

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL, 14230 NORTHLAND DR.
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307 7:00 PM
UNAPPROVED**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** Bechaz, Currie, Everett, Geib, Saez, Teceno, Bean present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

1. Tax Exemption Applications from Corewell and WISE to be added to April's meeting.
2. Resolution for mutual aid also to go to the April meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: John Montross – ZBA position- A motion was made by Bechaz to add John Montross to the open ZBA position. Supported by Currie. Motion passed unanimously.

Update from Bean on ARC: The special use permit was denied by the zoning commission. ARC has said they will be appealing the decision.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. February 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes:
2. December Treasurer's Report:
3. Building Department Report
4. Cemetery and Grounds Report:
5. Fire Department Report:
6. Sewer Department Report:
7. Water Department Report:
8. Road Committee Minutes:
9. Planning Commission Minutes:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance Revision:** Update from Bean: Discussed ordinance review with Amanda, the board will make a recommendation to the board for approval and there will be a public hearing on it .
2. **Wastewater Agreement:** Bean: Needed rescheduled - discussions about language not in best interests of the Township, Bean to email to the board.
3. **Fire & First Responder Services:** Bean: Want input from the City, will have the FD join us and see if we can get a meeting scheduled for next week.
4. Other:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2024 Poverty Exemption Guidelines:** A motion was made by Everett to approve of Resolution 2024-01. Supported by Currie. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Insurance Renewal:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Insurance renewal for Priority Health. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
3. **Recommendation to hire Lonny Lanway for Part time Grounds Position:** Bean: Tim will be done at the end of the year, Marc has expressed interest and will go through the training. Currie asked when the board would consider replacing Marc, Bean noted that this gentleman may be a candidate for replacement but would like to see. Mainly want continuity in planning/zoning. Bechaz asked if Marc had interviewed him, and

Bean told him that he had. A motion was made by Currie to approve the hiring of Lonny Lanway for the part time grounds position. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

4. **Assessor Contract:** Bean: nothing but positive comments regarding Chris Elder, super responsive. A motion was made by Currie to approve of the Assessor contract with Chris Elder through April 2025. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
5. **Consumers Energy Easement:** Bean: Motion wanted an Easement in the Industrial park to get electricity to their facility, offer was \$1. Board had decided without the complete CFIUS review we would not entertain, looked at this as an extension of that response. Attorney sent a letter. Currie asked if looking for board approval on the letter or if it was already sent and Bean noted that it was already sent.
6. **Roads:** Bean: There were two road committee meetings, total of \$483,000 in recommended improvements for 2024. They will make the final recommendations and the board will approve. Teceno noted that the county got a grant for Perry street to 15 Mile. Currie asked if we could wait on some of them, Teceno said yes but recommended sticking with two years which is what most of the recommendations were at for Chip/Fog overlays to extend the new road life. All estimates are high and hopefully will come in lower, must go in high due to material costs.
7. **Supervisor Updates:** Bean: Letter from State of MI asking for board members, asked anyone from board if they would be interested in joining. Put together a chart of expenses from 2019-2023 on grounds expenses, could save in some areas. Currie asked why so high, Geib pointed out that we purchased a new truck last year. Currie mentioned CIP for next 6 years due by 4//26, noted that she's submitting roads that need to be redone in the cemetery. Teceno asked about parks/wifi/security cameras, Currie noted large expense to get wifi, Bean noted no issues he's heard of yet. Saez noted Starlink is an option.

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Currie to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$36,065.50. 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 \$71,422.50. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dylan Berens, Firefighter submitted resignation.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:43pm.

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.