

2023 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Charter Township of Union Board of Trustees was held on February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Union Township Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Supervisor Mielke, Clerk Cody, Treasurer Rice, Trustee Bills, Trustee Brown, and Trustee Thering

Approval of Agenda

Cody moved **Brown** supported to approve the agenda with an addition to add item 11.C to discuss formation of a committee and to hire a firm to help with grants. **Vote: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

Presentation

- a. Brian Smith, 2284 Sandstone Drive, applicant for the vacant Trustee seat, highlighted his experience working with local governments. Mr. Smith was available for questions from the Trustees.

- b. Tim Lannen, 1129 Meadow Drive, applicant for the vacant Trustee seat, joined remotely to speak on his background in education and work experiences as a Union Township Trustee and Firefighter/Medical First Responder for the City of Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Lannen was available for questions from the Trustees.

Public Hearings

Public Comment

Open: 8:10 p.m.

Ben Gunning, 2270 E. Broomfield Rd, had questions regarding items on the proposed 2022 Zoning Ordinances Amendments.

Bill Hauck, 1304 E. Baseline, spoke on behalf of Brian Smith to fill the vacant Trustee seat.

Don Schurr, 6768 S. Mission, commented on the process of selecting a candidate to fill the vacant Trustee seat.

Elise Bennett, 4075 Isabella, spoke in support of appointing Brian Smith to fill the vacant Trustee seat.

*Board received an email correspondence from Ronda Haymaker in support of appointing Brian Smith to the vacant Trustee seat.

Closed: 8:22 p.m.

***8:22 p.m. – 8:27 p.m. the Board took a short recess.**

Reports/Board Comments

A. Current List of Boards and Commissions – Appointments as needed.

- 1. Appointment to fill unexpired Trustee vacancy with term ending 11/20/2024.**

Cody moved **Thering** supported to appoint Brian Smith to the vacant Trustee position to fill the unexpired Trustee vacancy with term ending 11/20/2024. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Cody, Rice, Bills, and Thering. Nays: Mielke and Brown. Motion carried.**

* 8:49 p.m. Treasurer Rice left the meeting.

2. Appointment to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term

Mielke moved **Cody** supported to reappoint Phil Squattrito for a 3-year term to the Planning Commission with the term expiring 2/15/2026. **Vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

3. Appointment to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term

Mielke moved **Bills** supported to reappoint Jessica Lapp for a 3-year term to the Planning Commission with the term expiring 2/15/2026. **Vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

4. Appointment to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term

Mielke moved **Cody** supported to appoint Nivia McDonald for a 3-year term to the Planning Commission with the term expiring 2/15/2026. **Vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

B. Board Member Reports

Cody – gave an update on the Isabella County Road Commission meeting held on February 2nd.

Bills – gave updates on the Isabella County Board of Commissioners meeting held January 17th and February 7th.

Consent Agenda

- A. Communications
- B. Minutes – January 25, 2023 – Regular Meeting
- C. Accounts Payable
- D. Payroll
- E. Meeting Pay
- F. Fire Reports
- G. Mission Creek Park Pathway Project Resolution of Intent

Bills moved **Cody** supported to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Cody, Bills, Brown, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

New Business

A. Discussion/Action: (Nanney) Second Reading and Adoption of the 2022 Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments

Cody moved **Bills** supported to conduct a Second Reading of the proposed PTXT 22-01 Zoning Ordinance Amendments, and to adopt the amendatory ordinance as Ordinance No 23-02. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Cody, Bills, Brown and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

B. Discussion/Action: (Smith) Drinking Water Revolving Fund and Clean Water Revolving Fund Project Plans – Gourdie Frasier Professional Services Proposals

Brown moved **Cody** supported to approve the Contract for Professional Engineering Services between Gourdie Frasier and the Charter Township of Union in the amount of \$81,750.00 to complete the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRP) Project Plans, and authorize the Township Manager to sign the contracts. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Cody, Bills, Brown and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

C. Introduction/Discussion: (Board of Trustees) Possibility of a Grant Committee/Consulting Company to aid in Grant Opportunities

Discussion by the Board.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: RESTRICTED TO 5 MINUTES REGARDING ANY ISSUE

Open: 9:23 p.m.

Ben Gunning, 2270 E. Broomfield Rd., appreciates the deliberation regarding the open Trustee seat. Commented on hiring a firm to assist with a social media page.

Don Schurr, 6768 S. Mission, appreciates the discussion and rationale behind the Board appointment. Commented on the Master Plan and the need for a wish list.

Brian Smith, 2284 Sandstone Dr., thanked the Board for their decision.

Closed: 9:31 p.m.

MANAGER COMMENTS

- Attended a Reconstruction meeting for MDOT reconstruction project along M-20 and East Pickard Rd. The anticipated start date for the project is March 6th. MDOT is holding a public open house at their Mt. Pleasant office located at 1212 Corporate Drive, February 27th from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Brown – appreciates the conversations and the respect at tonight’s meeting. Welcomed Mr. Smith to the Board.

Bills – Echoed Trustee Brown’s comment. Congratulations to Mr. Smith. Announced she will be on vacation for the February 22nd meeting.

Thering – Appreciates the different opinions. Thanked the applicants.

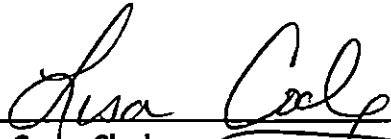
Cody – Congratulations to Mr. Smith. Responded to Mr. Gunning’s comment during Extended Public Comment regarding social media.

Mielke – Agree with comments regarding social media and is aware of the need to be creative in reaching the community. Informed the public of the technical difficulties due to a power outage earlier in the day. Appreciated the Board’s respect, decorum and willingness to listen to each other.

ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved **Bills** supported to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. **Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

APPROVED BY:



Lisa Cody, Clerk



Bryan Mielke, Supervisor

(Recorded by Tera Green)