

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 6:34 p.m.
2. Roll call was taken with Erhorn, VanBemmelen, Suchecki, Buchanan and Kelly present. Also present was Fire Chief Mastenbrook and attorney Ron Redick.
3. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the October 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried. There are no November minutes because that meeting was canceled due to lack of agenda items.
5. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 Special Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve the disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Public comment was offered. Carla Constantine would like to see merge traffic signs placed sooner along M-104 where it changes down to one lane just past M-231. Trustee Kelly will bring this concern to the next WMSRDC meeting. Dave Willis asked about the township being sprayed for gypsy moths. It was discussed that the cost for an individual to have their property sprayed would be too much, but if residents of an area went in together, they could share the cost. Possibly the township could put something on the website where property owners could indicate a willingness to participate.

Travis Young and Jason Brazda were present and requested the township allow the use of the ballfields for little league baseball play. It is getting difficult to find available fields for them to use. They have approximately 300 kids ages 4-12 years old participating. They are willing to improve and maintain the fields but are requesting the township's help with the cost of diamond dust that needs to be added. It will cost \$3,800 per field for the needed diamond dust and an additional cost to spread it.

8. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the purchase and spreading of the diamond dust from Grand Rapids Gravel up to \$10,000. Funds will come from the marijuana excise tax monies. All in favor. Motion carried.
9. Supervisor's report was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that the bids for the water extension project will be opened on January 8, 2025.

Crockery voters at the November 5th election voted to add two trustees which will make a seven member board. This proposal was required by state statute for all townships once a certain number of residents or registered voters is met. The two new trustees will be elected in November 2026 and will serve a partial term until 2028. The entire board will be up for election then. After discussion the board consensus was to give him until March 31, 2025 to have it removed.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met in October and denied a resident's request to keep an addition which was not permitted and was too close to the road. He is asking for an extension for the removal because he would like to take it apart in a way that would allow for the materials to be reused.

The township has hired a new staff member Michelle Preisner. Michelle will be in the building department. Shelby Chatman will be the new deputy clerk and office manager.

the board will need to decide on the paid holidays for the full-time firefighters.

10. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan stated that a Compliance Agreement was received from the health insurance company. She has contacted them about a couple of inaccuracies and when those are corrected, she is asking for board approval to sign. The cemetery fundraising link is on hold for now until we have the capability to accept credit cards. This fundraising was suggested by residents to help with the preservation of the historical monuments in the township's cemeteries.
11. Treasurer's report was offered. No report was heard.
12. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Ron Redick stated that there has been a new ruling concerning the Open Meetings Act. He will keep us updated as more information becomes available.
13. Board member committee report was offered. No report was heard.
14. Zoning enforcement report was offered. Zoning Enforcement Officer stated that we have a court date in January for zoning and building violations.
15. Fire Chief's report was offered. Fire Chief Bill Mastenbrook reported that the department is asking for Dan Huhn to be promoted to the position of Lieutenant.
16. The department responded to 47 calls in October and 35 calls in November. The year to date total is 482 and last year at this time they were at 365. The first day of the department being full-time was December 1st and there was an automatic aid call to Spring Lake for a fire, a downed power line, and a return trip to Spring Lake. The department has been organizing the living area at the department since there will be personnel there 24/7.
Chief Mastenbrook is requesting approval to purchase another set of turn out gear for one of the firefighters as he currently only has one and all others have two. This second set is important because after a fire incident the gear must be washed immediately due to the chemicals they are exposed to. He is still asking to be able to purchase the 3 sets that we budget yearly for replacement when the time comes.
Chief reported that the Careerline Tech Center is now offering a Basic EMT class and will be adding a Firefighter I&II program. Students could graduate with the training to be a firefighter. Local fire departments will be involved with assisting when needed. The fire department is reporting that the current pagers will need to be replaced in the near future as they are not always reliable. They have two Motorola pagers that work the way they are intended to, and when the time comes would like to purchase that brand for replacements.
The new medical truck is getting the graphics installed next week and the lights will be installed by early January.
The three new recruits are close to finishing their medical first responder training and will begin the fire academy in January along with Zack Merlo.
17. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to promote firefighter Dan Huhn to Lieutenant. All in favor Motion carried.
18. State Auditor Derek Hall was present. He reported on the results of the yearly financial audit. Overall, the township is in a very good financial position. We have funds to help cover a large infrastructure failure and are budgeting well year to year to cover small emergencies should they happen. He answered questions from the board members and the public members present.
19. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve the hiring of Michelle Preisner for

office staff. All in favor. Motion carried.

20. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Suchecki to promote Shelby Chatman to an office manager position with a \$2.00 an hour wage increase. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the holiday schedule as presented for the fire chief and full-time members of the department. All in favor. Motion carried (Supervisor Erhorn abstained).
22. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Erhorn to approve 180 hours of PTO time for the fire chief position. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to authorize the township clerk to sign the Compliance Agreement for the health insurance coverage. All in favor. Motion carried.
24. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the purchase of a set of turnout gear for Derek Wright up to \$4,000. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Discussion was held regarding a change to the fire department cost recovery ordinance.
26. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to adopt Ordinance 2024-11, An Ordinance To Amend Township Ordinance No. 2023-02, The Township Of Crockery Fire and Emergency Service Charge Ordinance, To Expand The Definition Of The Term “Responsible Party”. Roll call: Erhorn, Kelly, Buchanan, Suchecki, VanBemmelen – Yes. All in favor. Motion carried.
27. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2024-12, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery (Condominiums – Minor Change). Roll call: Buchanan, Erhorn, VanBemmelen, Kelly, Suchecki – Yes. All in favor. Motion carried.
28. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2024-13, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery (Adjacent Land Transfers Between Nonconforming Lots). Roll call: Kelly, VanBemmelen, Suchecki, Buchanan, Erhorn – Yes. All in favor. Motion carried.
29. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Ordinance 2024-14, An ordinance To Amend Township Ordinance 2019-19, The Township Land Division Ordinance. Roll call: VanBemmelen, Suchecki, Erhorn, Kelly, Buchanan – Yes. All in favor. Motion carried.
30. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Ordinance 2024-15, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Crockery (Short Term Rentals). Roll call: Erhorn, VanBemmelen, Buchanan, Suchecki, Kelly – Yes. All in favor. Motion carried.
31. Motion by Suchecki, Seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Resolution 2024-14, Resolution Approving Final Condominium Plan [M104 Store More 2 Condominium, LLC]. All in favor. Motion carried.
32. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve the contract with Michigan Chloride for this coming year road brining. All in favor. Motion carried.
33. Discussion was held regarding the proposed work on the railroad trestles to make that into a walking trail until the paving continues for the continuation of the North Bank Trail. We are currently waiting for the communities to the east of us to complete a plan. By completing the work on the trestles now we would complete the work needed to cross the trestles over Crockery Creek for the future expansion of the trail.
34. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to move forward with the construction of a boardwalk over the trestles and to except the low bid from River Works Construction.

There is currently donation money to cover \$250,000 and the bike trail millage fund will cover the remaining \$221,000. All in favor. Motion carried.

35. Motion by Suhecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to adopt Resolution 2024-15, Resolution Obligating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. All in favor. Motion carried.
36. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve the purchase for 17 new Motorola pagers for the fire department at a cost of \$10,500 paid with marijuana excise tax funds. All in favor. Motion carried.
37. Public comments were offered. No comments were heard.
38. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suhecki to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan, Clerk