



## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join Treasurer Roberts in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Clerk Beutel called the roll, and the following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Linda Kerr, Trustee Michelle O'Neill, Supervisor Nick Loeks, Treasurer Trish Roberts, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Trustee Barbara Hammon was absent. Also attending were Superintendent Erik Wilson, Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Engineer Tom Wheat, Fire Chief Chad Tackett, and approximately 30 members of the public.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Marcia Smell, resident, expressed disappointment with the mandatory sewer connection ordinance.

### PRESENTATION / PUBLIC HEARINGS / COUNTY COMMISSIONER

There was none.

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Wilson updated the Board on township activities, highlighting the 2024 budget process and giving updates on staffing, grant proposals, Township Hall construction, and other administrative items.

### ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Kerr, seconded by O'Neill, to adopt the meeting agenda presented. Motion carried 6-0.

### APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Boven, seconded by Beutel, to approve the General Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of:

- Approval of August 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$154,979.36
- Payroll of \$59,033.70
- New Township Hall Change Orders #018 & #019
- July 2023 Cash By Bank & Fund

### BUSINESS

#### ***Tabled***

There was none.

#### ***New***

#### **Promotion of Ciaran Byrne-Thayer to Firefighter**

Chief Tackett introduced Ciaran Byrne-Thayer to the Township Board, stating he was honored to recommend Ciaran Byrne-Thayer be promoted to Firefighter for the Texas Township Fire Department. He has been a great asset to the team and shown great development in the probation process of the Fire Department, and throughout the Fire Academy and EMS Academy.

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Boven, to approve the promotion of Ciaran Byrne-Thayer to the rank of Firefighter. Motion carried, 6-0.

#### **Fire Department Lieutenant Promotion**

Chief Tackett asked the Board to consider promoting Firefighters Ian MacLeod and Matt Dawson to Fire Lieutenant. Both have served the department for nearly a decade, showing determination, skill and



dedication. This is one small step to aligning the department's goals and objectives set forth in the strategic plan that will have huge impacts on the daily operations of the department.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, to approve the promotions of Ian MacLeod and Matt Dawson to Lieutenant. Motion carried, 6-0.

Following the promotions, Clerk Beutel administered the Oaths of Office for the positions, and family members pinned the badges on Firefighter Byrne-Thayer and Lieutenants Dawson and MacLeod.

### **2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan**

Superintendent Wilson reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process, funding, and timeline, which has been reviewed and recommended by the CIP Review Committee and Planning Commission. The Township Board reviewed projects at its August 28 Committee of the Whole. A total of 48 projects were submitted for an estimated \$30 million over six years, which organized into the following categories: Utilities & Infrastructure; Vehicles & Equipment; Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Parks & Open Space; Community Facilities & Development; and Transportation.

Board members discussed the projects submitted and clarified that projects would only be funded if the designated funds, or supplementing grant funds, were available, regardless of ranking and priority.

Motion by Boven, seconded by O'Neill, to approve the Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried, 6-0.

### **Accept the Resignation of Building Official Rich McGrew**

Superintendent Wilson stated that Building Official Rich McGrew submitted his letter of resignation on September 1. To ensure continuity within the department, he recommended the Board appoint John Stubbs as the Interim Building Official, explaining that the State of Michigan could take over inspections in the township if an official is not appointed. Mr. Stubbs reviewed his experience and credentials, which include doing fire suppression inspections and Fire Marshal plan review in the Township. Artie Wilcox, the township's electrical inspector and backup building inspector, has been willing to take on extra inspections in the interim.

Board members discussed staffing needs of the Building Department and options moving forward.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Kerr, to accept the resignation of Building Official Rich McGrew and appoint John Stubbs as our Interim Building Official, effective immediately. Motion carried, 6-0.

### **ZONING / BOARD / COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were none.

### **BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were none.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

There was no attorney present.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Treasurer Roberts expressed her excitement for Lieutenants MacLeod and Dawson and the Fire Department. Regarding sewer connections, roughly 25 applications for waivers and deferments were reviewed by herself, Deputy Treasurer Meinema, and Plumbing Inspector Ken Jewell. Financing applications will come to the Board for review at the September 25 meeting.

Trustee O'Neill observed that many citizens voice their concerns during public comment at the beginning of Board meetings but don't stay for the duration of the meeting to hear the Board discussion, dialogue, and comments. She encouraged citizens to engage and learn more about how the Board makes difficult decisions.

Clerk Beutel also thanked the Fire Department and is excited to see the progress going forward. She shared several updates regarding the 2024 election cycle and preliminary plans for early voting.



Trustee Boven thanked Treasurer Roberts for her work. He once opposed the mandatory sewer connection ordinance initially but has supported it the past six years. He also stated he visited the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park storage barns and would like to see them cleaned out and better utilized.

Supervisor Loeks echoed Michelle's comments about public comments and stated the mandatory sewer connection is a public safety and health issue to protect our surface and drinking water.

Engineer Wheat informed the Board that FEMA approved additional funds for the lake level project, but the monies are currently on hold due to other natural disasters, like the wildfires in Hawaii. It's a reimbursement grant, so the Township only gets reimbursed for the work that gets done. He gave a brief update on the lake level project updates, which are posted on the Township website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Boven, seconded by Beutel, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

**SUBMITTED:** September 18, 2023  
Clerk Emily Beutel  
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

**APPROVED:** September 25, 2023 as submitted