

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

Tuesday, September 12, 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
D. Kudra, Asst Police Chief
P. Conely, Fire Chief
K. Bennett, Atty
J. Schrot, Engineer
C. Rochon, Dep. Finance Director
D. Terrell, Recording Secretary
L. Simpson, Recording Secretary

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Grace Modes

- **Tribute to Former Trustee Karen Carlsen "KC" Mueller who passed away on June 18, 2023. Clerk Vorva commented on her long history as a realtor, her service as a Plymouth Township Trustee, and the good she had done for her community. She will be missed. Supervisor Heise offered a moment of silence in her memory.**

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of September 12, 2023 as amended.

All Ayes

D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

D.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting, August 22, 2023

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D.2 Consent Agenda – New Business

- a. Plymouth Town Center Condominium Association, Inc., for Vacation of Existing Water Main Easement, New Water Main Easement, and Sanitary Sewer Easement, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-72**, *Jeremy Schrot, Township Engineer*
- b. FY2023 Budget Amendments – OPEB, 35th District Court, and AMI Consultant, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-73**, *Deputy Finance Director Carole Rochon and Treasurer Bob Doroshewitz*
- c. Board Approval of Depositories for Calendar Year 2023, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-74**, *Treasurer Bob Doroshewitz*
- d. Establishment of Annual Tax Rate for Submission to Wayne County, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-75**, *Treasurer Bob Doroshewitz*

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

- a. Correspondence: From Former Trustee J. Dempsey about KC Mueller
- b. Reports:
 - Building Department Monthly Report - August 2023
 - Fire Department Monthly Report - August 2023
 - Planning Department Monthly Report - August 2023
 - Police Department Monthly Report - August 2023
 - FOIA Monthly Report - Clerk's Office - August 2023
 - FOIA Monthly Report - Police Department - August 2023

D.4 Approval of Township Bills:

| FUND | ACCT | ALREADY PAID | TO BE PAID | TOTAL: |
|------|------|--------------|------------|--------|
|------|------|--------------|------------|--------|

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| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | 101 | 840,790.85 | 141,501.53 | 982,292.38 |
| Drug Forfeiture Federal | 262 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Drug Forfeiture State | 265 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Drug Forfeiture IRS | 266 | .00 | 53.90 | 53.90 |
| ARPA | 285 | .00 | 94,708.25 | 94,708.25 |
| Improv. Rev. | 446 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Senior Transportation | 588 | 4,843.25 | .00 | 4,843.25 |
| Water/Sewer Fund | 592 | 63,936.02 | 547,170.73 | 611,106.75 |
| Solid Waste Fund | 596 | 4,596.25 | 94.10 | 4,690.35 |
| Tax Pool | 703 | 00 | .00 | 00 |
| Police Bond Fund | 710 | 300.00 | .00 | 300.00 |
| Special Assessment Capital | 805 | .00 | 107,036.47 | 107,306.47 |
| TOTALS: | | 914,466.37 | 890,564.98 | 1,805,031.35 |

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Trustee Curmi asked if the vacation of Plymouth Town Center Condominiums will include removing the existing water line. J. Schrot responded that most of the water line was removed, and the other portion would be capped and left in place. Trustee Curmi also asked about the large shortfall noted in the proposed budget information for the court and when payment is due. Treasurer Doroshewitz indicated two of the quarterly payments have been paid. He also noted a correction to the Item of Depositories that should read 2023.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Monaghan to approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of September 12, 2023.

Roll Call Vote

All Ayes

Motion Passed

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

- Dale Bernhardt, Joyce Janicki, Ron Hoge, Eileen Coleman, Mary Pine, Bill Pine, David Mashna, Alice Rainville, Diane Bielows, Duane Zantop, Adrian Rice, and Laura Schumaut all cited concerns over the proposed racetrack including gambling, traffic, drunk driving, crime in Plymouth Township vs. Northville Township, soccer field, racing as a dying industry, social media comments, billboards, and FOIAs.
- Laura Schumaut had concerns over the Sidewalk Gap project, which had put in a sidewalk and left unsafe ditches. She asked for someone to examine this work. J. Schrot indicated he would be arranging a meeting with the residents there and would communicate with her as he was also meeting with the contractor.
- Anna Steele had questions and concerns about General Dr. as an all-access road. J. Schrot said the Spine Rd connection to General Dr had been approved in principle by the county, with a few stipulations before a permit would be issued. He also commented that the county was ready to issue the stormwater permit and the connection plan was conditionally approved with the developer constructing the road. Engineering money would come from the agreement and would not be paid out of Plymouth Township funds. He said individuals could come to view the permit and stipulations. Supervisor Heise commented that the developer would be paving the neighborhood to the North.

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F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed FY 2024 Budget Requests – Public Safety, *Supervisor Heise, Fire Chief Patrick Conely, Police Chief James Knittel*

- **Fire Chief Conely** presented the fire and emergency management budget request noting that the emergency management budget is a small portion (\$31,000) of the entire fire budget (\$943,5000). He explained the emergency management portion goes toward the emergency alert system, the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), crossing guard salaries, and various contracts and equipment.
- He gave the debt services on the fire truck, capital improvement, Station #1-floor grates, Station #2- new generator, the very old fire station alerting system, which is analog and needs to be digital, and a 2024 Fire Department utility truck to hold extra equipment. The biggest budget request would be the utility truck and the new alerting system.
- Supervisor Heise commented that the HVA (Huron Valley Ambulance) contract expires soon, and he hopes that could be extended 6 months to reassess the level of need. He added the current fire contracts expire in March, and they would be meeting with the union in October.
- C. Rochon stated the high percentage of wages were from lateral transfer wage adjustments. Once the amended budget is completed, that number might decrease.

