

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2023
PROPOSED MINUTES
6:00 PM



CALL TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

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

EXCUSED: Audrey Monaghan

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chief J. Knittel

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Moved by Clerk Vorva and seconded by Trustee Buckley to approve the Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of September 26, 2023.

All Ayes

D. CLOSED SESSION - 6:02 P.M.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz that a Closed Session be called at 6:02 p.m. for the purpose of consultation with attorneys on specific pending litigation; Wayne County Circuit Court Case Number *23-010250-AA, Meijer vs. Plymouth Township*, in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Section MCL 15.268(8e).

Roll Call Vote

All Ayes

Motion Passed

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E. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz that the Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call Vote

All Ayes

Motion Passed

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva to accept the Attorney's recommendation on specific pending litigation; Wayne County Circuit Court Case Number *23-010250-AA, Meijer vs. Plymouth Township*, in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Section MCL 15.268(8e).

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: Trustee Curmi

Motion Passed

F. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

F.1 Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting, September 12, 2023

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

All Ayes

F.2 Consent Agenda – New Business

a. HVA Ambulance Service Contract Extension, **Resolution # 2023-09-26-79**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise, Fire Chief Patrick Conely*

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- b. Ponds of Andover CHO Extension, **Resolution # 2023-09-26-80**,
Laura Haw, Township Planner

F.3 Approval of Township Bills:

FUND	ACCT	ALREADY PAID	TO BE PAID	TOTAL:
General Fund	101	420,420.11	161,244.86	581,664.97
Drug Forfeiture Federal	262	.00	.00	.00
Drug Forfeiture State	265	.00	.00	.00
Drug Forfeiture IRS	266	.00	.00	.00
ARPA	285	.00	7,533.22	7,533.22
Improv. Rev.	446	.00	.00	.00
Senior Transportation	588	3,308.85	.00	3,308.85
Water/Sewer Fund	592	208,139.70	27,625.67	235,765.37
Solid Waste Fund	596	3,086.06	138,114.22	141,200.28
Tax Pool	703	.00	00	00

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Police Bond Fund	710	5,000.00	.00	5,000.00
Special Assessment Capital	805	.00	.00	.00
TOTALS:		639,954.72	334,517.97	974,472.69

Moved by Clerk Vorva and supported by Treasurer Doroshewitz to approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of September 26, 2023.

All Ayes

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

- Dale Bernhardt, Joyce Janicki, Mary Pine, Bill Pine, Duane Zantop, Diane Bielows, and Maryann Adams were all in opposition to the racetrack citing crime, gambling addiction, depression, family values, and traffic increase.
- Diane Bielows also made comments on early voting sites.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. School Resource Officer Agreement with PCCS, **Resolution # 2023-09-26-81**, *Police Chief James Knittel, Jr., and Township Attorney Kevin Bennett*

Chief Knittel recommended approval of an M.O.U. (Memorandum of Understanding) between Plymouth Township and the Plymouth Canton Community Schools regarding operations between the schools and the Township Police Department. The SRO (School Resource Officer) Agreement is like others used throughout the country. It advises both the schools and police on how that Resource Officer position will provide services. It was reviewed by Attorney Bennett and was approved by the school board two weeks ago.

Moved by Trustee Stewart and seconded by Trustee Buckley to approve Resolution #2023-09-26-81 to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Charter Township of Plymouth and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

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Roll Call Vote **All Ayes** **Motion Passed**

2. Recreation Plan Update, *Laura Haw, Township Planner*

Planner Haw presented updates on the Draft Joint Plymouth Community five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The last plan in 2018 was in conjunction with the City of Plymouth. When the City of Plymouth completes its survey, it will be merged with Plymouth Township's plan and submitted to the State for approval. The MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) requires that communities have a five-year plan on file to be eligible for any future grants. The Township has benefited from such grants in the past.

Planner Haw indicated the Township offered a Parks and Recreation survey for those residents who wished to participate. Of the 840 who responded, cleanliness, maintenance, and accessibility were the highest-rated areas. Improvements to existing parks, bike lanes, soccer, pickleball, and dog-friendly parks were also common themes. Interest in permanent year-round restroom facilities at the Township Park was also expressed.

She added that adoption of the plan by the Board of Trustees should happen by January 2024, and be submitted to the State by February 1, 2024. The public can view the draft for 30 days during a review period in November and December. Copies will be available online, at Township Hall, Friendship Station, and Plymouth Township email.

