

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

7:00 PM



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

**A. ROLL CALL:** Kurt Heise ✓, Bob Doroshewitz ✓, Jerry Vorva ✓,  
Jen Buckley ✓, Chuck Curmi ✓, John Stewart ✓,  
Audrey Monaghan, Excused

**ALSO PRESENT:** J. Knittel, Police Chief  
P. Conely, Fire Chief  
K. Bennett, Atty  
E. Kutey, Finance Director  
C. Rochon, Deputy Finance Director  
P. Fellrath, Director of Public Services  
L. Simpson, Recording Secretary

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Judge James Plakas

Supervisor Heise noted that no action would be taken on the Racetrack, and the owners of the property had not been in communication with the Township since October 2, 2023. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be December 12, 2023

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Buckley to approve the Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of November 14, 2023.

**All Ayes of those present**

**Motion Passed**

**D. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**D.1 Approval of Minutes**

- Regular Meeting, October 24, 2023

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**D.2 Consent Agenda - Acceptance of Communications,  
Correspondence, and Reports**

**a. Reports:**

- Building Department Monthly Report - October 2023
- Fire Department Monthly Report - October 2023
- Planning Department Monthly Report - October 2023
- Police Department Monthly Report - October 2023
- FOIA Monthly Report - Clerk's Office - October 2023
- FOIA Monthly Report - Police Department - October 2023
- 

**D.3 Approval of Township Bills:**

| <b>FUND</b>                   | <b>ACCT</b> | <b>ALREADY PAID</b> | <b>TO BE PAID</b> | <b>TOTAL:</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| General Fund                  | 101         | 1,160,415.12        | 179,462.88        | 1,339,878.00  |
| Drug<br>Forfeiture<br>Federal | 262         | .00                 | .00               | .00           |
| Drug<br>Forfeiture<br>State   | 265         | .00                 | 5,250.00          | 5,250.00      |
| Drug<br>Forfeiture<br>IRS     | 266         | .00                 | 00                | 00            |
| ARPA                          | 285         | 0                   | 158,207.35        | 158,207.35    |

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|                            |     |              |            |              |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Improv. Rev.               | 446 | .00          | 11,041.05  | 11,041.05    |
| Senior Transportation      | 588 | 8,322.11     | 154.37     | 8,322.11     |
| Water/Sewer Fund           | 592 | 267,465.46   | 513,153.55 | 780,619.01   |
| Solid Waste Fund           | 596 | 7,596.65     | 122,510.74 | 130,107.39   |
| Tax Pool                   | 703 | 9,763.90     | .00        | 9673.90      |
| Police Bond Fund           | 710 | 1,150.00     | .00        | 1,150.00     |
| Special Assessment Capital | 805 | .00          | 00         | 00           |
| TOTALS:                    |     | 1,454,558.87 | 989,779.94 | 2,444,338.81 |

Moved by Clerk Vorva and supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz to approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of October 24, 2023.

## **Roll Call Votes**

**All Ayes of those present**

**Motion Passed**

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

Dale Bernhardt, Joyce Janicki, Maryann Adams, Donald Garlett, Bee Friedlander, and John Reynolds all expressed their opposition to the proposed racetrack citing the collapse of harness racing due to lottery and online betting. They also cited traffic increase, abuse of horses, gambling, and subsidizing of horse racing, instead suggesting investment in more high-tech industries.



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Marilyn Bertera spoke in support of the racetrack indicating that there are well-paying jobs available at racetracks, including paddock judge, announcer, camera personnel, IT personnel, facilities maintenance, veterinarian, security, race secretary, office personnel, and many more. She added it is a revenue generator. Elizabeth Birmingham is neither for nor against the racetrack, but she did question the number of people who have signed petitions as not actually representative of the whole of Plymouth Township, which is over 27,000 people.

