

**TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP**  
**3546 S STRAITS HWY, INDIAN RIVER, MI 49749**  
**JUNE 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kramer at 7:00 pm.

**ITEM 2: PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE**

The supervisor and Officer Anderson led the board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 3: ROLL CALL**

All Present – Supervisor Kramer, Clerk Reidsma, Trustee Vance, Treasurer Dillaha, Trustee Pearson

Staff Present: Ron Odenwald, Chris Green

Quorum present – yes

**ITEM 4: BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Supervisor Kramer reported a potential conflict of interest given his residence in the sewer district on the agenda.

**ITEM 5: PUBLIC HEARING –2024-25 BUDGET HEARING**

Open at 7:01/ Closed at 7:01.

No Comments.

**ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING – COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT**

Open at 7:01/ Closed at 7:06.

Name: Comment:

M. Whitener      Reviewed letter from IR Chamber of Commerce that requested a hold on item.

S. Snyder      EDC suggested a slow-down and the need for pilot project (table the agenda item)

**ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The floor was open for public comment at 7:06. Closed at 7:06.

No comments.

**ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items include – Bills Report, Treasurer, Budget Amendments, Minutes, Reports by Police and Police Funds, County Request to Opt-out of Designated Assessor, Phase 1 Sewer Expansion Bills.

**MOTION:** Approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM 9: LIFESAVING AWARD PRESENTATION**

**INFORMATION:** Chief Gordon Temple presented Officer Anderson a life-saving award for his efforts to

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render first aid to a victim injured by a chain-saw, which nearly dis-membered his arm. His quick response and training resulted in placement of two tourniquets on the arm to stop the bleeding. He was honored for saving the victim's life, and his arm according to an attending physician on May 22, 2024.

**ITEM 10a: JUDGE AARON GAUTHIER REPORT**

**INFORMATION:** Judge Aaron Gauthier, 53rd Circuit Court, wanted to share information about the justice programs in place within Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties and answer questions from the Board and the Audience. The Friend of the Court Referee, Probate / Family Court, and the Drug Court were discussed. There are many programs to assist people in correcting their problems, and to minimize the need for prison, such as drug rehabilitation. He indicated that Felony cases are up from 175-180 in a prior year high to 250 / year, primarily due to drug arrests. He believes in public accountability and transparency and discussed the U-tube videos available to provide public accessibility into the justice system.

**ITEM 10B: COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT**

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Special Assessment Resolution N0. 3 (as written in board packet).  
Moved by Vance, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by 4-1 roll call vote (clerk voting no).

Discussion: Previously, North Star Gardens requested establishment of a Commercial Rehabilitation District. Mr. Jeff Jakeway from North Star has appeared twice before the Board. The Board also received training from NLEA about this program. North Star Gardens continues to request establishment of a district for the past 6 months minimum. On June 4, 2024, the board voted to hold a public hearing to establish a Commercial Rehabilitation District#1 from the Sturgeon River to Indian River and including Indian River Center and Indian River Overlay. Certified letters were mailed to all property owners and the Board of Cheboygan County Commissioners as well as an ad placed in the newspaper. Now, the resolution is required to move forward. The Board may decide to implement criteria to judge projects for abatement acceptability, prior to accepting applications, and must send a letter to the county now that the resolution has passed.

**ITEM 10C: SEWER EXPANSION PHASE 2 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 3**

**MOTION:** Approve the Special Assessment Resolution N0. 3 for Phase 2 Sewer for a public hearing (as written in the Board Packet).

Moved by Pearson, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote (4-0 with one abstention (Kramer)).

Discussion:

The proposed resolution, provided in the Board Packet, calling for a public hearing on the assessment roll. This resolution sets July 18th as the public hearing date. The Township Clerk will mail the public hearing notice to all property owners in the district at least 10 days before the hearing. The notice will

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also need to be published twice in the newspaper, with the first publication occurring at least 10 days before the hearing.

**ITEM 10D: SEWER EXPANSION PHASE 2 BIDS**

**MOTION:** Move to approve the award recommendations for the three (3) Phase 2 Sewer Expansion bids (all contingent upon funding availability) – Gravity contract (Walton Contracting @ \$2,919,956.45), LPS Contract (Walton Contracting @ \$1,171,815.00), and the WWTP expansion contract (Grand Traverse Contractors @ \$1,723,784 phase II) that becomes \$4,025,365 total (phase 1 & 2) as previously reported, and all bids as documented in Board Packets.

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by 4-0 roll call vote (one abstention – Kramer).

Discussion: The Board was required to vote and to approve the award recommendation provided in the Board Packets for the Phase 2 bids. The recommendation is contingent on the funding availability, which means that we would not be able to award the contracts until the special assessment process is complete.

This package must still go to the USDA for final approval. Each REU estimated to be \$17,968.75. The estimated cost covers Construction, Engineering, Legal, Financial, and Contingency for a total cost estimate of \$6,950,000. Phase 2 cost details are available on the web or at the office. Phase 2 Sewer cost breakdown estimates (gravity contract, LPS contract, WWTP Expansion) are covered in the Motion. Contingency cost of \$535,784.55 is part of the total cost estimate. A revenue summary for Phase 2 sewers requires a USDA Loan (\$3,450,000) and Grants (EPA \$3,500,000) to cover all Phase 2 Sewer Costs.

**ITEM 11A: BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ACT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**MOTION:** Move to approve a Budget amendment to move \$55,608 from CIP Roads & Bridges (101.901.970.08) to the Roads & bridges cost center (101-446-801.00) for FY 2024/2025.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: The Overall Revenue and Expenditures for the 101 Township fund, as specified in the General Appropriations Act, remains the same.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Budget Appropriations Act (as submitted in the Board Packet) for FY 2024/2025.

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion:

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Capital Improvement Plan (as submitted in the Board Packet) with no project funding approved at this time.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Reidsma.

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MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

Discussion:

**ITEM 11B: ORDINANCE CHANGES**

**MOTION:** Move to table and clarify a number of definitions for words used in the Ordinance proposed changes.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM 11C: SET 2024-2025 MEETING DATES**

**MOTION:** Move to schedule Board monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm with the only exception being July 2025 (which will be last Thursday in June – the 26<sup>th</sup>).

Moved by Pearson, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: The new meeting dates for 2024-2025 will only have one deviation from 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, which will be on June 26, 2025 for a July 2025 regular monthly meeting.

**ITEM 12: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment began at 8:20 pm and ended at 8:25 pm.

G. Temple – Fireworks protocol for Devoe Beach (commented at 7:12 pm)

J. Dubois – Comments on Ordinance changes and Rehabilitation District Resolution to delay.

T. Maze – Accounting issues

R. Odenwald – Outsiders not welcome per Dubois and Board candidates.

**ITEM 11: BOARD COMMENT**

Five board members commented.

**ITEM 12: MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reidsma, Tuscarora Township Clerk