What I said earlier was we provided the letter to Mr. Bullock and it was supposed to get distributed and it didn't. We went to meeting and they acted as if we never wrote them the letter.

Patti - Someone needs to have discussion with someone at Ferris. Unsure if anything can change up there, but days of Hellen Popovich are back. Think twp. has an obligation to speak with Ferris and to do something.

Chris Vodry - notification of special meetings - before they used to be in the pioneer - the only avenue I'm aware of. Texting list for special meetings? Budget - salary/wages payroll just shows person's name - where we can find out who people are that are working? Discussion on who is provided on the website and their job titles.

Discussion on looking into text/software and cost to alert residents who sign up on website.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:20pm

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.