

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON JUNE 13, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 7:04 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Judy VanBemmelen, Rich Suchecki, Ryan Kelly. Kathy Buchanan.
Others present: Attorney Ron Redick, Fire Chief John Kriger, Crockery Fire Department's Lieutenant and Zoning Enforcement Officer Bill Mastenbrook.
3. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve the agenda with the addition of item e, bike path maintenance and item f, township hall building maintenance. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki, supported by Buchanan to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered at 7:11 p.m. No comments were heard.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Please see attached Supervisor's monthly meeting notes.
8. Treasurer's report was offered. No report was heard.
9. Clerk's report was offered. State Representative VanWoerkom will be at Crockery Township for Coffee Hour on Friday, June 23rd at 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for Crockery residents to speak to him about any issues.
Ottawa County Clerk's office is continuing to work on a possible plan for the 9 days of early voting, but they are still waiting on the State for the enacted laws for early voting.
10. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the Department responded to 31 calls last month, which brings this year's total to 139 as of this date. ISO did their evaluation of the fire service in Crockery Township this last week. Preliminary results look like we will keep our current rating of 5/6.
11. Attorney report was offered. Attorney Redick had no report at this time.
12. Bill Mastenbrook, Zoning Enforcement updated the Board on the current status of the violation letters he sent out last month.
13. Attorney's report was offered. No report was heard.
14. Trustee Kelly reported on the WMSRDC meeting he attended recently. He stated a roundabout is being looked at for a 2025 construction at Cleveland and 112th.
15. Discussion was held regarding the replacement of John Kriger as Fire Chief due to his resignation effective July 1st.
16. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the hiring of Bill Mastenbrook as the new Fire Chief effective July 1, 2023. The rate of pay will be set at \$28.50 per hour and a \$35.00 a month phone allowance. The fee for his zoning enforcement will also be set at \$28.50 per hour.

17. Discussion was held on a possible wage increase for firefighters. The proposed wage increase is \$1.00 for firefighters, \$1.50 for officers, and a \$5.50 for the Fire Chief. This increase for the Fire Chief is to offset the removal of the \$450.00 monthly stipend.
18. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve the proposed wage increases (see attached sheet). All in favor. Motion passed. Supervisor Erhorn abstained.
19. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to amend the previously adopted motion regarding meals for election workers and Board of Review members. The Township will provide meals as a de minimus fringe benefit of the job. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to open the Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget and to set the millage rates. All in favor. Motion approved. The Public Hearing was opened at 8:25 p.m.
21. Treasurer VanBemmelen gave an overview of the proposed financial budget. Board members asked questions, and public comment was offered. No comments were heard.
22. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to close the Public Hearing. All in favor. Motion carried. The Public Hearing was closed at 8:49 p.m.
23. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2023-04, Resolution Establishing Township Property Tax Rates For 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.
24. Discussion was held regarding the Cemetery Ordinance. Clerk Buchanan reported that the cemeteries, especially the Nunica Cemetery, are once again being decorated with shepherd hooks, statuary, plastic pots, etc. which are all violations of the current ordinance. The Clerk suggests amending the ordinance to clarify what is and what is not allowed in Crockery Township Cemeteries.
25. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2023-06, An Ordinance To Amend The Crockery Township Cemetery Ordinance No. 05-01, as amended. Roll call: Suchecki, Buchanan, Erhorn, Kelly, VanBemmelen – Yes. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.
26. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2023-07, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Accessory Buildings and Structures]. Roll call: Erhorn, Kelly, VanBemmelen, Suchecki, Buchanan – Yes. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.
27. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2023-05, Crockery Township Recognized Holidays and Meeting Dates. All in favor. Motion carried.
28. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to contract with George Czinder to mow the North Bank Trail for 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.
29. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to approve a pay increase for the Clerk and Treasurer in the amount of \$10,000 per year. This is for compensation for non-statutory duties assigned to the Treasurer in the water department, and the Clerk in the Cemetery. All in favor (Buchanan abstaining). Motion carried.
19. Public comments were offered at approximately 9:44 p.m. One comment was heard.

20. Motion to by Kelly seconded by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk