

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

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
6:00 PM



CALL TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM

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

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

- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Police Chief Knittel

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Trustee Curmi asked about having public comments after returning from the closed session, before the Board Action, as there will be a vote on a legal issue. Supervisor Heise said the public comment will remain after the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Stewart to approve the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting of January 23, 2023.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

D. CLOSED SESSION

At 6:04 PM

Clerk Vorva Moved and Seconded by Treasurer Doroshewitz that a Closed Session be called for with the purpose of consultation on an

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Attorney Opinion Letter in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act,
Section MCL 15.268(8)(h).

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:56 PM

Clerk Vorva Moved and Seconded by Trustee Buckley
that the Board of Trustees Return to Open Session

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

1. Northville Downs, LL.C Planned Unit Development and Community Benefit Agreement, *Township Supervisor Kurt Heise*

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva that the Board of Trustees rescind **Resolution #2023-02-28-14** authorizing negotiations of a Planned Unit Development for Northville Downs, LL.C., which also mandates a Community Benefits Agreement, and that the Township Attorney respond to Northville Downs' attorney with the legal and factual information supporting the Township's decision.

**All Ayes of those present
Motion Passed.**

E. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consent Agenda – New Business

- a. Second Reading of Ordinance Providing for Supermajority Vote for Entry of New Customer into WTUA System, **Resolution # 2024-01-23-03**, *Supervisor Kurt Heise*

Trustee Curmi inquired whether there had been a formal vote in the Western Townships Utilities Authority, (WTUA), to approve a new member. Supervisor Heise noted that WTUA had not voted on any new members.

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

a. Reports:

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

E.3 Approval of Township Bills:

FUND	ACCT	ALREADY PAID	TO BE PAID	TOTAL:
General Fund	101	440,053.40	125,798.80	565,852.20
Drug Forfeiture Federal	262	.00	139,833.00	139,833.00
Drug Forfeiture State	265	.00	3,495.00	3,495.00
Drug Forfeiture IRS	266	.00	.00	.00
ARPA	285	.00	.00	.00
Improv. Rev.	446	.00	.00	.00

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Senior Transportation	588	2919.98	1720.860	4,640.84
Water/Sewer Fund	592	220,509.05	35,714.36	256,223.41
Solid Waste Fund	596	3,149.85	117,598.42	120,748.27
Tax Pool	703	14,046.71	.00	14,046.71
Police Bond Fund	710	.00	.00	.00
Special Assessment Capital	805	.00	151,423.44	151,423.44
TOTALS:		680,678.99	575,583.88	1,256,262.87

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Buckley to approve the consent agenda for Tuesday, January 23, 2024, as amended to include the Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2024, as presented to the Board of Trustees before this evening’s meeting.

All Ayes of those present

Motion Passed.

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

- Senator Rosemary Bayer explained that she is a sponsor of the “Water Affordability” Legislation introduced in the State of Michigan. She indicated the bills would protect the infrastructure of water systems throughout the State and provide a reinforcement to some of the water affordability programs that are currently in place. In addition, it would provide affordable water bills to low-income households, grant programs for paying arrearages, and plumbing repairs. She noted that water leaks increase everyone’s bills.

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- Mary Ann Adams, Howard Hamerink, Debra Popiech, Joyce Janicki, Anthony Costa, Rena Ban, and Margaret Bechtel were all thankful that the PUD for the racetrack was rescinded.
- Marilyn Bertera and Jim VanBoven were disappointed with the denial of the racetrack and maintained that their horses are all well-cared for and have been throughout their careers.
- Mary Ann Adams had concerns with the word "Authority" in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and with parcel eleven contamination. She questioned the Attorney about the decision to rescind the PUD on the racetrack.
- Christy McGillivray from the Sierra Club, and Anthony Costa were in support of the Water affordability bill.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing regarding Brownfield Plan Amendment #4 for Properties Within the Michigan International Technology Center Redevelopment Authority (MITC), *Township Clerk Jerry Vorva*

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Buckley to open the Public Hearing at 7:37 PM.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva to close the Public Hearing at 7:38 PM.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

2. MITC Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment #4, **Resolution # 2024- 01-23-04**, *Township Supervisor Kurt Heise and MITC Consultant Jame Harless*

Supervisor Heise detailed the MITC Brownfield Plan Amendment in a cover letter and in the cover memo from Dr. Harless. Dr. Harless noted that this only covers parcel 7 and

