

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON JUNE 11, 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 Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to approve the disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. Richard Van Dop is running for the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners seat representing the 11th District. He spoke of his reasons for running and also his background and leadership experience.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn stated that the fire station entrance was not designed correctly for the engines to pull out safely. The trucks should be able to pull straight out to Main Street. This has been discussed in the past. To proceed with this project engineered drawings must be drawn up and submitted to the Ottawa County Road Commission for a permit. The engineering cost will be \$8,200. [The Supervisor's comments were heard towards the end of the meeting this month].
8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that they are working with the website company to add a donation link for historical preservation projects. This was suggested by residents in attendance at the May meeting. A donation has already been received since that meeting.
A request for the township to buy back 2 burial rights in Nunica Cemetery has been received. Clerk Buchanan has gone to look at the location of these and feels there will be a request from someone to purchase these in the future. It is in the old section of the cemetery. No other report was heard.
9. Treasurer's report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen reported that she is currently working on the tax bills, but is waiting for information from the county on the school millage rates.
10. Fire Chief's Report was offered. Chief Mastenbrook reported that the department responded to 52 calls last month. So far we are ahead 99 calls from the same time last year.
The water rescue inflatable boat has arrived and training will begin shortly.
The annual DOT inspections and pump inspections have taken place and all equipment passed.
Fire Chief Mastenbrook has submitted for a DNR grant for \$4,999 which if awarded could be used towards the wildland gear purchase the board recently approved.
11. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick reported that he has sent a privileged email to the Supervisor which the board members may review also.

This email concerns a land use compliance issue.

12. Board Member report was offered. Trustee Kelly reported that the Planning Commission has begun the process of considering the short term rental issue. They have reviewed 3 ordinances from other municipalities and will be discussing what will be appropriate for Crockery Township.
13. Zoning Enforcement Officer Dave Bonthuis reported he has sent out 48 zoning violation letters since he became the zoning enforcement officer and 24 of these properties are now in compliance.
14. Motion by Erhorn, seconded VanBemmelen to authorize the Clerk to buyback 2 cemetery burial rights in the Nunica Cemetery from Don Stapel for a total of \$300.00 consistent with the Cemetery Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.
15. Motion by Buchanan seconded by Kelly to open the public hearing for the 2024-2025 budget and millage rates. All in favor. Motion carried. The public hearing was declared open at 6:47 p.m.
16. Treasurer VanBemmelen reviewed the budget items explaining changes made to the proposed budget from last year to this year. Some items like insurance and elections will be increased based on projected costs while some other line items will decrease. Board members discussed the proposed budget and public comments were heard.
17. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to close the public hearing. All in favor. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.
18. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2024-05, Resolution Establishing Township Property Tax Rates For 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to adopt Resolution 2024-06, Resolution Approving Annual Township Budget. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. A request was made by The Friends of the Norh Bank Trail for the township to consider completing the trail over the trestles. The Friends received a large donation for the NBT specifically through the Crockery portion of the trail. This donation could be used for this project along with funds from the township's trail fund. The scope of this project would be to put a new deck for the trail on top of the two old railroad trestles with a projected cost of \$407,000 to \$495,000.
21. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve \$35,100 for the engineering proposal for the trestles with the intent being to complete a walking trail over the trestles. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2024-07, The Meeting And Holiday Schedule as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2024-08, Resolution Authorizing The Maintenance And Repair Of Crockery #2 Drain. All in favor. Motion carried.
24. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Erhorn to adopt Resolution 2024-09, Resolution To Approve Ballot Proposal For The Addition Of Two Trustee Positions To The Township Board. All in favor. Motion carried. [Required by state statue having met the required number of registered voters].

25. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to approve the expenditure of \$3,600 to the Spring Lake Area Recreation Commission for the continued support of the programs offered to our residents. All in favor. Motion carried.
26. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve spending \$8,200 for the engineering of the new approach at the fire station. All in favor. Motion carried.
27. Public comments was offered. Cheryl Clark stated she is running for County Treasurer. She stated she has been working for the county for 23 years and was the former Robinson Township Treasurer.
28. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk