

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2023**

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 7:02 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Kathy Buchanan, Judy VanBemmelen, Rich Suchecki, 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 December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Suchecki seconded by Kelly to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki seconded by Buchanan to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. Kyle Brusema and Tracy Neitring asked about the status of a lot they own at Grand River Landing now that the hydrologic study has been done. No other public comments were heard.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that there has been damage done to the bike trail. We have been told that a truck broke through on a boardwalk section of the trail and a loader operator working on the matting for the Consumers Energy project pulled him out. He did not get the name of the driver but the Ottawa County Sheriff Department is investigating. The furnace in the gym needs to be repaired at a cost of \$453. Supervisor Erhorn is getting quotes for a new furnace since the one currently in place is original to the construction of the gym. The first quote he received is extremely high. He suggests that we look at insulating the ceiling in the gym before we consider a new furnace since we have had a company come in and look at it and there is very little insulating property on what is currently there. We will wait for the pricing to come back on these projects before further discussion.
Supervisor Erhorn stated he would like to return to the Crockery Township Fire Department and asked the board members for their thoughts on this matter.
8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan stated that a price increase for West Michigan Burial was effective on January 1, 2023 and suggest we might want to increase our burial charges to cover the increase.
9. Treasurer's report was offered. No report was heard.
10. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the department responded to 39 calls last month and 398 calls in 2022. The fire department recently received a donation from Johnson Boiler in appreciation for their mutual aid assistance at a fire at the company.
11. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick reported that the Court of Appeals has issued an opinion on a recent marijuana case which issues guidance for competing applications for marijuana establishments. This is of interest for those municipalities which set limits on the number of marijuana facilities they will allow. Our ordinance is in alignment with the Court's opinion.

Attorney Redick reported that the newly elected Ottawa County Commissioners have hired Kollman Law out of Lansing as the County's new legal counsel.

12. Board Member report was offered. No reports were heard.
13. A discussion was held on the ARPA funds and how to best utilize that money. A possible allocation could be \$20,000 fire department, \$20,000 bike trail maintenance, and \$380,000 for a water project. No action was taken.
14. Discussion was held on a possible increase to the zoning application fees and escrow amounts. The rate schedule and escrow amounts needed will be further researched and discussed again at the next board meeting.
15. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to reinstate Erik Erhorn to the fire department contingent on successfully completing a medical physical and physical agility test. All in favor. Motion carried. Supervisor Erhorn abstained from the vote.
16. Motion by VanBemmelen seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2023-01, Cemetery Rate Increase. All in favor. Motion carried
17. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to formally accept Pete Eliopolus's letter of resignation from the fire department effective immediately. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Discussion was held on the Anti-Blight Ordinance and how to best handle the complaints the township has received on numerous properties in the township. Attorney Redick stated that there are inconsistencies in the General Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance, most notable is in the area of penalties and enforcement. The Planning Commission will need to take a look at amending the Zoning Ordinance and the Board the General Ordinance. No action was taken.
19. A work session was set for January 16th at 6:00 pm for further discussion on the township goals for the coming year.
20. Public comment was offered. Missy and David Hertz own a lot at Grand River Landing and asked questions about how they need to proceed with adding a shed. They plan on having a hydrologic study done on their lot but are being told that even if approved they would have to stay within the footprint of the "box" shown on the map prepared by the engineers for EGLE approval. Supervisor Erhorn stated he will follow up with the engineer for clarity on this matter. Tom Farage stated he wants to see ARPA funding used to hire a grant writer. He also asked about the escrow policy.
21. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk