

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON MARCH 16, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Stille at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Roll call: Present: Stille, Buchanan, VanBemmelen, Constantine, Suchecki.
Others present: Attorney Ron Redick, Fire Chief John Kriger,
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Special Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Constantine, seconded by Suchecki to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Public comments were offered. Rick Brown asked the board to consider abandonment of the right-of-way directly behind the Crockery Creek Saloon and next to property Mr. Brown owns. He stated it is currently filled with junk and overgrowth. No other comments were heard.
8. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was heard. Supervisor Stille reported that the he has two items he is adding to the agenda. Items are as followed;
 - n. meeting attendance resolution
 - o. discuss allowing recreational marijuana in Crockery Township
9. Treasurer's Report was offered. None heard.
10. Clerk's Report was offered. Clerk Buchanan stated that she has received a request from the Crockery Citizens Committee asking if the board would consider paying for the Ottawa County Health Department License for all the pancake breakfast fundraisers. The monies raised at the pancake breakfast go right back to various activities for the township such as the children's Halloween party, Easter egg hunt, fire department open house, North Bank Trail maintenance fund and several others.
A resident has asked the board to consider adding two new handicap parking spaces to the parking lot.
11. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Constantine to approve payment for the Ottawa County Health Department license for the pancake breakfast fundraising events at a total cost of \$405.00. All in favor. Motion carried.
12. Fire Chief's report was given. Chief Kriger stated that the department responded to 33 calls last month. Jesse Baxter has notified the department that he will be stepping down from the lieutenant position but will remain on the fire department as a firefighter. Fire Chief Kriger is asking approval to promote firefighter Bill Mastenbrook to fill the open lieutenant position. New recruit Dan Huhn has begun duty as a Crockery firefighter after successfully completing the medical physical and the physical agility test as approved by the board at the February meeting. The department is asking to purchase three new firefighter helmets (this is a budgeted expense).

13. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve the promotion for Bill Mastenbrook to lieutenant as recommended by the Fire Chief. All in favor. Motion carried.
14. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve the purchase of three new firefighter helmets at a cost of approximately \$350.00 each. All in favor. Motion carried.
15. Committee Chair reports were offered. No reports were heard.
16. Board Member Committee reports were offered. No reports were heard.
17. The public hearing for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant application submittal was declared open at 7:17 p.m. Supervisor Stille gave a description of the Nunica Junction Trailhead project. He explained that he has not been able to reach an agreement with Rick Brown on the property behind the post office that the township had wanted to include in the trailhead plan. The application is for a \$116,000 grant from MNRTF. After board discussion the Supervisor asked for public comments. Eric Erhorn asked if the trailhead project is contingent on the purchase of property from Rick Brown. Supervisor Stille stated that the trailhead plan can be scaled down if an agreement on the purchase can not be reached. No other comments were heard. The public hearing was declared closed at 7:26 P.M.
18. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Constantine to approve Resolution 2020-07, Resolution Of Approval To Support The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application For The Nunica Junction Trailhead For The Amount Of \$116,000 In Crockery Township. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Constantine to authorize Supervisor Stille to proceed with negotiating the purchase of the property (approximately ½ acre) behind the post office from Rick Brown which will be added to the trailhead, with the township agreeing to pay for the survey. The total cost not to exceed \$14,300. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Ordinance 2020-02, An Ordinance to secure the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents and property owners of the Township of Crockery, by providing regulations for the safe discharge of firearms in the Township; and to provide for violations of this Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2020-03, An Ordinance To Amend Township Ordinance No. 2011-06, The Township Noise Control Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Van Bemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2020-04, Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Application of John Stuyfzand; rezoning to C-3 District; 12257 Cleveland Street (Parcel No. 70-04-16-400-010)] as recommended by the Planning Commission. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Discussion was held on the Yonker Drain Assessment as reviewed by the Supervisor. The expected cost for Crockery Township is projected to be \$32,500 which amounts to 12.5%. The township can choose to pay the amount one time or spread the cost over 5 years.

24. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the payment for the Yonker Drain assessment at a cost of up to \$32,500 plus interest, to be paid over 5 years. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Motion by Constantine, seconded by Buchanan to approve the Outdoor Assembly application from Josh Rebedew for Bikefest On The Grand to be held at Conestoga Campground on June 19th and 20th. This approval is contingent on an updated application with a letter of authorization from the trust attorney for the campground. License will only be issued after the requirements of the Outdoor Assembly Ordinance are turned in to the Clerk. All in favor. Motion carried.
26. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to approve the water debt payment of \$37,777.37 as recommended by the Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.
27. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the sewer bond interest payment of \$8,456.88 as recommended by the Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.
28. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve the \$425,000 Water Bond (Garfield St.) payment of \$3,900 as recommended by the Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.
29. Discussion was held on the progress of the office space reconfiguration and refurbishment. New carpet should be installed, and some new desks will need to be purchased to complete the move of all office space to West side of the building and to include some security measures as recommended by the Ottawa County Sheriff Department.
30. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to authorize an expenditure up to \$18,000 for the completion of the office space reconfiguration. All in favor. Motion carried.
31. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to authorize the Supervisor to make the decision on whether the April meeting should be canceled because of the Coronavirus, if the agenda does not warrant a meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.
32. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2020-08, Resolution To Establish Attendance Policy For Appointed Boards, Commissions, And Committees. All in favor. Motion carried.
33. Discussion was held on whether the township should allow recreational marijuana facilities in Crockery Township. Lori Rogers from Skymint and Aaron Smith from Exit 9 spoke about how they believe it would not only benefit the existing medical marijuana facilities but also Crockery Township.
34. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2020-09, Resolution Regarding Adult-Use/Recreational Marijuana Establishments. Roll call: Yes – Suchecki, Stille, VanBemmelen. No – Buchanan, Constantine. Motion carried on a 3-2 vote.
35. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to move to enter closed session under Sections 8(e) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with the Township attorney concerning settlement strategy in connection with the pending litigation involving the Harmon property, and to consider a privileged,

written legal opinion from the Township attorney relating to the same matter. Roll call: Yes – Stille, Constantine, VanBemmelen, Suchecki, Buchanan. Motion carried. The board went into closed session at 8:50 p.m. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Constantine to come out of closed session. All in favor. Motion carried. The board came out of closed session and resumed the board meeting at 8:59 p.m.

36. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to authorize our attorney to settle the court case with Patrick Harmon consistent with the discussion in closed session. All in favor. Motion carried.
37. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk