

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 2, 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: Bean, Saez, Marek, Teceno, Everett, Geib, Bechaz present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Deschaine – introduced himself as running for Register of Deeds, has received overwhelming support, looks forward to taking over position.
Everett – would like to recognize Nick Wyma for the new Fire Department Report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mecosta County Conservation District: Tire Recycling Event & Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
Mecosta County Traffic Control Order

SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Penny Currie – Certificate of Recognition given to Penny Currie for her 14 years of service to the Township as Treasurer, and her many contributions including but not limited to Highbanks Park and Highland View Cemetery Upgrades.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes:**
- 2. June Financial Report:**
- 3. Sheriff's 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 Updates:**

A motion was made by Saez to approve of the consent agenda as printed. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Michigan Mutual Aid Agreement Insurance Response:** Noted.
- 2. Michigan Mutual Aid Agreement:** A motion was made to approve of the Mutual Aid Agreement by Everett and supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Joe Lenahan/ Van Gilder Cemetery:** A motion was made by Saez to approve of the creation of the budget line item for Van Gilder Cemetery in the amount of \$5,000 for maintenance and supplies. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
- 4. Sidewalk Revision/Bid Packet:** No bids received, may need to look into getting quotes.
- 5. Electric Gate for Highbanks:** One quote received; Bean requested two more quotes to be brought to next meeting.
- 6. Cyber Insurance Quote:** No update, Representative on vacation.
- 7. Other:**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Highland View Cemetery Fence Request:** Teceno volunteered to join Parks and Cemetery committees to assess request and other updates. Bean noted he would like the sides of the fence weed whipped and cleaned up at the cemetery and the park.
- 2. Capital Improvement Plan Approved by Planning Commission:** A motion was made by Bechaz to improve the Capital Improvement Plan. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Other:**

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Teceno to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$40,399.03. Supported by Marek. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Accounts Payable:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of Accounts Payables in the amount of \$136,121.47. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joe Bechaz – concerned about a comment on Facebook brought to him. Comment on Only things Gotion page by James Chapman – alleging fraudulent actions from Green Township Clerk, telling people to bring ballots to early voting for county held at Big Rapids Township. General consensus from board – concern about being properly staffed for early voting if this occurs. Saez noted to pass along to County Clerk Marcee Purcell.

Brian Miller – Current Sheriff seeking re-election for another term. Values faith and family, thin blue line represents career path he chose. Opportunity to run for Sheriff came, developed 4 goals. Improve moral, make the department more professional, increase road deputies/become fully staffed, transparency and working closer with other law enforcement in the area. Met each one of those goals, has support of each union including the national organization. Only victim services unit in the State, formed human trafficking task force with surrounding counties. Still a lot to do, hoping to accomplish in the next term. Still have passion for the job and knows he's the best for the position.

Joe Bechaz – 36th annual Mecosta County Sports hall of Fame and Old Timer introductions – all community members welcome. 7/3/24 at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:42pm

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.