

CROCKERY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Erhorn at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll call: Present: Erik Erhorn, Kathy Buchanan, Judy VanBemmelen, Ryan Kelly, Rich Suchecki.  
Others present: Attorney Ron Redick and Fire Chief John Kriger.
3. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Suchecki seconded by Kelly to approve disbursements as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Buchanan seconded by Kelly to approve the agenda with the removal of item e. from the agenda, and to add item j, water looping issue. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Public comments were offered. No public comments were heard at this time.
7. Supervisor's comments/correspondence was offered. Supervisor Erhorn reported that last Thursday the new sewer pipe line was opened, and the old pipe at the plant was cut, and the remaining pipe plugged. We still need estimates for some demolition that will need to be done at the sewer plant.  
Supervisor Erhorn also reported that he had a meeting with Luke Meerman. He represents the 88<sup>th</sup> District in Michigan House of Representatives.
8. Clerk's report was offered. Clerk Buchanan reported that Crockery was randomly selected by the State of Michigan for a Post- Election Audit which will be held on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
9. Treasurer's report was offered. Treasurer VanBemmelen reported that the December tax bills are getting ready to be mailed out.
10. Fire Chief's report was offered. Chief Kriger reported that the department has responded to 325 runs so far this year.  
The new truck build has been delayed due to the country's shipping crisis.  
A leak has been discovered where the old and new roof sections meet at the station. It will be repaired tomorrow morning.
11. Attorney's report was offered. Attorney Redick reminded the Board that the Summary of Disposition regarding the AZKO lawsuit will be heard on November 29<sup>th</sup>, with mediation scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> if needed.
12. Board Member report was offered. No report was heard.
13. Steve Overacker from the Spring Lake Recreation Committee was in attendance to thank Crockery Township for the continuing support of the recreation programs, and to answer any questions board members may have on the yearly report he presented. Crockery children continue to participate, with the numbers going up each year.
14. Derek Hall from the Michigan State Treasury was in attendance to review the financial audit for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Mr. Hall led the review of the major funds, including the Enterprise Funds and Special Revenue Funds, with discussions on both revenues and expenditures. With the sewer plant being

decommissioned we are hopeful that the financials for the Sewer Fund will finally see improvement. The Township overall is in a healthy financial position.

15. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Buchanan to accept the snowplowing bid from Precision Edge Lawn Care, LLC for this coming season's snow removal. This will include snow removal of the bike trail that runs through the Village. All in favor. Motion carried.
16. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to approve contracting with Spring Lake Township for snow plowing the trail up to the fire station. All in favor. Motion carried.
17. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2021-13, Resolution To Approve 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment To Condominium Master Deed, Pursuant To Circuit Court Judgement [Waybury Condominiums at Hathaway Lakes]. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Suchecki to approve the appointments and re-appointments to the Planning Commission, ZBA and Construction Board of Appeals as recommended by the Supervisor. All in favor. Motion carried. (The township has received notice that Gary Rosema has resigned from the Corridor Improvement Authority, so this leaves two openings on that committee).
19. Discussion was held on Consumers Energy's request for an additional 40 foot easement on township owned property. They will be upgrading the power lines all the way to Spring Lake, and are seeking this for tree and vegetation control. Supervisor Erhorn and Clerk Buchanan meet with a representative of Consumers Energy at the trailhead on 144<sup>th</sup>. It was stated that Consumers is not interested in clearing the entire area, but will remove trees taller than 35 feet which are dead, dying, or leaning, and which could be in danger of falling on the power lines. The Board discussed seeking a payment for this additional easement and the funds could be used for the trailhead project since this easement runs along the bike trail.
20. Motion by VanBemmelen, seconded by Kelly to grant the additional 40 foot easement on Crockery Township owned parcels along the bike trail to Consumers Energy for tree and vegetation control, and to seek a payment to Crockery Township of \$5,000. The Supervisor and Clerk are authorized to sign the contract. All in favor. Motion carried.
21. Motion by Suchecki, seconded by Kelly to adopt Resolution 2021-14, Resolution Granting Tentative Approval of The Preliminary Plat of Hathaway Lakes No. 10. All in favor. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Suchecki to adopt Resolution 2021-15, Resolution To Approve Condominium Site Plan Pursuant To Circuit Court Judgement [Hathaway Lakes Waybury Condominiums Phase 2]. All in favor. Motion carried.
23. Discussion was held regarding the need for water looping in the township. If the system has a break at 144<sup>th</sup> and State Rd. the entire system could be down. The township has also been told no more developments will be approved until some strategic water looping has taken place. Ottawa County has a reliability study which recommends the most critical water looping should be to go from M-104

down 136<sup>th</sup> to Leonard which will complete a loop. The Board also looked at running a water line down Cone Street for additional customers to the water system. It was noticed that a small section of M-104 heading East towards the gas station does not have a water line.

24. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Buchanan to request Ottawa County Public Works prepare a cost estimate for extending a water line from M-104 down 136<sup>th</sup> Ave. to include Cone Street, to make a water loop at Leonard. We also request an estimate for the small section on Cleveland by the gas station. All in favor. Motion carried.
25. Supervisor Erhorn informed the Board that he met with our County Commissioner Matt Fenske to discuss the Spoonville Trail ownership dispute. Commissioner Fenske stated that he would take the issue up with the Board of Commissioners. Supervisor Erhorn has recently received an email from John Shay at the County stating that he will be taking our offer of \$3,000 per year for 25 years, to the Board of Commissioners for them to consider. This will be to cover the mowing and sweeping of the trail which we already take care of. The County will then state their ownership of the Spoonville Trail.
26. Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Buchanan  
Crockery Township Clerk