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the western 25 acres of parcel 9, which is currently under development by Northville Lumber and parcel 7 will be 100 townhouses. Previously there was an orchard on parcel 9, which was the source of the fungicide contamination. In response to a question about parcels 11 and 12 from the audience, Dr. Harless noted that at the time when the Brownfield Plan was passed, parcels 11 and 12 were a single tax parcel, however the two parcels were separated. There is no record of any contamination on parcel 11 and the contamination described is only north of the railroad tracks on what is now called MITC parcel 12, which had stored motorized vehicles for the prison.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Stewart to adopt **Resolution #2024-01-23-04** authorizing approval of the Michigan International Technology Center Redevelopment Authority MITC Parcel 13, Brownfield Plan Amendment No. 4.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

3. Resolution to Oppose "Water Affordability" Legislation, Resolution 2024- 01-23-05, Township Supervisor Kurt Heise

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Stewart that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Resolution 2024- 01-23-05 opposing proposed legislation concerning "Water Affordability" that is currently pending in Lansing.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

4. Public Hearing for the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Township Laura Haw

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Buckley, to open the Public Hearing for the Recreation and Recreation Master Plan at 7:51 PM.

**All Ayes of Those Present
Motion Passed.**

Mary Ann Adams noted opposition to the word "authority," in the document, preferring different verbiage, that doesn't give inherent powers to the entity being created.

Supervisor Heise noted it could be called, "Voter approved Authority."

Trustee Curmi noted that the dates for the construction of M-14 Fwy and I-275

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were incorrect and asked they be corrected in the Plan.

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva, to close the Public Hearing for the Recreation and Recreation Master Plan at 7:59 PM.

All Ayes of Those Present

Motion Passed.

- 5.** Request for Adoption: 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Resolution # 2024-01-23-06, *Township Planner Laura Haw*

Moved by Supervisor Heise and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adopt **Resolution #2024-01-23-06**, authorizing the adoption of the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: Trustee Stewart

Absent: Trustee Monaghan

Motion Passed.

- 6.** Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Officers Association of Michigan (Police Officers), *Township Supervisor Kurt Heise and Police Chief James H. Knittel, Jr.*

Supervisor Heise noted the changes were outlined in the email under attorney-client privilege including the tentative agreement adding that this contract hopes to attract and retain good, qualified officers. The HR-Consultant and part-time payroll specialist administer the contract.

Moved by Clerk Vorva and Supported by Trustee Stewart that the Board of Trustees approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Officers Association of Michigan (Police Officers) for a term beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027, and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign same.

All Ayes of Those Present

Motion Passed.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT (*Limited to 3 Minutes*) - None

I. BOARD COMMENTS

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- Trustee Curmi inquired about the Sparr’s Greenhouse, which is being resubmitted to the Planning Commission, with significant changes.
- Clerk Vorva indicated that over 11,000 absentee voter applications were mailed, and about 5,150 have been returned, which left approximately 6000 individuals who need to be contacted either by phone, email, text, or mail per the State requirement. He noted that around 1800 have been contacted so far. About 500 have been called for signatures or lack of selecting a ballot style. There have been 15 personal visits made, as well. He added there would be a public test of the new voting equipment on January 29, 2024, which will be published. He also added that some of the extra costs associated with the new early voting requirements may be reimbursed by the State, and he is keeping a record of the extra costs and statistics of early voters and absentee voters.
- Treasurer Doroshewitz noted that Real Property taxes if unpaid are turned over to the County, which has a process they follow. Personal property tax collection is under the jurisdiction of the Township, even though the Township may only receive a small portion of it. He added that they would remain diligent in the collection. He also indicated that taxes are continuing to come in regularly.
- Trustee Buckley indicated the Veterans Commission Meeting was productive, and they are working on a Facebook Page, planning a Ruck March for Veterans, and looking for a charitable organization for Veterans that may not be as well known.
- Trustee Stewart thanked the residents of the Township for allowing him to serve. He acknowledged the new Township police officer, Freddie Harshbarger, and wanted to encourage Chief Knittel and Chief Conely. He added that he spoke with DTE about tree trimming in Lake Pointe Subdivision due to the large number of power outages from trees falling on power lines.

Supervisor Heise indicated the next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on February 6, 2024, with the annual golf course update and finalizing goals for the year. Other agenda topics include dogs in the parks, coordinating the ordinance changes with the park policy, and two readings of the ordinance and one reading

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of the park rules. He thanked everyone for sending out letters and emails about the Salem Sewer proposal and encouraged people to continue sending them. He strongly recommends a Public Hearing in Plymouth Township on this matter.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Stewart and Supported by Clerk Vorva to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 23, 2024, at 8:26 PM.

All Ayes

Motion Passed.

Jerry Vorva, Clerk

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