

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



**CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.**

- A. ROLL CALL:** Supervisor Heise , Clerk Vorva , Trustee Buckley ,  
Trustee Curmi , Trustee Stewart , Treasurer Doroshewitz ,  
Trustee Monaghan

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Trustee Jennifer Buckley**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of July 25, 2023.

All Ayes

**D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**D.1 Approval of Minutes**

- a. Regular Meeting, July 11, 2023

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of July 11, 2023, as amended to reflect the correct wording for Trustee Buckley.

All Ayes

**D.2 Consent Agenda – New Business**

- a. Second Reading of Resolution Repealing Township Emergency Management Ordinance, **Resolution # 2023-07-25-54**, Supervisor Kurt Heise, Fire Chief Patrick Conely, and Township Attorney Kevin Bennett

**D.3 Consent Agenda - Acceptance of Communications, Correspondence, and Reports**

- a. Correspondence:

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



- Memo Requesting Ordinance Concerning Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA)

**D.4 Approval of Township Bills:**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>ACCT</b>	<b>ALREADY PAID</b>	<b>TO BE PAID</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>
General Fund	<b>101</b>	<b>499,093.59</b>	<b>186,404.23</b>	<b>685,497.82</b>
Drug Forfeiture Federal	<b>262</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>.00</b>
Drug Forfeiture State	<b>265</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>2,575.00</b>	<b>2,575.00</b>
Drug Forfeiture IRS	<b>266</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>919.98</b>	<b>919.98</b>
ARPA	<b>285</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>
Improv. Rev.	<b>446</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>.00</b>
Senior Transportation	<b>588</b>	<b>3,186.19</b>	<b>161.44</b>	<b>3,347.63</b>
Water/Sewer Fund	<b>592</b>	<b>202,170.97</b>	<b>428,985.85</b>	<b>631,156.82</b>
Solid Waste Fund	<b>596</b>	<b>3,069.78</b>	<b>115,872.98</b>	<b>118,942.76</b>
Tax Pool	<b>703</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>
Police Bond Fund	<b>710</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
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Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



Special Assessment Capital	<b>805</b>	<b>.00</b>	<b>1,246.00</b>	<b>1,246.00</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>708,020.53</b>	<b>736,165.48</b>	<b>1,444,186.01</b>

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of July 25, 2023, with the removal of D.3 a. Memo Ordinance Concerning WTUA for further discussion.

All Ayes

Trustee Curmi asked for clarification of the Western Township Utilities Authority Memo. Approval of D3. Entered through the correspondence of All Ayes.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT (*Limited to 3 Minutes*)**

Stacey Romine inquired about the Residential Ground Mounted Solar Energy System. She also inquired when a second reading is necessary. It was shared that ordinances require a first and a second reading.

David Hart, Dale Bernhardt, Margaret Bechtel, Susan Kondaliv, Dr. J. Finkel, Dorcas Smith, Shirley Westphal, Dennis Picard, Joyce Janikey, Mary Ann Adams, Ron Hogue, Judy Hart, Eilea Cohn, Dr. Alice Rainville, Ray Lilli, Mary Pine, Marcy Becker, Bill Pine, Guy Gignardi, and Ame Kozel oppose Northville Downs.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance No. 99 for the Establishment of Solar Energy Systems (SES), **Resolution # 2023-07-25-55**, *Laura Haw, Township Planner*

Laura Haw provided the background on Solar Energy Systems (SES) including the acknowledgment that the discussion and research began with the Township's Environmental Leadership Commission (ELC) a year ago. She also advised that many neighboring communities have already adopted SES ordinances. Ms. Haw extended expressions of congratulations and gratitude to Eric Greerlings, ELC member for his

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
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Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



contributions to the research on SES. Ms. Haw provided examples of ground-mounted, roof-mounted, and car port SES which will be treated as an accessory.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz to adopt Resolution #2023-07-25-55, authorizing adoption of the text amendment to Zoning Ordinance No. 99, establishing Section 28.62: Solar Energy Systems (SES) and amending Article 36: Definitions, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Clerk Vorva, Trustee Buckley, Trustee Stewart, Treasurer Doroshewitz,

Nays: Trustee Monaghan, Trustee Curmi

**Motion Passed.**

2. FY2023 Budget Adjustments and FY2022 carry-forwards, **Resolution # 2023-07-35-56**, *Deputy Finance Director Carole Rochon*

Ms. Rochon provided details for the regular quarterly budget adjustments for 2022 including that more interest was earned than anticipated.

Trustee Curmi inquired if the \$139,000 expenditure for solid waste was absorbed by the interest. Ms. Rochon advised the expenditure was covered with interest earned.