3. Budget Deliberations: General Fund/Elections, *Jerry Vorva, Township Clerk, Elizabeth Kutey, Finance Director, Carole Rochon, Deputy Finance Director, and Treasurer Robert Doroshewitz*

The Budget talks began by introducing the new Finance Director, Elizabeth Kutey. They continued with Treasurer Doroshewitz going over different sections of the posted budget and answering questions as they were asked.

Clerk Vorva explained in great detail the many changes that are being made due to the new early voting law, the constitutional amendment, and all the requirements laid out by

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the State of Michigan to administer the election. An estimate of the budget increase could be 400 – 500% more than in past elections. Some costs associated with the new law are the new equipment needed for the nine days of early voting, rental of a centrally located facility for all three 2024 elections, wages for the extra days of staffing for each election, security measures, and a large increase in postage. He explained that new tabulators and poll books (computers) must be used to accommodate the new mandates, as well as security cameras, and internet connection for the poll books, which are used to check voters into the system. In addition, the State is requiring that the absentee ballot requests be mailed sixty days before the election (12,000 – 13,000) At forty days, those individuals who have not yet returned their request, must be contacted by the Clerk's office to remind them. In summary, all these additional mandates will cost the Township a significant amount of money. The State may give back to the Township \$228,000, which Clerk Vorva requested, but that is not guaranteed. Clerk Vorva added that the Friendship Station, Praise Baptist, and Church of the Nazarene are not adequate for Early Voting. All twelve precincts must vote at the same location, and there could be as many as 1,200 voters per day.

Supervisor Heise added that \$200,000 was sequestered specifically for the 2024 election.

Treasurer Doroshewitz finished his presentation of the budget highlights.

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

- Marilyn Bertera commented in favor of the racetrack citing that the Racetrack proposal includes many of the amenities that Planner Haw included in her Parks and Recreation Update.
- Patty Pozios asked if the size of the precincts would be changing.
- Clerk Vorva answered, "No, but it could change in the future."
- Bill Pine commented that Plymouth Township needs to focus on opportunities to bring businesses like that of Silicon Valley to the Township.
- Dale Bernhardt indicated he had visited Northville Downs Friday and didn't see any joy in people attending. He also asked if a millage increase was being considered for Parks and Recreation.
- Supervisor Heise's response was no in reference to the millage question.

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J. BOARD COMMENTS

- Trustee Stewart asked the Firefighters in attendance about their staffing concerns. He congratulated Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock for obtaining a grant from the State of Michigan for a new stage for music performances in Kellogg Park. He also expressed enthusiasm for the new Norwegian Hydrogen Company coming to Plymouth Township.
- Trustee Buckley thanked Clerk Vorva for informing the Board and residents on all the issues surrounding early voting and explaining the new laws, regulations, changes, manpower needed, and expenses involved. She shared that the newly formed Veterans Commission will meet on September 27th, and she is looking forward to sharing the information.
- Trustee Doroshewitz noted about 400 parcels still have unpaid taxes. He suggested coming to pay in person rather than putting it in the mail. He added that if someone gets behind on their taxes, to please contact Wayne County to set up a payment plan, so they don't lose their home.
- Clerk Vorva wanted to thank Trustee Buckley for her kind words, and he thanked his staff, Denisa Terrell, Paula Jefferson, Deborah Dooley, and Ashley Sanders for their hard work in the clerk's department on elections.
- Trustee Curmi asked if Jeremy Schrot from Engineering could say when the sidewalk repairs would resume, as the project had been interrupted.
- Supervisor Heise talked about the Nel Hydrogen facility, which will be built in Plymouth Township at Five Mile and Ridge Roads. The company produces PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) electrolyzers, which essentially remove hydrogen from water for hydrogen production. Governor Whitmer went to Norway and secured the deal for Michigan. He added that Plymouth Township was in competition with two other communities. The company is a collaborative project between Nel Hydrogen, the State of Michigan, General Motors, and the United States Department of Energy. He worked closely with Congresswoman Debbie Dingle on this project. The State granted a \$10 million grant to this project. He added that spinoff businesses are anticipated with a high-tech company such as this. He added the company is a big win for Plymouth Township and the State of Michigan.

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He added that Northville Downs is privately owned, and they are entitled to due process under the law, zoning code, and planning codes.

He noted the next Board of Trustees meeting will be October 10th and will include presentations on budget amendments for elections, water, bus, and trash budgets. The Sparr's Greenhouse will be discussed with the applicants present.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Steward and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 26, 2023, at 9:24 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