

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
HELD ON MAY 14, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 6:31 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Kathy Buchanan, Rich Suchecki, Judy VanBemmelen and Ryan Kelly.  
Others present: Fire Chief Bill Mastenbrook and Attorney Ron Redick.
3. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki, to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of two items, Woodworth rezoning and maintenance fees for the North Bank Trail (mowing and trimming). All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2024 Special Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to approve the disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Public comments were offered. Several members of the public audience thanked the township for holding dumpster day. Jenella Jonio stated she has a petition for a state wide ballot initiative and she will be available after the meeting if anyone is interested in signing.  
Ottawa County Undersheriff Eric Deboer introduced himself and provided a summary of his background and career with law enforcement. He is running for Ottawa County Sheriff.  
Water Resource Commissioner Joe Bush was also present. He is running for re-election and he answered questions from the residents regarding the Kingfisher Estates subdivision.
8. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that the township has secured the easement needed for the proposed water extension, but we are still working with Ottawa County Road Commission on the location for the water line down 136<sup>th</sup>.  
Supervisor Erhorn suggested that the time limit for public comments remain at 3 minutes, but that a guest speaker would be allowed 6 minutes. There were no objections from the board.
9. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported there are three old historical markers at Ottawa Center Cemetery that have toppled over. These headstones are over 120 years old and are not broken. Clerk Buchanan is asking the board to consider hiring Superior Monument to reset these historical headstones because our cemeteries tell the history of our community and the people that settled it. Therefore, they are important to preserve. No other report was heard.
10. Treasurer's report was offered. No report was heard.
11. Fire Chief's Report was offered. Chief Mastenbrook reported that the department responded to 50 calls last month. So far in May there have been 22 calls. Year to date the department has responded to 202 calls, compared to last year on this date

they were at 115 calls. This increase in the number of calls are putting a strain on the department, but so far they have been able to handle.

The department has hired Cameron Chatman as Firefighter Cadet as approved by the board at the April meeting.

Electrical drops for each truck have been installed at the fire station. This was necessary to be compliant with the electrical code.

The inflatable boat which will be used for water rescues will be in service shortly. It is currently having the lettering put on it and then the department will conduct training with it.

The wildland gear has been ordered and should arrive soon. This gear is for fighting brush fires and Chief Mastenbrook reported that the firefighters are very appreciative for this new gear.

The new tires have been put on the 6x6 brush truck.

12. Attorney's report was offered. No report was heard.
13. Board Member report was offered. Trustee Kelly reported that the Planning Commission approved the Woodworth conditional rezoning request. No other report was heard.
14. Zoning Enforcement Officer Dave Bonthuis reported that the township has two court cases scheduled for this month for zoning violations. Mr. Bonthuis believes that the township cleanup day was responsible for clearing 8 or 9 violation letters.
15. Discussion was held regarding the township resetting headstones that have fallen off their base in the cemeteries.
16. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to authorize the Clerk to hire a monument company to reset historical headstones that have fallen off their base. Crockery Township will not repair or replace broken headstones which is consistent with the Cemetery Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
17. Motion by VanBemmelen seconded by Buchanan to adopt Ordinance 2024-06, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Conditional Rezoning of Parcel No. 70-04-11-100-013 to the R-1 District]. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to set June 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for the public hearing for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget and to set the tentative millage rates. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Discussion was held regarding the Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board application for the Robledo/Englert property on 104<sup>th</sup> Ave.
20. Motion by Erhorn, seconded by Kelly to respond to the County that the property is currently zoned Ag and in the Master Plan it continues to stay AG. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to accept George Czinder's rates for this year's bike trail maintenance with a slight increase over last year's rate. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Public Comment was offered. There is a request for additional garbage cans along the North Bank Trail in Crockery Township. No other comments were heard.

23. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to enter into closed session to hear a privileged and confidential legal opinion from the attorney regarding potential litigation on an ongoing zoning matter. Roll call: Suchecki, Buchanan, Erhorn,
24. Kelly, VanBemmelen – Yes. All were in favor. Motion carried. The board entered into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.
25. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to return to open meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Open meeting resumed at 9:17 p.m.
26. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to commence with legal proceedings to address the Mink Junkyard using the procedures outlined in the opinion letter from the township attorney. Yes- 4, No-1, motion carried.
27. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan  
Crockery Township Clerk