

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024  
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP OFFICES, 14230 NORTHLAND DR.  
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
7:00 PM  
APPROVED**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bill Schoenlein - on the application to appeal the ZBA - appealing the way it got to the planning commission via the zoning administrator. Ordinance that specifically states that the site plan shall be required prior to zoning review. I've stated why the site plan materials are not complete. Appreciate what Carman is trying to do to get ordinances straightened out. Please read my appeal thoroughly - so that you can see the Township is potentially in violation of their own ordinances.

Bean - apologizes for ineptness regarding that issue.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Three Correspondences:

1. EGLE letter to Fenstermacher in request for a large water withdrawal.
2. Rieth Riley letter acknowledging a recent cyber-attack issue.
3. Whitestone Land offer.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** 1. Cypress Creek Renewables - interested in leasing property in Industrial Park for a solar field - in there to review and discuss at next meeting.  
2. Application to Appeal ZBA

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **March 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes:**
2. **March 14, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes:**
3. **Building Department Report:**
4. **Cemetery and Grounds Report:**
5. **Fire Department Report:**
6. **Sewer Department Report:** Everett- they are asking for maintenance at a couple locations. No davit sockets installed. Bean can request information on that - more detailed quotes and why necessary.
7. **Water Department Report:**
8. **Board of Review Minutes:**
9. **Planning Commission Minutes:**
10. **Roads Committee Minutes:**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Wastewater Agreement:** Update from Bean: met with the city regarding wastewater agreement with the city and Green Twp yesterday, determined there's no reason to change it. 30 year agreement that is reviewed every 5 years.
2. **Update on Ordinance Review:** Bean: After a gathering all of the changes which have been voted on by both the board and zoning, I will send that all to the planning commission and see if they need to make any changes, it would come to the board for the approval, and when we do that we will include document control dates to make any changes needed in the future. In full disclosure the ordinance book that we had is stamped current through 2016. We had one on the website that is not current. Third copy somewhere in between and all have been used by the planning administrator unfortunately. Dug up all of the changes and they are being incorporated into the book so that we can create one concise ordinance book. This will help us track the changes and why they were made.
3. **Property Tax Exemption App – Attorney Update:** Saez -We approved of our own property tax exemption application, but we need to decide if we want to require attorney's approval as well. Many jurisdictions require the attorney to approve of the exemptions and not just the assessor. Currie - Can we get a recommendation from MTA because the assessor already approves of the veterans' exemptions. Bean to call Catherine from the MTA.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Mecosta Conservation District:** Brooke stopped by to give us an update. Last year was the 20th anniversary for the program. It's a very costly program to sustain. No profit at all - but don't want people disposing of this waste improperly. The only way they've been able to sustain it is from donations of support. Currie - asked for a pdf version of information to go on back of taxes. A motion to support MCD in the amount of \$3,000 was made by Currie, supported by Teceno. Bechaz - is that enough? Sounds like spending more than that. Brooke - yes, with community support, but if you were to ever do it on your own it would cost a minimum of \$15,000. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Fire Department Hazard Survey Report:** Bean - 5 serious issues and one recommendation - A Deb will be following up with the fire chief to check on progress every 30 days. Tubbs- first serious issue: get all documentation in one place. Getting a book together. GFCI outlets were installed. Bean - request that you develop an action plan with tasks required and assign if needed, provide projected completion dates and provide an update on each item at each meeting until all items are completed. Bechaz - waiting for a grant? Tubbs - can't spend money before applying for the grant. Bean - address anything serious regardless of grant.
3. **New Firewall Quote:** Saez- Aging firewall they found when they came to do maintenance on the server. A motion was made to approve the Firewall quote in the amount of \$2,548.87 by Saez, supported by Currie. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. **Principles of Governance:** All signed as changeover has occurred since last signing.
5. **Starlink:** Saez provided a quote of what starlink would cost to cover wifi at the park for cameras. A motion was made by Currie to approve the starlink purchase for security cameras, supported by Teceno. Motion passed on a roll call vote. Saez to see if we can pause or cancel for the winter months when the park is closed.
6. **Supervisor Request:** Would like to request from the board an open forum discussion on what wants/needs and concerns are on both fire and first responder services. Would like input from the community. Bechaz - think that's a good idea because they voted on it. Everett - special meeting? Bean - yes more committee of the whole meeting to invite the public. Teceno - think it's a good idea. Bean - no motion needed. To be scheduled.
7. **Grounds Assistant Wage:** Bean requests that we start out the new grounds employee at the same level that we brought Marc on because he's a quality level employee and with Tims retirement and Marc picking up slack in planning and zoning, we will need to fill his position. Marc is becoming more familiar with zoning. Currie - right now it's part time, no decision on full time. With that said, I would like to support the supervisor's request for the pay increase to \$17.90. Geib - are we still part time? yes. Bechaz - part time with full time hours - Teceno - full time to be decided at a later date? Bean - no comment on that right now. Lonny introduction - working with Marc - great job of bringing me on board - appreciate the opportunity.
8. **Roads:** Recommendations for road improvements for 2024 were given by the Road Committee. Currie - Extremely successful in contributing to road projects in the last 10 years. Have made large gains to do that and we have the funds to do it. Bean to make sure expenses and improvements are posted on the website. Feels we have been spending the money on roads - the road commission is tied with funding and if we have a surplus, we are either not providing enough service or over-taxing. Teceno - typically get a better price once larger quantities come in. Just to let everyone know, the amount is slightly below average from the last few years. Very important to keep up with. Saez - Many calls frustrated with chip and fog seals - asks Teceno for explanation. Teceno - Many don't understand why we would do that to a newer road. It seals cracks we can't see to the naked eye to prevent water getting in cracks and helps lengthen the quality of the road. Engineers recommend this to every new road in 2-3 years. Didn't used to maintain but they now keep up with it and it has improved longevity to roads. Possibly add a section in the annual flier so people understand it. Everett - maintaining a road vs repairing is tremendous. A motion was made by Currie to approve paving Woodward at \$198,809.77, Teceno supports. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. A motion was made by Currie to approve paving 215th milling and paving at \$175,313.30, Teceno supports. Geib - 14 to 15, what about the stop sign to Perry? Teceno - also getting done but covered by a grant. They were asking for some additional local funds to match that grant but with us doing this the road commission will cover that. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Bean - on 215th mystery culvert - drain, road commission doesn't know anything about it - somehow drain got put in under 215th near wetlands from the Brooks to the other side. A motion was made by Currie to approve of the chip and fog seal recommendations for \$109,168.73, Teceno supports. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. **Move May Meeting (May 6<sup>th</sup>?)** Saez motions to move next month's meeting to Monday May 6th. Currie supports.

**Financial**

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Currie to approve payroll in the amount of \$37,537.22. Teceno supports. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Accounts Payable:** A motion was made by Saez to approve of Accounts Payables in the amount of \$122,280.99. Currie supports. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**Other Discussion from Board:** Teceno - texting service update? Saez - first official text out to those that we have public records for. As more updates come along, more uses will be found.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:15pm**

**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.**