

# **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MADISON**

Gary Griewahn  
*Supervisor*  
Janet Moden  
*Clerk*  
Harold Gregg  
*Treasurer*

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ADRIAN, MI 49221  
517-263-9313 Fax: 517-263-4569

## **TRUSTEES**

Howard Bales  
Matt Carpenter  
Ralph Benschoter  
Larry Liedel

### **Madison Township Board Meeting Held Electronically due to Covid-19 restrictions from Gov. Whitmer Minutes of August 11, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Treasurer Harold Gregg. Gregg read a prepared statement explaining the reason for having this meeting held by electronic means and how everyone needed to identify themselves by name before speaking, so the minutes for the meeting would be correct. Silent prayer time was offered. The pledge to the American Flag was said by all.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present electronically: Gregg, Moden, Benschoter, Carpenter, Liedel and Bales. Absent Griewahn

#### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF July 14, 2020:**

Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter, to dispense reading and approve.

Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None**

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** Clerk Moden gave an update on August 4, 2020 election results and issues that were had with the tabulation of the Absentee Ballots. Voter turnout was light otherwise.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS: None**

#### **LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Gregg stated that the Building Inspector Report would be missing this month due to vacation by Rincon, and that Fire Dept Report is being pulled out and put under New Business portion of this Agenda due to format changes and further explanation by Fire Chief Rank. Motion to approve by Liedel, supported by Benschoter. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

## BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM 8/5/2020 MEETING:

Minutes of the meeting were read by Treasurer Gregg regarding the non-compliance of the loan with Premier Bank per the Michigan Treasury Dept. on the construction project for the Twp. Hall and Police Dept renovations. The State Treasury Dept. gave the Township two choices to rectify the issue, 1) pay off the loan, or 2) start the process of selling bonds. The finance committee recommended to the board that we pay off the remaining balance of the loan, approx. \$225,000.

Motion was made by Liedel, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the finance committee meeting minutes of 8/5/2020. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Gregg, seconded by Benschoter, to pay off the loan as soon as reasonably possible. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Motion by Liedel, second by Gregg, to approve any budget amendments if needed up to \$225,000 to adjust the budget. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

It was discussed that it was the intention of the committee to maintain all current staffing and services into 2021, not a promise, due to uncertainty that is the hope at this point, due to the current Safer grant opening.

Further discussion regarding the issue of the open Paramedic/Fire Fighter position and the ability to fill that position without there being assurances that the position will be filled thru 2021 were discussed. Currently there were only two applicants.

Motion by Liedel, seconded by Bales that we fill the vacant 8 hr. paramedic/firefighter from the Safer Grant with intentions of keeping it thru the 2021 budget year. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

## OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Status of the Baldwin Lift Station: Everything is complete. We are withholding 5% invoice payment, to see if the grass grows appropriately in the reseeded reconditioning of the property before final payment.

Status of the Kennedy Lawsuit: Per Fred Lucas, township legal counsel, we are just waiting for a check to close the settlement. The insurance company is only taking \$10,500 instead of \$25,000 as first thought.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Chief Rank explained that he was changing and/or adding additional information to the monthly fire report to better show the financial status that the Fire/EMS plays in the Township revenue and expenditures. He showed and explained a chart that he submitted which showed exactly what the status of his departments, both Fire and EMS, separately and together, fit into the Township budget. After his explanation, Trustee Bales asked Chief Rank if there was any reason that all of the department heads could not do this on their reports as well, as the information in this format was very helpful. Chief Rank stated that he didn't know, but he thought it could be done, or something similar.

Motion by Carpenter, seconded by Bales, to accept the August monthly Fire Dept Report. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Issue with Perpetual Garage Sales in the Township: Clerk Moden brought up the matter of complaints about people who are having ongoing all summer long garage sales, with the question being, are these really resale businesses in disguise that are operating in zoned residential areas. There have been several complaints by neighboring parties that this is becoming a blight issue, and a parking and traffic issue for residents. There has been police complaints, but the issue persists. There was a lengthy discussion on whether we should have an ordinance with regards to Garage Sales and the like. Fred Lucas, legal counsel was present at the meeting and passed out a sample of an ordinance that the board could look at and change to fit our needs, if we were interested in moving forward. He suggested that this sounded like some type of business enterprise that was being operated and it should be investigated further. The various board members stated their feelings about putting limits on garage sales or about requiring people to get permits. It was stated that it could be set up similar to our Burn Permits with the Fire Dept., where people self-report their sale to the Township, then if there are issues reported, the Police can check to see if a garage sale permit was logged. They also discussed limiting the number of times in a year a resident can have a garage sale and the number of days. Trustee Carpenter expressed concern that he was not in favor of permits, fees and over regulation. Trustee Bales shared his concerns with tarped garages and not having any ordinances of that nature as well.

Motion by Clerk Moden, seconded by Treasurer Gregg that we table this discussion until the whole board has a chance to read the sample ordinance shared by Legal Counsel, and we have more opportunity to investigate the current problem and talk to residents. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Police Lieutenant Promotion: Police Chief Shadbolt explained that last year with the retirement of Jimmy Ensor, and his move to part time, the State requirement for someone with a rank of Lieutenant or above was the only people allowed to have authority to participate in the School Safety Act program with the public schools in our jurisdiction. It was also explained, that he was trying to follow the officer rankings that were used in the Fire Dept for consistency. It was stated, that there would no longer be any Sgt positions, only Police Officer, Lt. and Chief. The Chief met with the personnel committee and they discussed his process for interviewing internal candidates that put in for the promotion and ok'd the process. Clerk Moden, Fire Chief Rank

and Raisin Twp. Police Chief Grayer, interviewed the three internal candidates. They made recommendations to Chief Shadbolt. The personnel committee suggested that after all of this involvement, Chief Shadbolt would not have to meet with the personnel committee again but take his promotion candidate straight to the board for approval. He told the board that his decision for the promotion was Officer David Gentner. Motion by Gregg, seconded by Liedel, to approve the promotion of David Gentner to Lieutenant. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-No. Motion Carried 5-1.

ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS: To stop further confusion for the public, Bales suggested that Nic Wilson get a picture of the Township Hall at 3804 S. Adrian Hwy and use it as the opening of our website, instead of the old Township Hall at 4008 S. Adrian Hwy

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Resident John McKeon asked why we had to get permission from the State to put a sign up in front of the Township Hall. It was explained that the sign would have to be placed partially in the MDOT road right-of-way and they had to give their approval.

Resident Janet Bunch suggested that we get reflectors for the Township Hall driveway entrance as it was hard to find in the dark. Moden stated that it had already been done, since she had received the same complaint from election workers arriving at 6:00 a.m. in the dark.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:

Motion to adjourn by Benschoter, supported by Moden. Roll Call Vote taken: Gregg-Yes, Moden-Yes, Benschoter-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Liedel- Yes and Bales-Yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully,

Janet M. Moden  
Madison Township Clerk