

**CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2025**

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 6:32 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Rich Suchecki, Judy VanBemmelen, Erik Erhorn, Ryan Kelly, Kathy Buchanan.
Others present: Fire Chief Bill Mastenbrook.
3. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Buchanan to approve disbursements as presented. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. Comments were heard about the water system reliability study and the townships water billing procedures.
7. County Commissioner Allison Meidema was present and she gave an update on what actions the Board of Commissioners has taken over the last couple of months and what has been occurring since the new board has been sworn in.
8. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn has no report at this time but will report on agenda items as they are discussed.
9. Clerk's Report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that the county will no longer be administrating early voting for the municipalities of Ottawa County. Crockery Township will need to decide if we want to join with other municipalities or implement early voting here in the township. Clerk Buchanan will explore the options and costs before making a decision. The change of early voting location will take effect with the 2026 election cycle as it only pertains to state and federal elections.
10. Treasurer's Report was offered. No report was heard.
11. Board Member Committee reports were offered. Trustee Kelly reported that the planning commission will be considering a request from Subaru for a sign variance.
12. Zoning Enforcement report was offered. Dave Bonthuis reported that we have a court date coming up for zoning violations with Mr. and Mrs. Laufersky.
13. Fire Chief's report was offered. In December the department responded to 46 calls. They responded to 516 calls in 2024. Response times have greatly improved since the department went to full time status.
Five local communities, including Crockery, are exploring the possibility of a joint purchase of an attenuator for use on the highway to protect our fire fighters and equipment. An attenuator is a special equipped truck that would be parked on the highway in a way that would offer protection from a vehicle hit.
Firefighter Jeremy Collins is requesting a three month leave of absence effective December 16, 2024.
The fire department is requesting funding to be able to purchase tools for the station. They are requesting up to \$5,000 for cordless tools including light bars.

Chief Mastenbrook wants the residents to know that they are welcome to stop by the station to tour the building and see the equipment.

14. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to approve a 3 month leave of absence for firefighter Jeremy Collins. All in favor. Motion carried.
15. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for the purchase of cordless tools for the trucks and the station. Funds to come from marijuana excise tax money. All in favor. Motion carried.
16. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2025-01, Resolution Granting Tentative Approval Of The Preliminary Plat Of Hathaway Lakes No.11. All in favor. Motion carried.
17. Motion by Kelly, seconded by VanBemmelen to reappoint Brian Ford to the Zoning Board of Appeals. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to reappoint Mike Munch and Ryan Arends to the Planning Commission. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. Discussion was held on the water system expansion. Supervisor Erhorn reported that the bids for the 136th Ave. to Leonard Street water main expansion were opened on January 8th with the low bid from Tiles Excavating at 1,850,000. The bid still needs to be approved by the road commission. The construction of the meter station bid went out last Friday. When bids come back the township will need to approve.
20. Public comments were offered. No comments were heard.
21. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan
Crockery Township Clerk