

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

Tuesday, August 22, 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 ☒

ALSO PRESENT: J. Knittel, Police Chief
P. Conely, Fire Chief
K. Bennett, Atty
J. Schrot, Engineer
D. Terrell, Recording Secretary
L. Simpson, Recording Secretary

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pat Conely

**• RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP DETECTIVE TOM
CHAMPAGNE FOR H.S.I. MICHIGAN TASK FORCE OFFICER OF THE
YEAR AWARD.**

Chief Knittel introduced Asst. Special Agent of Homeland Security, Matt Spence to present the Michigan Task Force Officer of the Year award to Tom Champagne. He emphasized that Officer Champagne is a consummate leader, a professional, and he represents the community. He supports H.S.I. and gives back to the community. On a regular basis, he provides outreach to the Senior Community, sharing financial fraud and current scam information. The award is made to resemble a piston, as this drives an engine, so the officers drive H.S.I. and are integral to its success.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Tuesday, August 22, 2023

Supervisor Heise changed the order of New Business Items #F1, and #F2 to prior to "Public Comments" to accommodate attending presenters.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of August 22, 2023, as amended.

All Ayes

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D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

D.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting, July 25, 2023

D.2 Consent Agenda – New Business

- a. Approval of Water Main Easement for Critical Mass, LLC – Phoenix Mill, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-58**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- b. Approval of Sanitary Sewer Easement for Critical Mass, LLC – Phoenix Mill, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-59**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- c. Approval of Storm Drain Agreement for Critical Mass, LLC – Phoenix Mill, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-60**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- d. Approval of Ann Arbor Road Outlot LLC - Henry Ford Health System Storm Drain Agreement, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-61**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- e. Approval of Henry Ford Health System Sanitary Sewer Easement, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-62**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- f. Approval of Henry Ford Health System Storm Drain Agreement, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-63**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- g. Approval of Henry Ford Health System Vacation of Existing Water Main Easement, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-64**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*

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- h. Approval of Henry Ford Health System Water Main Easement, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-65**, *Jeremy Schrot, PE, Township Engineer*
- i. Approval of Purchase of 2024 Ford 250 Pickup Truck (DPW), **Resolution # 2023-08-22-66**, *Patrick Fellrath, Public Services Director*
- j. Approval of Purchase of 2024 Ford Transit Van (DPW), **Resolution # 2023-08-22-67**, *Patrick Fellrath, Public Services Director*

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

- a. Reports:
 - Building Department Monthly Report - July 2023
 - Fire Department Monthly Report - July 2023
 - Planning Department Monthly Report - July 2023
 - Police Department Monthly Report - July 2023
 - FOIA Monthly Report - Clerk's Office - July 2023
 - FOIA Monthly Report - Police Department - July 2023

D.4 Approval of Township Bills:

FUND	ACCT	ALREADY PAID	TO BE PAID	TOTAL:
General Fund	101	1,200,372.53	242,862.64	1,443,235.37
Drug Forfeiture Federal	262	.00	.00	.00
Drug Forfeiture State	265	.00	16,716.15	16,716.15

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Drug Forfeiture IRS	266	85.26	.00	85.26
ARPA	285	96,838.87	86,872.00	183,710.87
Improv. Rev.	446	.00	.00	.00
Senior Transportation	588	8,358.18	160.86	8,519.04
Water/Sewer Fund	592	334,191.04	574,773.37	908,964.41
Solid Waste Fund	596	7,797.20	117,584.13	125,381.33
Tax Pool	703	2,370.14	.00	2,370.14
Police Bond Fund	710	500.00	.00	500.00
Special Assessment Capital	805	.00	.00	.00
TOTALS:		1,650,513.22	1,038,969.35	2,689,482.57

Trustee Curmi commented that the Police Chief's new executive summary was excellent and hopes other department heads will model the same.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of August 22, 2023, with amendments to minutes to correct the spelling of names in public comments.

All Ayes

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NEW BUSINESS -F1 and F2

F.1 Presentation and Resolution to Approve Western Townships Utilities Authority (WTUA) Budget for 2023-2024, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-68**,
Suzanne Balan, WTUA Finance Director

Suzanne Balan provided an explanation as to an overall increase of 5 ½%. The sewage treatment cost is the largest part of the budget. The rate with Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority has been increased. She also shared that the budget was approved by WTUA Board. The budget will go back to each of the townships for approval, and then back to the WTUA Board for final approval. Trustee Curmi asked how much capacity remained at the Ypsilanti Sewage Treatment Plant. Director Balan indicated the capacity is nowhere near exceeding the capacity.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz that the Board of Trustees approve Resolution #2023-08-22-68 adopting the 2023-2024 WTUA Budget per the recommendations of the WTUA Finance Director.

Roll Call Vote

All Ayes

Motion Passed

F.2 Initial Appointments to Township Veterans Commission, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-69**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise*

Supervisor Heise recognized Trustee Buckley as acting chair and was instrumental in getting this commission off the ground. He introduced the candidates, who are as follows: Krista McKinley, Ron King, Jacquelyn Lyssiotis, Kirkland Kohn, Michael Richardson, Jennifer Buckley, John Lockwood, John Roberts, and David Tanana. The candidates spoke and gave very impressive backgrounds in the branches of the United States Military and their current positions. Trustee Stewart acknowledged gratitude for their willingness to serve on this Commission. Supervisor Heise expressed thanks for the military service of these individuals and their interest in this Commission. Trustee Monaghan thanked everyone and Trustee Buckley.

