

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2022**

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 ,Rich Suchecki  
Absent: Ryan Kelly  
Others present: Attorney Ron Redick and Fire Chief John Kriger.
3. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting (the November Board Meeting was canceled). All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by VanBemmelen seconded by Suchecki to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. Allison Meidema, our newly elected County Commissioner was present. She introduced herself to the public and stated that she would be available to meet with anyone interested this Saturday from 8am - 9am at the Delly Belly in Coopersville. Ms. Meidema also stated that she has a facebook page and a website is coming.  
Joe Bush, the Water Resource Commissioner brought an updated map of the County drains in Crockery Township.  
Tom Farage asked if the township applied for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Ottawa County (Ottawa County received 56.6 million in total ARPA funds in 2021). Supervisor Erhorn stated that Crockery did not because there was not an application process offered. The County offered Ottawa County residents the opportunity to go to their website and choose from a list what residents felt was most important to them.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that the bike path millage passed so the Township will need to choose an engineer firm to move forward with getting the Township in a position to apply for grants, designing the trail and helping to decide the best route for the trail.  
We received notice that an anonymous donation of \$250,000 has been given to the West Michigan Trails and Greenways to be used towards the completion of the North Bank Trail through Crockery Township.  
The Township currently has a non-conforming house within the I-1 district which could potentially conflict with a possible new marijuana business. We currently have a 500 foot setback from residential structures. Supervisor is asking if we should consider changing zoning ordinance to setbacks from residential and agricultural districts.  
We have received notice that there will be a rate increase from West Michigan Burial beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> so we may need to increase the rates we charge for burials and footings.

The Township received \$480,000 in ARPA funds. We should have a discussion about the best way to allocate these fund dollars. Possible projects could include water projects, roads, fire department.

The Sewer Ordinance needs to be updated to accommodate the closing of the sewer plant. We should also look into adjusting rates to reflect Township costs which would also include ensuring debt payment line on the bill actually covers the debt payment owed by the Township.

Supervisor Erhorn is suggesting that the Board set a work session for January 10<sup>th</sup> to go over township goals and priorities, including upcoming fire department expenditures.

8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that with the passage of Proposal 2 in the November 8<sup>th</sup> election, all municipalities are going to have a financial impact due to the new requirements. Unfortunately, the State does not have the details figured out for implementation, or exactly how it will affect the counties and municipalities. Nine days of early voting will cost Crockery Township additional dollars. The Clerk is hopeful that we will have a better understanding of these additional costs before we begin the next fiscal year's budgeting process.

The Clerk received notice today that the State of Michigan approved the Hortech Industrial Facility Exemption Certificate. This will begin December 31, 2022 and will end December 30, 2034.

Clerk Buchanan is hopeful that the GIS cemetery program will be ready to be available on the website in early January.

9. Treasurer's report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen asked that the Board set the fee for the summer tax collection at \$3.05 per parcel.
10. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the department responded to 25 calls in October and 30 calls in November. The department participated again this year in the Crusade for Toys. Crockery's firefighters collected \$6,400 over a weekend. Fire Chief Kriger is asking the Board to approve the hiring of Zachary Merlo as a firefighter. Chief Kriger reported that the tanker has been taken out of service because the tires are out of date and will not be able to pass a MDOT inspection. Due to the split rims on the tanker tires are unavailable as they are no longer manufactured. The department has a quote from Meekhof's and is asking for approval to purchase new rims and tires.
11. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick reported that there has been no legislative action on short term rentals.
12. Board Member report was offered. With the absence of Trustee Kelly, Supervisor Erhorn reported that there will not be a Planning Commission meeting in December.
13. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to set the collection fee for summer taxes at \$3.05 per parcel. All in favor. Motion carried.
14. Motion by VanBemmelen seconded by Suchecki to approve the hiring of Zachary Merlo as a Crockery Township Firefighter, on the condition that he successfully

passes the physical agility testing and a pre-hire medical physical. All in favor. Motion carried.

15. Motion by Erhorn, seconded by VanBemmelen to authorize up to \$6,267.50 for new tires and rims for the tanker. The department is to get a quote from Ginman Tire also before placing an order. All in favor. Motion carried.
16. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to adopt the proposed Fire Department House Burning Policy. All in favor. Motion carried.
17. Derek Hall from the State of Michigan was present to give details of the 2021-2022 Financial Audit. All funds remain good, and the Sewer Fund has seen improvement since closing the sewer plant and connecting a line to the Grand Haven Sewer Plant. Mr. Hall answered questions from the Board and residents in attendance.
18. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Ordinance 2022-14, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Rezoning of 10668 Wilson Street parcel # 70-04-02-200-010 to the R-1 District]. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to authorize an expenditure of up to \$8,000 for a mini-split unit to be installed for the board room, contingent on getting another quote. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the quote from Precision Lawncare for snowplowing again this season. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Ordinance 2022-15, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Private Streets, Shared driveways and Driveways]. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the member appointments to the Planning Commission, ZBA, Construction Board of Appeals, Corridor Improvement Authority and the Board of Review as recommended by the Supervisor (list attached) All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve a per meeting pay increase for members of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The rate of pay will increase to \$100 per meeting attended for members, including Trustees, and \$150 for the Secretary and the Chairperson. All in favor. Motion carried.
24. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to accept the quote from Michigan Chloride Sales for the 2023 brining, and to approve the dates for the 3 brines. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Erhorn to adopt Resolution 2022-20, Resolution Authorizing The Treasurer To Invest Township Funds With Multi-Bank Securities. All in favor. Motion carried.
26. Public comments were offered. Mike Murphy asked questions about several site plan requirements he needs to comply with on his new proposed construction. Tom Farage recommends that the Township hire a grant writer and pay for it with the ARPA funds.

Ron Lovelace stated that he agrees with Mr. Farage on the need for a grant writer. He also asked what preparations is the Township taking to prepare for the continuing growth in Crockery Township. Mr. Lovelace also stated that he feels the Supervisor should send a letter to each new resident which could serve as an introduction to the community.

Dave Willis questioned the quality of the re-graveling of 136<sup>th</sup> Ave. and he stated the mail carrier got stuck twice on the stretch in front of his house. Mr. Willis also had questions about some of the zoning ordinances.

Trustee Suchecki asked with the survey we put out several years ago, have those goals been met. He suggested we consider updating.

27. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan  
Crockery Township Clerk