- **Police Chief Knittel** acknowledged women in police work, including Officer Kaitlyn King and his own sister.
- Chief Knittel shared staffing details and proposed details moving forward.
- He provided the proposed 2024 budget of \$6,271,500 which includes 54% for wages, 20% for retirement benefits, 10% for insurance benefits, 9% for operations, and 7% for capital outlay.
- He noted that if HR 1525 Fair Act of 2023 eliminated equitable sharing, it would severely impact the revenue stream.
- Chief Knittel made note of some new community outreach programs including a teen driving program, a Citizens' Police Academy, a college student internship program, a financial institute liaison program, and a hotel liaison program. The current outreach programs including, Coffee

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with a Cop, the Senior Fraud and Exploitation program, the Run, Hide, Fight, active assailant training, the first responder food drive, and the drug take-back program have all been effective and well received.

2. Selection of "Partners in Architecture PLC" as Consultants for Possible New Lake Pointe Fire Station, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-76**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise, Fire Chief Patrick Conely*
- Chief Conely introduced a proposal to assess replacing Fire Station #2, including a feasibility study. Supervisor Heise shared that he and the Chief spoke to consultants about costs for construction and interest rates for loans. Chief Conely went to a design conference, and both he and Supervisor Heise visited several fire stations to get some good design ideas, knowing that the site is limited by the water tower and a water main. Resolution #2023-09-12-76 does not give a commitment to build, and the consulting fees were considered reasonable.
 - Mike Malone and David Gassen from Partners in Architecture PLC who have focused mainly on public works and public safety for almost 19 years, discussed ideas to conceptualize the fire station project. They listed many local fire and police station projects they have completed or are currently in process. They stated they would work to create the vision of the Township and Fire Chief. The property would need to be vacated temporarily during construction. It was noted that project plans could possibly be delivered before the holiday season.

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Resolution 2023-04-11-76 selecting "Partners in Architecture PLC" for a possible new Lake Pointe Fire Station in the amount not to exceed \$19,500 for the first phase and pursuant to the attached Proposal to be signed by the Supervisor; further this Motion does not commit the Township beyond the first phase of the Proposal.

Roll Call Vote

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

NAYS: Trustee Curmi

Motion Passed.

3. Risen Christ Lease Agreement for Early Voting Location, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-77**, *Clerk Jerry Vorva*

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Clerk Vorva discussed the new constitutional amendment and the new voting laws by the State of Michigan regarding early voting. It requires the voting center to be centrally located within Plymouth Township. Risen Christ Church had an appropriately sized facility that would accommodate voters from all twelve precincts during the three different elections in 2024. The law also requires an additional Dropbox for Absentee Ballots. A circular drive at this location would allow for the Dropbox. In addition, security cameras, hardwired internet, and our internet server will be necessary. Another church and other businesses were investigated but didn't find one that fit the needs, especially since it must be centrally located.

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz to adopt Resolution# 2023-09-12-77 authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Option to Lease Space from Risen Christ Lutheran Church located at 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI for the purpose of holding Early Voting for the election year 2024.

Roll Call Vote

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

NAYS: Trustee Curmi

Motion Passed.

4. Certification to MDOT that Non-Federal Matching Funds are Secured, Available, and Committed for Expenditure on the Ann Arbor Road Sidewalk Gap Project, **Resolution # 2023-09-12-78**, *Jeremy Schrot, Township Engineer*

J Schrot explained that a grant application was submitted a few months ago for the Ann Arbor Road Sidewalk Gap Project from Gold Arbor to General Drive on the north side of the road and under the railroad tracks. The grant for \$681,589 was awarded. The project would follow Wayne County repairing pumps and drainage in the location. A retaining wall would also be built in conjunction with the sidewalk.

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Trustee Curmi to adopt Resolution # 2023-09-12-78, authorizing the certification to MDOT that non-federal matching funds are secured, available, and committed for expenditure on the Ann Arbor

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Road Sidewalk Gap, Project and to Authorize the Township Supervisor to sign the project agreement.

Roll Call Vote

ALL AYES

Motion Passed.

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

- Dale Bernhardt asked for clarification on the charge for FOIAs and was told the large charge in question was for all the requests added together. He also asked about the 5 Mile Road upgrade charges and was told the cost quoted in 2018 had actually decreased.
- Marilyn Bartera was in favor of the racetrack and compared simulcasting at the racetrack to keno at restaurants.

H. BOARD COMMENTS

- Trustee Monaghan thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions more kindly.
- Trustee Stewart thanked everyone for the privilege of letting him serve on the Board and gave his highest regards to the police and fire departments.
- Trustee Buckley said the newly formed Veterans Commission's first meeting is September 27, 2023. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell was invited.
- Treasurer Doroshewitz noted that Township residents had until 9-14-23 to pay their taxes. About 90% of taxes had been received.
- Trustee Curmi asked for a work session on community benefit.
- Clerk Vorva stated he is genuinely concerned about issues brought before the board.
- Supervisor Heise said the September 26, 2023 agenda will address the general fund budget, a heavy emphasis on the election process, contracts, recreation plans, and a revision to Sparr's Greenhouse plan. He noted that Plymouth Township public meeting notices are published on Friday mornings, allowing the public 5 days of preparation. He gave very high priorities to police and fire budgets to retain good people and keep the Township safe.

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I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 12, 2023, at 10:31 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