

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, September 3, 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: Aubrey Adams, question on taxes/assessing - shared the assessor's contact information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **August 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes:**
2. **August 14, Special Meeting Minutes:**
3. **July Financial Report:**
4. **Sheriff's Report:**
5. **Building Department Report:**
6. **Cemetery and Grounds Report:**
7. **Fire Department Report:**
8. **Sewer Department Report:**
9. **Water Department Report:**

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Sidewalk Revision/Bid Packet:** Bechaz to follow up.
2. **Electric Gate for Highbanks:** Bean to look into Ordinance to see if leaving gate unlocked is a possibility or not. Still waiting on a quote from Cook's welding as well.
3. **Committee Meeting updates: Cemetery committee meeting minutes shared from Chris Teceno,** Saez to update the board packet available online.
4. **Other:**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Fire Department Retirement Announcement:** Upon notice of the Chief's retirement, Bean - after FD retirement announcement - dropping calls, 21 over last month and even 2 today. Resolution in front of you is a 60-day agreement with the city of BR to provide administrative services - Chief Schroeder would be our acting Chief until we decide what we are going to do. This would require a second FD committee meeting. Bean out of office on 11/20 and would like to wrap it up beforehand. Initial desire would be to get a good history on all inspections on equipment to see if up to date/road worthy. Bean requests that the board act on this resolution (2024-04) drafted by Eric Williams. Marek - asks Bean to back up and explain the effect of the dropped calls.

Bean - dept will get paged - central dispatch will wait for a certain amount of time, page again, wait a little longer and the 3rd time will page a backup. City, Mecosta Township, someone else is covering the calls that we should be covering on occasion. 19 times we haven't responded as we should have and I cannot accept that. People are calling and not getting the service that they have paid for and we need to do something about it as a board.

Bechaz - I think it should go to the township vote if implementing any change.

Bean - Don't think that I want to cut our services, I have no desire to do that, I want our department to be efficient, effective and provide the services that the citizens would like. That's my only objective. We only have a set number of days to implement something to make the agreement legal.

A motion was made by Everett and supported by Marek to approve of Resolution 2024-04, a Resolution authorizing a 60-day Fire Administration Contract with the City of Big Rapids. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

2. **3rd Brine Request:** A motion was made by Teceno and supported by Bechaz to have a 3rd brine done on the Township gravel roads. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
3. **Electric quotes for handicap door opener at hall:** A motion was made by Teceno and supported by Bechaz to accept the Battle electric quote to have the handicap door opener at the hall installed. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. **Supervisor Updates:** Bean - Next month would like to discuss roads expense estimates, FD generator repair, side by side for plowing and discussing the contract for plowing sidewalks with the city/township responsibility, and the Grounds position. The Board needs to have a separate meeting moving forward with grounds and planning and zoning. Taxable values increased 10k this year from 191 million to 201 million, which generates a revenue increase to look at to decide if there are some worthwhile projects.

Marek - last year 4.6 million and this year 2.7 million to date, due to new construction. Taxable value of township properties exceeds those of the city by about 10 million.

Fire department committee meeting set for Monday, 9/9 at 7pm.

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Teceno to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$40,257.20. Supported by Everett. 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 \$67,363.43. Supported by Geib. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Saez - reminder to public there will be no fall clean up postcards mailed this year, we will have a master list and be checking ID's, along with sending out a text alert reminder. Fall Clean-up will be at the Industrial Park, on Saturday September 21st from 9am-noon open to all Township Residents. A full list of accepted items is on the website.

Marek - asks Bean for an update on the zoning violation issue. Bean - he had 50 days to correct, 50 days are not up yet.

Barbara Peacock - Millage wording won't have an effect on the Fire Department changes? Bean - No changes for the Fire Dept and First Responder services. There will always be a department so long as the millage passes.

Tim Hahn - Resolution voted on here also the same as the one that the city voted on tonight?

Bean - Yes, the reason it occurred like this, is because it must occur within a certain time. Neither of us had a meeting scheduled after. If either voted no, there would be no agreement.

Tim Hahn - Department is not aware that Tubbs has resigned yet?

Bean - Yes, they are.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Teceno to adjourn at 7:44. Supported by Everett.

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.