

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
MECOSTA COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-10  
RESOLUTION APPROVING NONSUPPORT  
FOR THE TONKIN DRAIN ASSESSMENT AND MECOSTA COUNTY DRAIN  
COMMISSIONER**

WHEREAS, the Big Rapids Charter Township Board (Township) opposes the process that has been established by the Mecosta County Drain Commissioner (Drain Commissioner);

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner established a process of secrecy and non-collaboration with Residents, local Municipalities and other stakeholders, and there was no official correspondence with Township officials since 2019;

WHEREAS, the process established by the Drain Commissioner did not notify the Township of the project until the monthly board meeting in March, 2025, at which time the Township was advised that every person who owns property in the drainage district will have individual assessments; and the Township will have an at large assessment at 9.9%;

WHEREAS, the original petition and board of determination of this project was conducted in 2018, and based upon information from landowners in the drainage district boundaries, there have been no flooding or water issues for the past several years;

WHEREAS, several of those who signed the original petition no longer support the scope of the project and wish to rescind their signatures;

WHEREAS, the assessment to counties is based upon the benefit to county roads. The Township's apportionment percentage was increased from 9.9% to 18% at the appeal, now 1% higher than the County's contribution of 17%. The main improvement to this project affects Northland Drive, a MDOT Road, and the largest benefit is not directly to the Township, but rather to the County;

WHEREAS, multiple errors were found in the few properties that appealed the assessments, and some taxpayers are being double taxed on different drains, for more property than they currently own, because the Drain Commissioner failed to use data from Township Tax Rolls and Equalization;

WHEREAS, the Residents of the drainage district have unanimously expressed their nonsupport of this project, and the Township Supervisor requested the Drain Commissioner stop or pause the project to research additional options and secure additional funding and grant opportunities;

WHEREAS, The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States protect life, liberty, and property by guaranteeing that the government cannot deprive individuals these rights without due process of law; the government must follow fair procedures

and provide a legal basis before taking away these fundamental rights. The Township Board believes that the assessments to individual landowners and to the Township at large is an improper seizure of the property of both, based upon the incompetence, lack of ongoing communication, retribution and substandard administrative abilities of the Drain Commissioner, Karla Miller;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Big Rapids Charter Township Board, by adoption of this Resolution, strongly opposes the Tonkin Drain Project and has no confidence in the actions and administration of the Drain Commissioner, Karla Miller.
2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

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Hannah Saez  
Big Rapids Charter Township Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
                                      ) SS  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Board meeting on July 1, 2025, of which the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 1st day of July, 2025.

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Hannah Saez  
Big Rapids Charter Township Clerk

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Township has caused this Undertaking to be executed by its authorized officer.

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
Mecosta County, Michigan

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Hannah Saez  
Big Rapids Charter Township Clerk

Dated: July 1, 2025