

EUREKA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021
Approved

Supervisor Darcia Kelley, at the Eureka Township Hall, 9322 S. Greenville Road, Greenville, MI, called the Regular Meeting of the Eureka Charter Township Board to order on August 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk Linda Ruwersma stated that seven Board Members were present, which included the following: Supervisor Darcia Kelley, Clerk Linda Ruwersma, Treasurer Cindy Hanson, and Trustees Brad Kelley, Jeremy Austin, Tim Johnson, and Kristen Lower. These minutes will not be approved until the September 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Approximately four others were in attendance including Planning Commission Members Mary Sharp and Linda Weger; and Deputy Emily Paulsen.

During the first public comment, Mr. Les Lillie stated that he is putting his name in for the appointed position of Montcalm County Commissioner to replace Brendan Mahar who has recently resigned from the position.

Trustee Kelley moved, with a second by Trustee Austin to approve the July 12, 2021 Board Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson moved, with a second by Trustee Austin to approve the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$609,600.23, as of July 31, 2021. Motion carried.

Trustee Kelley moved, with a second by Treasurer Hanson to approve a budget transfer of \$20,000.00 from Contingency Fund 250-715 designating \$16,000 into Cemetery Grounds Fund 276-933, \$2,000.00 into Fire Contract Fund 336-830, and \$2,000.00 into Fire Truck Fund 336-976. Ayes: 7, Darcia, Linda, Cindy, Tim, Jeremy, Kristen, and Brad. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Lower to approve the payment of the bills paid in August in the amount of \$161,185.30 covering e-bills 1369-1376 and checks numbering 1675-1719. Ayes: 7, Darcia, Linda, Cindy, Tim, Jeremy, Kristen, and Brad. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The reports available were from the Zoning, Sheriff, Roads, the Transit showing 109 runs, and the Fire report showing 0 incidents.

Supervisor Kelley mentioned that because the Clerk will be on vacation in September the payroll checks will be written out on the second Friday instead of the first Friday in October.

The July sheriff report showed a total of 3,589 patrol miles, with 131.5 patrol hours, 56 traffic stops, 13 traffic citations, 109 property inspections, and 1 arrest. Deputy Paulsen gave a brief report stating there is an increase of complaints concerning cars speeding in the Township and shooting violations at the Sportsman's Club.

Supervisor Kelley gave a brief update stating the cemetery drive has been paved and the landscaping has been complete. She also gave a brief presentation on ideas for the use of the projected \$397,521.00 stimulus money which included developing the one-acre property on Baker Road on the Flat River. Another idea was to use the money toward the remodel of Community Hope Christian Counseling for mental health counseling.

Supervisor Kelley stated the new light to be installed behind the Township Hall is on backorder, and the job will be completed by JZ Electric when the light comes in.

Two months ago, the Board approved to have Supervisor Kelley offer Mr. Al Lehman approximately \$120,000.00 for the property adjacent to the Hall. He declined the offer because a house is included on that property. Mr. Lehman is allowed to split this property, and as a starting point he said he would consider selling 10 acres to the Township for \$100,000.00. The Board decided to wait until late fall and walk the property to see what the land looks like.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Treasurer Hanson to amend Cemetery Ordinance 86, Section 9.0 Ground Maintenance to read as follows:

All items must be removed by April 1 of each year for Spring Cleanup and by October 1 of each year for Fall Cleanup. After those dates, the rules will be followed and items will be removed from cemetery graves. See additional rules and regulations listed below.

Rules and Regulations

- ***All flowers and plants (real or artificial) must be contained in a pot or urn and must be within 12" of headstone.***
- ***The tribute area within the boundary of a grave may only include a monument, marker, urn, floral displays, weighted small novelty statue, and/or other approved adornments. Only two (2) items are allowed within the tribute area.***
- ***No glass containers are to be left in the cemetery.***
- ***Floral ground displays such as a wreath or funeral spray may be left on that portion of a grave outside of the tribute area following a burial for up to twenty-one (21) days.***
- ***All temporary vegetation, flowers, plastic flowers must be removed by April 1 for Spring Cleanup and by October 1 for Fall Cleanup.***
- ***Planting of trees, shrubs, flowers or plants is prohibited on a burial site.***
- ***Only small granite benches may be used.***
- ***Grading, leveling or excavating is prohibited on a burial site.***
- ***The township or Cemetery Sexton has authority to remove all unauthorized, faded, or damaged items from grave site.***
- ***The Township is not responsible for items left in the cemetery.***

Ayes: 6, Darcia, Linda, Cindy, Tim, Jeremy, and Kristen. Nays: 1, Brad Kelley. Motion carried.

Supervisor Kelley gave an update from the attorney on the short/long term rentals. She also stated that the Baldwin Lake Contract has been adopted, but the Township needs to create an ordinance concerning the enforcement of the sewer services. A draft ordinance will be presented at the September meeting.

A preliminary budget was handed out for discussion. Supervisor Kelley informed the Board that a proposed budget for 2022 will be handed out at the September 13, 2021 Board Meeting and the public hearing will be held in October.

The next Township Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2021. Six dumpsters from Knight Transfer Services will be delivered and also two dumpsters for the metal from Greenville Steel. Tires will also be collected for \$2.50 a tire. An electronics trailer might be available for the day. Volunteers are welcomed to help.

The next Montcalm Townships Association Meeting/Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021, and will be hosted by Belvidere and Cato Townships.

Trustee Kelley moved, with a second by Treasurer Hanson to approve Disclosure Whistle-blowing Policy #0-08 as written. Motion carried.

Trustee Austin moved, with a second by Trustee Lower to approve Vacancies in Non-Elected Positions on Township Boards and Committees Policy #0-09 as printed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Kelley asked if anyone would like the big conference table. It will be given to Habitat for Humanity if no one is interested in purchasing the table.

After the Audience and Board Member Comments, Trustee Lower gave a brief Planning Commission Meeting report. Supervisor Kelley then adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:36 pm.

Linda J. Ruwersma, CMMC/CMC
Eureka Charter Township Clerk
August 10, 2021