

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON MARCH 9, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 7:01 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Kathy Buchanan, Judy VanBemmelen, Ryan Kelly, Rich Suchecki.
Others present: Attorney Ron Redick, Fire Chief John Kriger, Deputy Fire Chief Kyle Botbyl.
3. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 Special Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Public comments were offered. Dave Willis commented that there was not a listing of proposed disbursements for the public, and he was asking if they could be made available at future meetings.
8. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. No report was heard at this time.
9. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that the State of Michigan has released the recreational marijuana payments from the excise tax collected in 2020. Crockery Township has 2 recreational marijuana retail stores so we are set to receive a total of \$56,002.64 (\$28,001.32 per provisioning center). Ottawa County will receive the same amount based on the 2 facilities in Crockery Township.
10. Treasurer's report was offered. No report was heard.
11. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the department responded to 28 calls last month. 521 is in for pump repair. Bid requests for the new truck went out yesterday with a return date of April 9th by noon. Chief Kriger has received two letters of resignation.
12. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick informed the Board that a Bill was presented in Lansing today to extend the Open Meeting Act ruling on virtual meetings thru June.
13. Committee Chair report was offered. No reports were heard.
14. Board Member report was offered. Trustee Kelly reported that he will be replacing Trustee Suchecki on the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Committee.
15. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to accept Noah Locascio's resignation from the fire department effective immediately. All in favor. Motion carried.
16. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to accept Elijah Locascio's resignation from the fire department effective immediately. All in favor. Motion carried.

17. Discussion was held regarding the AZKO Manufacturing zoning issue. Mr. Ziegenthaler operated a manufacturing business at 13669 Apple Dr. from 1993 thru 2009, when they moved to Muskegon Heights after receiving a tax abatement. There is also a house on the property occupied by Mr. Ziegenthaler's father. In December of 2020, Mr. Ziegenthaler sold the Azko building in Muskegon Heights, and in late December and early January of this year, manufacturing equipment was moved back into buildings at this property, and manufacturing has resumed. Zoning maps back to the original one dated 1950 show that historically the property has always been zoned residential. Public comments were offered. Attorney Jason Kolkema, representing Azko Manufacturing stated that he believes the most relevant item to consider is the listing of machines that were in Muskegon Heights, and those that were left in Crockery Township. The business was operating only in Crockery from 1993 – 2009. Resident Steve Wolcott stated that Azko has made many specialty parts for him and others over the years in Crockery. Manufacturing has been happening at that location for many years, and he does not understand why the township is not permitting manufacturing to continue there. Dave Willis asked if there could be a mixed use for the Apple Drive area, stating it is not suitable for residential use. There were a few other comments from people who did not identify themselves.
18. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve to proceed with legal action on the AZKO Manufacturing zoning issue. Roll Call: Suchecki – Yes, Buchanan – Yes, Erhorn – Yes, Kelly – No, VanBemmelen – Yes. Motion carried.
19. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2021-03, Resolution To Approve Application For Farmland Development Rights Agreement [Hanenburg Farms, LLC]. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve budget amendments for the Corridor Improvement Fund as recommended by the Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to approve the bond payments to Ottawa County Public Utilities as recommended by the Treasurer.
Interest payment in the amount of \$7,021.88 for the \$1,275,000 Bond payment.
Interest payment in the amount of \$3,387.50 for the \$420,000 Bond payment.
2020 payment for the Spring Lake Township Water System per contract dated 4/12/2010 in the amount of \$41,828.83.
All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to approve the Hortech Purchase Agreement and the Easement Agreement, with allowance to make minor and non-material changes that do not alter the intent of the agreement and to authorize the Supervisor to sign. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Supervisor Erhorn informed the Board that Bob Veeneman will no longer cut the grass and maintain the cemetery grounds in Crockery. Supervisor Erhorn has met with him and has a description of what he has been taking care of each year. We will be soliciting for bids for the upkeep of the cemetery. Mr. Veeneman will remain as the cemetery sexton.

Supervisor Erhorn sent out a reminder to property owners about the March 15th deadline to submit a plan to be compliant with EGLE requirements. The Supervisor will be meeting with Lukas Hill from Spring Lake about the trail-way marker signs. There have been donations to pay for them.

The township will be pursuing getting cost estimates on placing flashing bike trail signage to be placed at the trail crossings on Main Street.

Supervisor Erhorn met with George Czinder about the trail. There are a few stumps along the trail by the sewer plant that need to be ground. Signage is needed for a parking issue at the sewer plant, and “no motorized vehicles” signs should be placed at the underpass between 120th and Dickinson as snowmobiles were on it this winter.

24. Public comments were offered. Ross Ziegenthaler asked if the attorney bills for what the township has spent on the AZKO Manufacturing zoning issue are available to the public. Clerk Buchanan stated they could be requested through the FOIA process.

Dave Willis asked if the disbursement report could be made available to the public attending the Board meetings. Supervisor Erhorn stated they could be.

25. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by
Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk