

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 6:32 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 amended with item B to include water rates and item D to include changing status of fire chief to full time. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve the disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. Don Jablonski stated that he discovered that someone is setting trip lines in the woods along the bike trail near Dickerson. Conservation officers have been informed and the trip lines have been removed. Mr. Jablonski urged anyone using the bike trail to stay out of the woods for safety. Joseph Parnell McCarter of Save The Campbell Plant was present and he stated he is visiting municipalities to ask for the boards to write a letter to the Public Utility Commission asking that the Consumers Energy Campbell Plant closure be stopped. The closing of the plant is scheduled for 2025.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn stated that the house on Taft has been demolished, and all the items have been removed from the property. The total for the legal expense and cleanup cost is approximately \$18,000, and if not paid by the property owner will be placed on the tax bill.
Supervisor Erhorn has received an inquiry about if the township would consider a rezoning for a neighborhood to R5. The resident making the request just received a denial from the Zoning Board of Appeals. This rezoning would not change the reason for the denial. Since the rezoning would affect an entire neighborhood, the board was not interested in a rezoning unless more residents wanted this change as well.
8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that the election commission is asking the board to consider an increase to the election inspector wage. It is getting more difficult to find enough workers who can get the time off from work and willing to be paid less money than they would make working their job. Cemetery fall cleanup will begin in the next few weeks.
9. Treasurer's report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen reported that she has begun the process of preparing the winter tax bills. Drain assessments have been sent out recently.
10. Fire Chief's Report was offered. Chief Mastenbrook reported that the department responded to 50 calls last month. The year-to-date total is 402. They have had 16 calls in the first 6 days of October.

The open house was held last night and there was a mild turnout. With so many children involved in sports and after school activities the department might consider changing to a weekend day next year. The department is very appreciative of the local businesses who contributed to the event. Magnum Coffee donated hot chocolate and Crockery Creek Saloon donated ice cream. High school students volunteered to help for their community service hours.

The department is still waiting for the topper for the new medical truck. Once it arrives, they can continue to get the truck ready to be put in service.

11. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick reported that they are getting many questions from municipalities regarding the law change regarding employee sick hours. Mika Meyers is working on answering the questions we have been asking and will be sending information soon.
12. Board Member report was offered. Trustee Kelly reported that the Planning Commission have approved the short-term rental ordinance and have sent it to the board for consideration.
Trustee Suchecki reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met to consider allowing an unpermitted addition that does not meet the required setbacks.
13. No report was heard for zoning enforcement.
14. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to open the public hearing for the Advanced Molding IFT transfer application open. All in favor. Motion carried. The public hearing is open at 7:00 pm.
15. Supervisor Erhorn explained that the transfer is for a recent sale of a business that had one year remaining on the existing IFT. The new owner is seeking the transfer. There were no public comments given.
16. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to close the public hearing. All in favor. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 7:09 pm.
17. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to adopt Resolution 2024-11, Resolution To Approve An IFT Transfer To Advanced Molding. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to approve the election commissions recommendation to increase election inspector wage to \$20.00 an hour and the chairperson wage to \$23.00 an hour. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to adopt Ordinance 2024-09, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Rezoning of 14337 State Road to the R-1 District]. All in favor. Motion carried.
20. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2024-10, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery [Detached Garages]. 4- Yes, 1- No (Buchanan). Motion carried.
21. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to table the proposed short term rental ordinance until the attorney can make an addition. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Resolution 2024-12, Resolution To Approve Act 342 Contract With Ottawa County And Notice Of Right Of Referendum. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2024-13, Resolution Approving Water Rates. All in favor. Motion carried.

24. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to make the fire chief position full time with a \$70,000 salary based on 45hours per week. Benefits will begin when full time firefighters are hired. October 1, 2024 will be the effective date for Chief Mastenbrook starting as fulltime fire chief. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the benefits package for the full-time firefighters. This includes health insurance, vision and dental with an HSA contribution of \$2,000. The township will match up to 10% to a 401K. All in favor. Motion carried.
26. Motion by Suchecki seconded by Buchanan to appoint a subcommittee to consider and recommend applicants for full time firefighters. This committee will consist of Fire Chief Mastenbrook, Trustee Suchecki and Spring Lake Fire Chief John Stalzer. The alternate will be Fire Chief Travis Kroll from Coopersville. All in favor. Motion carried.
27. Public comments were offered. No comments were heard.
28. Fire Chief Mastenbrook stated that there will be a highway closure on I-96 for a culvert replacement. Traffic will be diverted to M-104.
29. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk