

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 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, and Deputy Chief Kyle Botbyl.
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Constantine to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. There were several people in attendance who spoke on the issue of recreational marijuana. Joe Neller of Diamondale, Michigan, stated he is a co-owner of Green Peak, the company that operates the Skymint Dispensary in Nunica. He would like to see the township opt in for recreational marijuana sales. The medical marijuana businesses in Crockery have had no legal/security issues since operations began. He also stated that the township will not receive any financial benefit from the excise tax unless Crockery decides to allow the recreational sales. Mike Murphy, Cleveland Street spoke about the financial benefit to the township if we allow recreational marijuana sales. This would come from the additional license fees and revenue from the excise tax. Lori Rogers of Ada, Michigan is the manager of Skymint Provisioning and she spoke of how the company has the space to add recreational marijuana sales to the current facility and Skymint has received a large number of calls from consumers wanting to purchase recreational marijuana. Lori stated that it would be beneficial to both Skymint and Crockery Township to allow recreational marijuana sales, since only those who allow the sale of recreational marijuana will be entitled to receive a portion of the excise tax. She also stated that there have been no township or law enforcement issues since they have begun selling medical marijuana. Tracy Powers from Agri-Med, the company who operates Exit 9 Provisioning in Nunica, also operates medical and recreational marijuana businesses in Muskegon, spoke about the additional tax dollars which would come to Crockery if the township approves the sale of recreational marijuana product. She also stated that the existing businesses such as restaurants and gas stations could see an increase in business from people coming to Nunica to make their recreational purchases. Tracy stated that there would be increased employment opportunities and that there have been no problems at any of their facilities. She urges the board to allow them to operate with both medical and recreational facilities as she believes the existing businesses could not remain open with only medical sales as new businesses open to the north of Nunica. Chris Bade, the owner of River Flats Ag asked the board to consider allowing recreational grow in Crockery Township. He spoke briefly of his facility and the processes followed at his business. All the

comments that were heard were urging the Crockery Township Board to approve allowing facilities for recreational use marijuana.

58th District Court candidate Juanita Bocanegra introduced herself and spoke about why she decided to run for the position. She also spoke about her background and community involvement. She further stated that she is endorsed by Sheriff Steve Kempker and former Sheriff Gary Rosema. The board appreciated her coming to Crockery Township.

7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was heard. Supervisor Stille reported that the township's trash day will be May 9th. A new company, Yellow Dumpsters is asking to be considered to supply the dumpsters for the clean-up day, so quotes from Yellow Dumpsters and Republic will be considered. It will be held at town hall due to the new asphalt at the fire station.

Pat Staskiewicz, from Ottawa County Public Utilities has been compiling more information on the sewer plant for us after our previous work session. He is requesting we have another work session in 2 to 3 weeks for further discussion on the sewer plant.

Work is almost complete on the fourth classroom for converting it to a file storage room. Planning will continue on the office reconfiguration for the other rooms, and we will be working on some security recommendations from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department.

Wood Lane Road is in very bad condition with the potential for our emergency equipment to have difficulties driving on it. It is a private road so the 4 property owners will be receiving letters from our attorney asking for them to work together to repair the road or the township might have to take further action.

8. Treasurer's Report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen reported that the street lights at M-104 and 136th Ave and State and 136th Ave. should be installed soon. Treasurer VanBemmelen would also like to see a light installed at Cobblestone and Hathaway Lakes on M-104 and she would like to proceed with getting a quote for it. No objections were heard. (resident Dave Willis asked the board to consider a light at State and 130th due to the number of children getting on the bus at that location).

9. Clerk's Report was offered. No report was heard.

10. Fire Chief's report was given. Chief Kriger stated that the department responded to 23 calls last month. The department has received 5 new fire fighter applications and 3 of them have been attending the training meetings at the station. Chief Kriger asked for approval to move forward with those 3 applicants with the physical agility test and physicals for hiring. The three applicants are Samuel Florea, Dan Huhn, and Noah Locascio.

11. Committee Chair reports were offered. No reports were heard.

12. Board Member Committee reports were offered. No reports were heard.

13. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve setting February 25th for a work session with Ottawa County Public Utilities for further discussion about the sewer plant. All in favor. Motion carried

14. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to authorize the Fire Chief to move forward with applicant Dan Huhn, Noah Locascio, and Samuel Florea for

hire contingent on the applicant successfully passing the physical agility test and medical physical. All in favor. Motion carried.

15. Motion by Constantine, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Ordinance 2020-01, Resolution To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of Crockery Township (Rezoning in Section 6). All in favor. Motion carried.
16. Discussion was held on a proposed ordinance to regulate the discharge of firearms and regulate noise complaints. No formal action was taken at this time.
17. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Constantine to accept and approve the quote from Michigan Chloride Sales (MCS) for the 2020 brining season at .22 cents per gallon (no rate increase from previous year). The scheduled brining dates are May 8th, July 9th and September 8th. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Motion by Constantine, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2020-04, Consumers Energy Lighting Contract (130th Ave. and State Rd., 130th Ave. and M-104) with the Clerk authorized to sign. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Constantine to approve the budget amendments as recommended by the Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to change the date of the March board meeting to Monday, March 16, 2020 due to the Presidential Primary Election being held on March 10th. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to increase election wages as recommended by the Clerk. Election Inspector will go to \$13 an hour, Co-Chairs will go to \$14 an hour, Chairperson will increase to \$16 an hour with the Chair bonus removed, and the Receiving Board will increase to \$70 per election. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to increase the rate of pay for Planning Commission members \$10 per meeting beginning with January 2020. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to adopt Resolution 2020-05, Resolution To Establish Township Officers Salary (Trustees). Each Trustee will be paid \$3600 per year which will include the regular scheduled Board meeting. Each additional meeting will be paid at a rate of \$65 per meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.
24. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve Resolution 2020 - 06, Resolution Approving Certain Fees And Charges Pertaining To The Township Cemetery. The rates recommended by the Cemetery Committee are as follows.
 - Burials - \$500.00
 - Cremains - \$275.00
 - Baby - \$215.00
 - Child - \$290.00
 - Grave site fee(resident) - \$435.00
 - Grave site fee(non-resident) - \$900.00All other cemetery fees will remain the same.
All in favor. Motion carried.

25. Motion by Constantine, seconded by Suchecki 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 – Suchecki, Buchanan, Stille, VanBemmelen, Stille. Motion carried. The board went into closed session at 8:54 p.m. The board came out of closed session and resumed the board meeting at 9:42 p.m.
26. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to authorize the Township attorney to submit a counter offer to Patrick Harmon consistent with the discussion in closed session. All in favor. Motion carried.
27. Motion by Constantine, seconded by VanBemmelen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk