



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 23, 2023

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Supervisor Loeks commenced the Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. The following Board members were present: Trustee Don Boven, Trustee Barb Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, Trustee Michelle O'Neill, Treasurer Trish Roberts, Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Superintendent Erik Wilson and Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp.

FY24 Budget – Continued Discussion

Board members reviewed a draft budget, presented by Superintendent Wilson, and discussed several project budgets, including the lake level project and Fire Department renovation project. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp also proposed a list of budget amendments, as several budget items were either not originally proposed, or the cost was unknown at the time of adoption.

The Committee of the whole adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join Trustee Kerr 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 Barb Hammon, Trustee Michelle O'Neill, Supervisor Nick Loeks, Treasurer Trish Roberts, and Clerk Beutel. Also attending were Superintendent Erik Wilson, Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Attorney Michael Homier, and approximately 12 members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Marcia Smell, resident, expressed concern over traffic safety at Q Avenue and 10th Street.

Jamie Clark, resident and owner of Clark Logic, owns property on International Drive off Beatrice Drive and 9th Street. He would like the Board to consider allowing speculative buildings in its IFT district.

PRESENTATION / PUBLIC HEARINGS / COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Wendy Mazer, County Commissioner, attended the Mac & Cheese Bake-off held on October 7. She stated the Justice Center is scheduled to open December 11 and that the County Commission recently approved the master plan for the Woollam Preserve and adopted its 2024 budget.

Eagle Lake SAD #2 – Second Public Hearing

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Beutel, to open the public hearing for Eagle Lake SAD #2.

Amy Coon, Eagle Lake Texas Association (ELTA) President, spoke in support of SAD #2.

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, to close the public hearing.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Wilson updated the Board on township activities, highlighting the 2024 budget process and several position vacancies. Board members asked for an update on the 6th Street Park Restroom project, which has been delayed but should be ready to send out to bid soon with construction beginning next spring.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Kerr, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, to approve the General Consent Agenda as submitted, consisting of:

- Approval of October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Bills for \$874,956.80



- Payroll of \$87,316.80
- New Township Hall Change Order #022
- September 2023 Building Report
- Financial Reports: Cash By Bank and Fund – August and September 2023; 2023 Q3 Investment Report

Motion carried, 7-0.

BUSINESS

Tabled

There was no tabled business.

New

Set Public Hearing on FY24 Budget

Prior to the adoption of the budgets, a public hearing must be held.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Hammon, to set the public hearing for the proposed FY 2024 budgets for November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

Eagle Lake SAD #2 Resolution #23-13 (Resolution #4 of 4)

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Kerr, to approve Resolution #23-13, to confirm the Special Assessment Roll for the Eagle Lake Special Assessment District and direct the Treasurer to collect the special assessments in the Roll. Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Kerr, Loeks, Hammon, O’Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Resolution #23-14 Opting Out of PA 152

Prior to the beginning of the new year, the Board must decide whether to opt-out of PA 152 of 2011, as on October 14, 2014 the Board changed insurance companies to West Michigan Health Insurance Pool (WMHIP) with a high deductible plan that offers single coverage at no cost to the employee.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Beutel, to adopt Resolution #23-14, opting out of PA-152 for calendar year 2024. Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Kerr, Loeks, Hammon, O’Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Resolution #23-15 Establishing Health Insurance Contribution & Opt-Out Amount for 2024

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp asked the Board to determine the contribution to the health insurance premium for employees who are eligible according to the Ordinance; the amount to pay employees for opting-out of the Insurance Plan (currently 60% of single coverage); and the contribution to the HSA/HRA Account. As the deductible for single coverage is increasing from \$1,500 to \$1,600 (double and family coverage deductible is increasing from \$3,00 to \$3,200) in 2024, she recommended increasing the HSA/HRA contribution from \$1,500 to \$1,600 for participating employees.

Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, to adopt Resolution 23-15, setting the contribution for HSA/HRA at \$1,600 regardless of coverage option; opt-out amount at 60% of single employee premium; single employee coverage at no cost to the employee, employee plus one coverage with an employee contribution of 20% of the additional premium cost, and family coverage at 25% of the additional expense of single person coverage. Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Kerr, Loeks, Hammon, O’Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Resolution #23-16 - FY23 Budget Amendments

Motion by O’Neill, seconded by Kerr, to approve Resolution #23-16 authorizing the 2023 revised budget amendments presented at Committee of the Whole. Motion carried, 7-0.



Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Kerr, Loeks, Hammon, O’Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none.
Absent – none.

Establish Hiring Committee for Building Official and Planning Director Positions

Superintendent Wilson asked the Board to establish hiring committees in order to move forward with scheduling interviews for the Building Official and Planning Director positions.

Motion by Beutel, seconded by Boven, to establish the Building Official Hiring Committee consisting of Superintendent Wilson, Treasurer Roberts, Interim Building Official John Stubbs, Building Department Coordinator Jennie Miller, and Supervisor Loeks; and the Planning Director Hiring Committee consisting of Supervisor Loeks, Trustee Kerr, Commission Chair Mike Corfman, and Superintendent Wilson. Motion carried, 7-0.

EPS Burglar Alarm Service Agreement for New Township Hall

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp presented the EPS service agreements for the burglar alarm system in the new Township Hall. By agreeing to a four-year term, the first year of service is offered at no cost.

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Kerr, to approve the service agreements with EPS for Burglar Alarm System with a four-year term and authorize Superintendent Wilson to sign the agreement. Motion carried, 7-0.

Resolution #23-17 to Designate Enforcing Agency for Township Codes

The Township Board appoints persons designated by Resolution to enforce codes and ordinances and needs to approve a revised resolution to reflect recent staffing changes. Staff recommended designating John Stubbs as the “enforcing agency” for building codes, and both Scott Paddock and Ken Jewell as the “enforcing agency” for mechanical codes.

Motion by O’Neill, seconded by Roberts, to approve Resolution #23-17, designating the individuals within as the enforcing agency for their respective code areas.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Beutel, Boven, Kerr, Loeks, Hammon, O’Neill, and Roberts. Nays – none.
Absent – none.

ZONING / BOARD / COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Department Report

Captain Lohrberg presented the Fire Department Report for September 2023, as Chief Tackett was absent attending training. The Department responded to 89 calls – 56 EMS and 33 Fire. The Fire Prevention Open House was held October 7 but had poor weather resulting in lower than normal participation by the public.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jill Bland, Southwest Michigan First, supported Clark Logic’s request regarding speculative buildings and the IFT policy.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Homier stated the legislature has introduced several bills that would strip away the Township’s ability to regulate renewable energy, gravel mining, and short-term rentals. He will keep the Township updated if these bills move forward.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee O’Neill stated that speeding is a problem on Q Avenue and 10th Street, and she would like to follow up on that concern with the Sheriff’s Department. She also asked for an update on the Clark Logic IFT request, which Superintendent Wilson provided.

Clerk Beutel reminded voters to vote on November 7 and encouraged attending the Public Accuracy Test to learn about election security.



Trustee Kerr asked about the Township's speed trailer and encouraged the solar speed signs that Portage uses. She also commented on the trash haulers publishing their rates because residents seem to be charged inconsistent fees.

Supervisor Loeks gave an update on the recent Supervisors Meeting. The Road Committee met today to discuss road projects and is awaiting asphalt pricing for next year from the Road Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Boven, seconded by Hammon, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

SUBMITTED: November 1, 2023
Clerk: Emily Beutel
Attested: Supervisor Nick Loeks

APPROVED: November 14, 2023, as submitted