



# 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  
Chad Rodgers

## Madison Township Board Meeting Held in Person and Electronically (Zoom) Minutes of November 14, 2023

7:00 p.m. Board Meeting called to order, with a silent prayer, and pledge to the flag said by all.

### ROLL CALL:

Present in person: Griewahn, Gregg, Moden, Rodgers, Benschoter, Carpenter, and Bales.

### APPROVAL OF BOARD MTG MINUTES 10/10/23:

Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter to dispense reading and approve the monthly Board meeting minutes as written for 10/10/2023. Motion was carried 7-0.

### APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MTG MINUTES 11/8/23:

Motion by Gregg, supported by Carpenter to dispense reading and approve the Special Board meeting minutes as written for 11/8/2023. Motion was carried 6-1.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** Clerk Moden read a letter from Comcast regarding their current changes to their Xfinity TV scheduling.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** Brian Rubel, Tetra Tech engineer, was unable to come as scheduled due to Covid.

Don Sheely / Eden East LLC. – No Show

### LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

### 3-MINUTE DEPT. HEAD UPDATES:

**Fire:** Continuing to run EMT classes.

**Police:** Chief Shadbolt stated they have been busy with legal issues with the prosecutors office. Officer Burke is off due to knee surgery, 2023 Durango needs a new motor, no idea when that will be available.



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**Water/Sewer:** Reported by Watterson that hydrant flushing is finished. He stated that the drilling for the new water well has started, it will be located about 150' NE of the current well.

**Inspection:** Rincon reported that the condo's on Baldwin Hwy are going up, Edward Allen homes are being built in Woodridge. Will be having a Zoom meeting with a solar firm tomorrow that is interested in Madison Twp. Adrian Twp. solar farm is doing fine.

**Legal:** Burke stated that what little information he had on the passing of the solar and wind legislation last week, he felt that the biggest effect that we might see that differs with our ordinance would be setbacks. Needs to study the bill more.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Rodgers, supported by Benschoter to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes, Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Planning Commission Minutes 10-30-23:**

Benschoter read the minutes of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes, supported by Carpenter. Approved 7-0

### **OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Public Reading of the Proposed 2024 Budget**

Lots of discussion by the board about how the Adrian Twp. cost shares, for the building inspector, show up in the budget. Also questions on how the \$4,000.00 zoning cost is identified in the budget. It was decided to make changes to pages 18 and 20 to make sure that Adrian Twp revenues were changed to \$57,439 and that the Building Dept. total came to \$117,305, in place of \$118, 878.

There was a lengthy discussion on the future budgets and the possible need to look at raising taxes due to increasing costs. Tax millages were last raised 5 years ago, when the 1 mill police millage was moved into the General Fund and the township added an additional mill. The other alternative would be to decrease services and the expenses connected to them, including personnel possibly. Carpenter suggested that after the first of the year that we hold a public meeting to discuss with the residents the ideas for cuts in service and/or adding additional taxes, and how that is done.

There were no public comments raised by the audience and no information was submitted to the township prior to the meeting regarding the budget.

Motion by Gregg, supported by Moden to accept the proposed budget with the corrections regarding Adrian Twp, as printed. Roll Call Vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes, Rodgers, No; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, No. Motion carried 5-2.



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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Poverty Exemption Guidelines**

The State of Michigan has made some changes to the Poverty Exemption rule and requires that it now be posted on our township website.

Motion to approve the new Poverty Exemption Guidelines and publish to our website by Griewahn, supported by Rodgers. Motion carried 7-0.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:**

**Griewahn:** Stated that he had been in contact with Amanda Lacelle regarding a 5 yr. contract and it should be ready by next month meeting.

**Carpenter:** Asked if we had gotten a copy of the employment contract for the new Police Chief, Clerk stated yes, but was checking out some of the verbiage before bring it to the board.

**Bales:** He expressed his frustration with the fact that the township doesn't appear to be following it handbook with regards to how Vacation and Sick Pay are credited to new employees. He stated that Vacation should not be allotted to employees until they have completed one year of employment and Sick Days after 6 months of employment.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:** Motion by Rodgers, seconded by Benschoter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-Yes; 0-No. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Typed and Submitted by:

Janet Moden  
Township Clerk