

EUREKA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013
Approved

Supervisor Rodney Roy, at the Eureka Township Hall, 9322 S. Greenville Road, Greenville, MI, called the Regular Meeting of the Eureka Charter Township Board to order on July 8, 2013, at 7:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call found the following Board Members present: Supervisor Rodney Roy, Clerk Linda Ruwersma, Treasurer Cindy Hanson, Trustees Jeremy Austin, Brad Kelley, Marty Posekany, and Elaine Pendrick. These minutes will not be approved until the August 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting.

Approximately seventeen others were in attendance including Deputy Clerk Michele Bigelow, Planning Commission Member Linda Weger, County Commissioner Tom Lindeman, Flat River Library Representative Ann Roberts, City Councilmember Fran Schuleit, Zoning Official Tom Faussett, *Daily News* Reporter Kelli Ameling, and Deputy Charlie Mahar.

During the first Public Comment William Harris from 10786 S. Greenville Road was present to state that his land was not in violation of any kind when he purchased it. It seems the land has been classified as a mining operation and he claims it is not a mining operation and it would be impossible to bring it up to Township code.

Also Justin Barr stated the Board was in violation last month of going into a Closed Session illegally and requested an apology from the Board. Trustee Austin apologized to the Board for his ignorance of going into Closed Session for an inappropriate reason. Supervisor Roy stated he will contact Michigan Townships Association and the Township attorney to help the Board draft a letter stating how we stand on the issue of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance. The Board feels the Principles of Governance displayed at the Township Hall is sufficient.

Trustee Pendrick moved, with a second by Trustee Posekany to approve the July 8, 2013 Agenda and Consent Agenda. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Approving the Consent Agenda included accepting the June 10, 2013 Board Minutes as written and the payment of the bills for the month of June paid in July in the amount of \$41,673.48, covering e-bills 324-331 and checks numbering 13212-13253. It also approved the Treasurer's report submitted with an ending balance of \$754,559.63 as of June 30, 2013.

The consent agenda also included the zoning report from Mr. Tom Faussett showing 82 hours for June; the Greenville Transit report showing 164 runs; and the fire report showing 4 fires for the month. The building reports showed 3 permits for April and 4 for May.

Deputies Charlie Mahar and Doug Houser were assigned to Eureka Township for the month of June. The sheriff report showed a total of 2,728 patrol miles, with 128.5 patrol hours, 50 traffic stops, 16 traffic citations, 76 property inspections, and 4 arrests.

Trustee Posekany gave a brief Planning Commission Report. He stated that the Jokers Motorcycle Club requested a Special Use permit for one year. A two-month probation period was granted with restrictions, and if followed the one-year permit may be granted.

The Public Hearing concerning Amending Ordinance #78-A Land Division and Lot Line Adjustment was opened at approximately 7: 20pm. After Zoning Official Faussett explained the Proposed Amended Ordinance and after some Board discussion, the public hearing was closed at approximately 7:27pm.

Trustee Posekany moved, with a second by Trustee Austin to approve the amendments to Ordinance #78-A Land Division and Lot Line Adjustment. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Faussett stated that we are still waiting on permits for the Pavilion and next month he will know more and bring another update.

There will be a Free Electronics Recycling Event held at the vacant lot across from the Township Hall beginning July 18, 2013, through August 4, 2013, from 7am to 8pm.

Supervisor Roy reported that on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 9:00am, AT&T is coming out to the Township Hall to install new phone and internet service.

Supervisor Roy and Secretary Bigelow are still working on getting estimates for a new Township Hall sign and for recording equipment. A group came in and gave a demonstration at the last Planning Commission Meeting concerning the computer control of an LED sign that the Township would like to put out front of the Hall.

Supervisor Roy stated that there was 3,360 pounds of metal collected at the May Cleanup Day. Greenville Steel paid the Township \$.095 per pound for a total of \$319.20.

As stated earlier in the meeting, the Board will get further information or ruling from MTA and the Township attorney concerning the Non-Discrimination Ordinance revision request and get back with Justin Barr either before or at the August meeting.

A policy for filling vacant seats on Township Committees and Boards has not yet been drafted. The Clerk and Treasurer will work on this and it will be revisited next month.

Supervisor Roy mentioned that prayer before a Board Meeting is allowed but must be discontinued if challenged. People have already told Roy that they would challenge having prayer before the meeting. The Board agreed to not even begin the practice of having any type of invocation before Board meetings. After someone from the audience asked if an audience member could give an invocation rather than a Board Member and

not be subject to challenge, Supervisor Roy stated he would check with the MTA about whether an audience member could give an invocation as part of free speech.

Commissioner Lindeman stated that their last meeting was cancelled so he did not have much of an update.

During the second public comment Mr. Harris stated that nine years ago he purchased, divided, and since has improved his property at 10786 S. Greenville Road. He has been cited for illegal mining and stated it is impossible to abide by the regulations of the Township. It was decided to check if the property is registered as a State pit. If it is not, then the Township cannot treat it as a gravel pit. Supervisor Roy will check into this for the next Board meeting. If it is registered as a State pit the Board has agreed to work with William and Jacquelyn Harris to resolve this issue.

Trustee Posekany moved, with a second by Trustee Kelley to wave any fees for Mr. Harris concerning his property at 10786 S. Greenville Road until a mining permit number is produced if there is one. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hanson mentioned there is a public land auction for delinquent Montcalm County Property at the Sheridan Community Center August 16, 2013, at noon.

Supervisor Roy adjourned the meeting at 8:23pm.

Linda J. Ruwersma, CMC
Eureka Charter Township Clerk
July 9, 2013