

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
HELD ON JULY 13, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Kathy Buchanan, Judy VanBemmelen, Ryan Kelly. Absent: Rich Suchecki.  
Others present: Fire Chief John Kriger,
3. Motion by Ryan, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve the agenda with the addition of item f, Grand River Landing extension. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. No comments were heard.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that the roof replacement on the storage building at Nunica Cemetery has been completed. There was an additional cost due to some rotted boards which the contractor replaced per his project bid. Dead trees and stump removal has also been completed. The area has been leveled off with black dirt and seeded. Both projects in the cemetery were done very well.  
The purchase of a small strip of Hortech land which the Township will use for the sewer extension has been closed on. The easements from Eastbrook have been completed as well.  
The bid for the sewer extension came in \$300,000 under the bid estimates. Due to this, a lift station generator has been added to the project, and the amount we will bond for has been changed. The new bond amount will be \$160,000 lower for 2.89 million.  
New hydrant whips will be here next week. The Township ordered 200 and the fire department personnel will install them. Supervisor Erhorn asked Fire Chief Kriger if the department could also weed whack around the hydrants while they are installing the whips. Ninety percent of the new lighting at the station has been completed.  
John Ruitter who currently serves as our plumbing Inspector has given us notice that he will be retiring September 10<sup>th</sup>. Imperial Municipal Services will be doing our plumbing inspections after that date.
8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that the Township has received the ballot for the Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees election. The return date is no later than August 13<sup>th</sup>.  
The Township has been invited to the Ottawa County Road Commission open house on August 13<sup>th</sup>. If any Board member is interested in going, please let the Clerk know so she can R.S.V.P to the County.
9. Treasurer's report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen reported that she is working on budget amendments to close out the fiscal year.
10. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the department responded to 35 calls last month.

A letter of resignation was received from Jason Tiemeyer. He recently moved out of the area but expects to be returning to Crockery in about 5 years. He is hoping to return to the department at that time.

Chief Kriger is seeking approval to buy a Stair Lift Assist for use getting a person down the stairs so they can be taken for medical treatment.

The Chief is recommending two new hires for the department. They are Jonah Florea and Jeremy Collins.

11. Committee Chair report was offered. No reports were heard.
12. Board Member report was offered. No reports were heard.
13. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the purchase of a Stair Lift Assist for \$961.99 as requested by the fire department. All in favor. Motion carried.
14. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve hiring Jeremy Collins and Jonah Florea contingent on each successfully passing a medical physical and the physical agility test. All in favor. Motion carried.
15. Discussion was held regarding the ambulance agreement with North Ottawa Community Hospital. The previous agreement is expiring on December 31, 2021.
16. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the Third Amendment To Emergency Medical Services Agreement (ambulance contract) and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign. All in favor. Motion carried.
17. Discussion was held regarding the proposed zoning ordinance change as it relates to the Commercial Horticultural District site plan review.
18. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2021-05, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery (CH District Site Plan Review) as approved by the Planning Commission. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the cemetery lot buybacks for Kortekaas and Stillson in the Nunica Cemetery, and Copeland's in Ottawa Center Cemetery. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Discussion was held on the buyback rates the Township pays for cemetery lots.
21. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Resolution 2021-11, Resolution Approving Certain Fees Pertaining To The Township Cemetery (Graves/Cremains Site Repurchases). The Township may, but is not required to, repurchase an unused grave site for a flat fee of \$150 and an unused cremains site for a flat fee of \$50. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Discussion was held on the building rental situation. Building rentals were discontinued due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been many calls to the Township wanting to schedule for holiday parties. Board members discussed whether we should continue to rent the facilities. If so, the fees charged for rentals would need to be increased to cover the additional cleaning costs and the opening and closing of the building after a rental.
23. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to table the building rental decision until further information is gathered, but to allow the facility to be used

for a funeral luncheon for a resident, during normal office hours. All in favor. Motion carried.

24. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to grant another extension for Grand River Landing while we wait for the hydrologic review from EGLE. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to rescind the December 8, 2020 motion to contract with WebTech, and solicit for bids from website design companies, including WebTech, for a complete update of the Township's website
26. Public comments were offered. Dave Willis asked why at the Planning Commission meetings there is not previous discussion about an item before a public hearing is held. Clerk Buchanan stated that the Township is trying to streamline the process for applicants so they do not need to attend multiple Planning Commission meetings. The public hearing date is set, and Planning Commission members are given materials to review in advance of the hearing. Tom Farage again stated how urgent a water line extension along M-104 is needed. He stated wells are going dry. He has tried three times to put a new well down going as far as 180 feet with no luck. His neighbor is also in need of water, as his well is also going dry. He is again encouraging the township to look at any possible grants out there. Supervisor Erhorn stated that we do not have a grant writer on staff. Trustee Kelly suggested that we could check on the possibility of a Grand Valley, Western, or Michigan State graduate intern to work on this project.  
Mick Bricker introduced himself and stated he is running for the 89<sup>th</sup> District House seat currently held by Representative Jim Lilley who is term limited. Mr. Bricker stated he would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have for him after the meeting. The Board thanked him for attending our meeting.
27. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan  
Crockery Township Clerk