Steven Birmingham thanked Planner Nani Wolf for answering some questions, by returning his phone call and email. He requested someone from the police department come and speak at the Lake Pointe HOA meeting on November 8, 2022. He expressed great appreciation for their willingness to send Officer David Jaw and Chief Knittel to give a safety report.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Adoption of Stormwater Management Plan, **Resolution # 2023-11-14-93**,  
*Patrick Fellrath, PE, Director of Public Services*

Mr. Fellrath indicated that the State is requiring the Township to adopt the resolution that adopts our Stormwater Plan. He added that this is already part of our approved Stormwater permit previously approved by the State. The Township Stormwater program only pertains to the storm sewers owned and maintained by the Township. These are located on Township property.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Curmi to approve **Resolution # 2023-11-14-93** adopting the Township's Stormwater Management Plan included as part of its current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the State.

**Roll Call Vote**

**All Ayes of those present**

**Motion Passed**

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2. Resolution Requesting the Elimination of the 35<sup>th</sup> District Court Judgeship Expiring December 31, 2024, **Resolution # 2023-11-14-94**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise*

Supervisor Heise explained that the 35<sup>th</sup> District Court Authority comprises Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township, and Canton Township. With revenue down with fewer citations being written, there is a deficit with the court. The elimination of the 35<sup>th</sup> District Court Judgeship has been suggested as a way to reduce those deficits. State House Representative Puri from Canton Township has entered a bill into the State House asking to eliminate this 35<sup>th</sup> District Court Judgeship.

Judge James Plakas spoke about ensuring justice to the community rather than just about saving money. He added that the Sobriety Court Program is very important to the community and stands to disappear with this elimination.

He added that the court is there to help a person coming through the court system. It does this by monitoring them (probation reporting). He indicated that they are here to serve the public.

Trustee Stewart expressed his concerns for habitual drunk drivers and what might happen without a court intervention program like the Sobriety Program.

Trustee Curmi suggested postponing or moving on to the next agenda item without a vote.

The decision was made to move on to the next agenda item.

3. Approval of 2024 All Funds Budgets, **Resolution # 2023-11-14-95**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise and Finance Director Elizabeth Kutey*

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Supervisor Heise to adopt **Resolution# 2023-11-14-95**, authorizing the adoption of the 2024 Charter Township of Plymouth General Appropriations Act for All Funds and the 2024 budgets as outlined and attached in accordance with the terms and conditions contained therein.



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**Roll Call Vote**

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

**NAYS:** Trustee Curmi

**Motion Passed.**

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

None

**H. BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Stewart expressed his concern about drunk driving over the holidays but noted that we have many things to be thankful for.

Trustee Buckley noted the next Veterans meeting will be November 20, 2023, and hopes to have Congresswoman Debbie Dingell attend. The agenda items will review a suicide awareness webinar completed in September, a report of our Veteran's Day ceremony and informal Ruck March, the formation of an awareness committee, the formation of an appreciation committee, and a presentation from No Place Like Home Health, which services Veterans.

Treasurer Doroshewitz indicated that 98.7% of the summer taxes have been received, and about 100 parcels of the sidewalks assessed in 2022 have been paid already. If not paid, they roll over into the taxes. About 61 properties are delinquent on water bills, and Wayne County sent out notices for those. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Clerk Vorva noted that residents will be receiving a letter and a card from the clerk's office, first explaining about early voting time, location, and Dropbox in December. Secondly, a new voter registration card will be sent. Early voting will be at one place, but on Election Day, it is back to the regular polling place.

Trustee Curmi indicated that Veterinarians may be willing to sell dog licenses and would like to address the "dogs on leashes" in the park based on the responses from the Parks and Recreation Survey. He also hoped a meeting with the Planning Commission could be arranged in the next few months. He asked about the implementation of the charging stations and cost capture.

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Supervisor Heise explained the charging stations should be priced consistent with other EV stations in the market. He noted there is still more work to be done. The "dogs on leashes" issue will be addressed at the December 12, 2023 meeting, noting that the current ordinance, which prohibits dogs in parks, will have to be amended. A dog license linked to dogs in parks was suggested. He added that the next meeting is December 12, 2023, and again noted that there has been no word from Northville Downs since October 2, 2023.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Trustee Buckley to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 14, 2023, at 8:28.

**All Ayes of those present**

**Motion Passed.**

  
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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**