Moved by Trustee Buckley and Supported by Trustee Monaghan to approve Resolution 2023-08-22-69, appointing the initial nine members of the Plymouth Township Veterans Commission for the terms specified therein.

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Roll Call Vote
All Ayes
Motion Passed

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

- Monica Batts, Howard Hamerink, Mary Ann Adams, Joyce Janicki, Dale Bernhardt, Anne Van Wagoner, Kurt Horvath, Stacey Romein, Bill Pine, Leon Swan, and Tricia Kvasnak were against the Racetrack citing questions of ownership, Brownfield property with State of Michigan, House Bills 411, 412, & 413, traffic issues, and loss of an idyllic community.
- Marilyn Breur-Bertera is for the Racetrack citing Northville property values were unaffected, no increase in police activity, and that horses are well cared for.

F. NEW BUSINESS

3. Emergency Management Resolution with Wayne County and Township Support Emergency Operations Plan, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-70**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise and Fire Chief Patrick Conely*

Chief Conely stated that the previous Emergency Management Ordinance had been repealed in previous meetings, and the resolution would officially adopt Wayne County's Emergency Operations Plan.

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Monaghan to adopt Resolution 2023-08-22-70 adopting the Emergency Management Resolution with Wayne County and the Support Emergency Operations Plan for the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote
All Ayes
Motion Passed

4. Proposal for AMI Business Case Analysis, **Resolution # 2023-08-22-71**, *Treasurer Bob Doroshewitz and Patrick Fellrath, PE, Director of Public Services*

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Treasurer Doroshewitz shared that there was a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a modernization of the metering system. There was a meeting with vendors after bids came back. It was determined that help would be needed from a consultant to develop a business case and evaluate the two major bids. The cost will come out of the Water and Sewer fund. Trustee Curmi asked about the discounted cash flow. DPW Director Fellrath responded indicating that there would be a reasonable discount rate that reflects all municipal utilities.

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva to approve Resolution# 2023-08-22-71, authorizing E Source Companies, LLC (E Source) to perform professional services as specified in the attached Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Business Case Development proposal in the amount of \$29,284.

Roll Call Vote

All Ayes

Motion Passed

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

Mary Ann Adams commended the township on being prepared and asked if there was an alternate location for the Emergency Management Plan. Chief Conely indicated there was.

H. BOARD COMMENTS

- Trustee Monaghan recognized the untimely passing of a longtime businessman, John Lanier, and she expressed her condolences and those of the Board. He was very active in the community supporting charities and his business LaCasa of Plymouth.
- Trustee Buckley was very grateful and thankful to be chairing the Veterans Commission. Veterans are invited to attend meetings. It was also expressed that all issues can be emailed to Trustee Buckley. Trustee Buckley inquired if there is protocol for the Board to respond to questions asked during public comments. The response from Supervisor Heise was that the Board of Trustees operates under the Open Meetings Act rules and under rules voted on by the Board at the beginning of their term of office (rules of conduct and meeting rules for the Board). Open Meetings Act doesn't require any response at all and doesn't provide for a question-and-answer period. This is generally done so that

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the meeting doesn't become a debate. He reiterated that emailing a question is best.

- Treasurer Doroshewitz addressed the idea of residents being able to take a vote on an issue. His research found no provision under state law that would permit a referendum on an issue such as whether a PUD for a racetrack could be approved.
- Clerk Vorva also addressed Trustee Buckley's questions about answering the public comments as they are spoken. He made the point that certain things simply cannot be addressed publicly. (i.e., potential lawsuits). He then thanked everyone for coming out. He asked everyone to be watching for communication from the Township office regarding changes to the upcoming election in the Spring. There will be a lot of information about changes in the voting processes including early voting, which was passed by voters in 2022. Voting locations will be different for early voting from the locations on election day. Tentatively the primary for the Democratic Party will be February 27, 2024, if the Legislature has allowed the proper time for that to pass approval.
- Trustee Stewart stated that 8-31-23 is National Drug Abuse Day and Addiction Awareness Day. He expressed that he is supportive of the police and their efforts against alcohol abuse. He thanked the police.
- Trustee Curmi asked when the 1% tax collection fee deletion will occur. The response was when the budget is complete. A draft budget will be out to the Board of Trustees by September 1st per Supervisor Heise. September 26th the general fund budget will be presented, and the budget won't be approved until November 14th.
- Supervisor Heise noted the next meeting will take place on September 12, 2023, with presentations for public safety budgets, police, fire, and dispatch. He also noted that a resolution for a grant to build sidewalks on Ann Arbor Road, and a fire station consultant will be present at the next meeting. Supervisor Heise also shared that Salem Township lost the case in Washtenaw County. There is still discussion in court about the sewer running through Superior Township. He wondered what the next step Schostak may take and if they will try to tap into WTUA or the sewer treatment plant at M-14 and Napier. An invitation will be extended

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next month once again to Senator Bayer to join the meeting. September 20th will be the general fund budget, with Clerk Vorva addressing many costs associated with the new way of voting. Supervisor Heise addressed the constitutional right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. He indicated petitions need to be produced, or it may be assumed that petitions were signed in error and that the names on the petition will be used for a purpose for which they did not intend. The Board of Trustees will have a closed session on Tuesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Meijer lawsuit.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Treasurer Doroshewitz and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on August 22, 2023, at 8:41 p.m.

All Ayes


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**