

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024
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: Bechaz, Currie, Everett, Geib, Saez, Teceno, Bean
PUBLIC COMMENT:**

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Water plant Insurance
Leftover ARPA Funds
Replacement hire for Cemetery/Grounds assistant

CORRESPONDENCE: Sheriff's report, Consumers Easement

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **January 2, Regular Board Meeting Minutes:**
2. **January 8, Special Meeting Minutes:**
3. **January 26, Election Commission Minutes:**
4. **October Treasurers Report:**
5. **November Treasurers Report:**
6. **Building Department Report:**
5. **Cemetery and Grounds Report:**
6. **Fire Department Report:**
7. **Sewer Department Report:** Everett questioned clean up needed, Bean to reach out to Mark regarding conversation.
8. **Water Department Report:** Teceno asked who is responsible for diesel fuel for the generator – Bean said something we will have Marc Veldman do.
11. **Planning Commission Minutes:**
A motion was made by Saez to approve of the consent agenda. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Fire & First Responder Services:** Bean – wants board to know that he is looking into expanding mutual aid with the City of Big Rapids. No action will be taken until further discussed with the board.
2. **Water Plant Insurance:** Jim Bowman – update on needing insurance for liability, as past carrier dropped. Discussed possibility of making him a part time employee and Township insurance covering him. Bean to meet with Jim and discuss differences.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Planning Commission Training:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Planning commission training cost of \$1,100. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Wind/Solar Ordinance:** Bean noted that he wants the Planning commission to look into the State changes of wind/solar ordinances. We cannot protect ourselves from the large farms but we can from the smaller ones.
3. **Brining of Gravel Roads:** A motion was made by Currie to have 2 applications of brining done this year with the potential of a 3rd if needed. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. **Wastewater Agreement:** Bean gave an update on plan being in Mr. Giffords hands now, finalizing that plan and will bring back to the board for approval.
5. **Ordinance Revision:** Bean - Discussion on how planning commission has recently had to take on rolls they should not have to, ones that non-elected officials should not have to make. Board should consider changing an ordinance or revising due to recent events.
6. **ARPA funds:** A motion was made by Saez to approve of the proposed auditor ARPA remainder allocations for 2023. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
7. **Cemetery assistant:** Discussion on last cemetery assistant retiring, need to post for the open part time position coming up soon. Discussed future changes to explore within office roles of the zoning/planning, and office personnel. Saez asked whether or not board had ever explored contracting out the mowing of township grounds. Currie noted worth discussing when Geib returns.

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Currie to approve Payroll in the amount of \$34,727.65 and supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Accounts Payable:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of Accounts Payables in the amount of \$82,765.65. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Vodry – Appreciates assessor hours that were put on the website but still no official hours just posted every other week. Saez – that was the answer I got, also posted contact information so he can be reached directly. Believe the plan is for Chris to take over for David so this will be something the board will have to address likely soon. Bean – will be in contact with Chris and David to get some posted hours.

Bill Schoenlein – Stated some facts regarding what the zoning admin has stated, that many zoning requirements are not met within the discussion surrounding ARC. There were 19 pieces of correspondence submitted, all in opposition, the majority from BRT. Noted the zoning ordinance he was concerned about. Mentioned concern about financial burden about the site plan and believes the ARC is well within their means as any other business.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:44pm

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.