Moved by Supervisor Heise and supported by Trustee Monaghan that the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees adopt the attached **Resolution #2023-07-28-56** authorizing various FY 2023 Budget Amendments and FY 2022 carry-forwards to the accounts as outlined and attached.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Trustee Monaghan, Clerk Vorva, Trustee Buckley, Trustee Curmi, Trustee Stewart, Treasurer Doroshewitz, Supervisor Heise

Nays: None

3. 2023/24 Water and Sewer Rates, **Resolution # 2023-07-25-57**, *Township Treasurer Bob Doroshewitz and Public Services Director Patrick Fellrath*

Treasurer Doroshewitz provided a summary of neighboring community water pricing as well as a break-even analysis, and historical rates. Patrick Fellrath shared insight on water towers and the use during peak hours assist with keeping rates lower.

Trustee Curmi requested a one-page analysis on eliminating WTUA.

Moved by Trustee Curmi and supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz to approve Resolution# **2023-07-25-57**, effective August 1,2023, to revise the Plymouth Township Comprehensive Fee Schedule to reflect a 2% water and sewer rate increase. The new Water Consumption Rate will be \$5.99 per 1000 gallons and the

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
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Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



new Sewer Disposal Use Rate will be \$4.94 per 1000 gallons.  
Roll Call Vote  
All Ayes

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT (*Limited to 3 Minutes*)**

Mary Ann MacClaren, Chair of the ELC indicated she appreciates the Board of Trustees foresight on moving forward with the Solar Energy System Ordinance.

Dale Bernhardt shared that while watching the video of meetings, the microphone does not pick up the sound. He also inquired if it is possible to get more than three minutes for public comments moving forward. The response was three minutes provides an opportunity for more people to speak. The current three minutes is the State minimum and aligns with the Open Meetings Act.

Stacey Romine thanked the Board of Trustees for holding off on the Residential Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems.

Dorcas Smith asked for clarification on water and sewer rates. Treasurer Doroshewitz responded that there will be a savings of \$160 a year due to the meters which is an offset, and she will see a decrease.

Todd Holgate asked for an emergency vote to investigate the police. Supervisor Heise suggested that Mr. Holgate obtain legal representation so that the Township can assist with getting help.

Mary Pine indicated her husband's comments were misunderstood from a previous meeting.

**H. BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Buckley thanked everyone that came out and spoke. She assured everyone that she is listening.

Clerk Vorva thanked everyone for coming out.

Trustee Monaghan thanked everyone for coming out. She indicated when the community comes together for the common good everyone is considered. Trustee Monaghan shared that she is in favor of solar panels but needs more information on the ground mounting.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
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Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



Trustee Curmi inquired about the billboard lawsuit status. The response was that there would be rulings soon. Trustee Curmi would like a written status on the Fire Station for Wilcox Road. He expressed interest in the working group. He would also like the status of the smart water meters. When will the Community Benefit Agreement be available for review. The response was the Community Benefit Agreement is still being negotiated and there may be attorney-client privilege to allow review in close session.

Trustee Curmi also commented that he discouraged the Planning Commission from reducing public comment time. Treasurer Doroshewitz expressed that the Planning Commission does not want to limit public comments.

Trustee Curmi requested that the 1% tax collection be placed on the agenda for the August 22nd meeting.

Trustee Stewart thanked everyone for coming out. He also announced that his wife, Beth Stewart will be honored for community service on August 21, 2023.

Treasurer Doroshewitz shared his thoughts on the racetrack and the Township he loves. He has deep roots in the community having purchased his home and raised his family in the community. He indicated that he went to Northville Downs with his wife and had fun and he is not a gambler. He hears and listens to comments and responds to emails. He also spoke about property rights and how property rights can't be ignored. He completed research on referendums and found that there is no legal way to have a referendum that the community can vote on. He indicated that people must stop shouting at each other.

Supervisor Heise shared that there is a property rights issue relative to Northville Downs. Northville Downs owns the property subject to the racetrack. Supervisor Heise also shared the upcoming business interest in the immediate area of Northville Downs. It was also noted that Northville Downs will not be paid for with taxpayer dollars. Property rights direct the Township to stay within the confines of the law and allow due process. He defined what a Plan Unit Development (PUD) contract accomplishes. He also defined the community benefit agreement. He expressed his opinion that it is an elected official's obligation to maximize revenues and reduce taxes in the Township. He also emphasized that he is a Republican and outlined his background of knowledge in reference to enforcing environmental development including Pinnacle, which was referenced during public comments. Supervisor Heise advised the community is heard and asked that everyone let the lawful process play out and if Northville Downs goes through, Plymouth Township will receive a generous benefit.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:00 PM



He shared the good news that the Township did get its first senior vans. Half of the cost was paid for with ARPA Funds and the balance came from the Pulte Family Trust, as well as a generous donation from the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Facility.

The August 1<sup>st</sup> study session has been cancelled as well as the regular Board of Trustees meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 25, 2023, at 10:07 p.m.

All Ayes

  
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Jerry Vorva, Clerk

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks' notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following: Human Resource Office, 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number (734) 354-3202 TDD units: 1-800649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services)

**The public is invited and encouraged to attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth**