

**2021 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Regular - Electronic Meeting Minutes**

A regular-electronic meeting of the Charter Township of Union Board of Trustees was held on January 13, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. as a virtual meeting through the Zoom meeting platform.

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Supervisor Mielke (location: Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Treasurer Rice (location: Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Clerk Cody (location: Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Trustee Bills (location Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Trustee Brown (location Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Trustee Hauck (location Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

Trustee Thering (location Union Township, Isabella County, Mt. Pleasant, MI)

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Presentations**

**Public Hearings**

**Public Comment**

Open: 7:08 p.m.

Jim Horton, 4<sup>th</sup> District County Commissioner gave updates from the County

Closed 7:14 p.m.

**Reports/Board Comments**

- **Current List of Boards and Commissions – Appointments as needed**

- 1. **Appoint Allison Chiodini as Township Representative to the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority**

**Bills** moved **Brown** supported to appoint Allison Chiodini to the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority with term expiring 12/31/2022. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

- 2. **Appoint Board of Trustees Representative to the Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee**

**Mielke** moved **Brown** supported to re-appoint Kim Rice as Board of Trustees Representative to the Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

- **Board Member Reports**

### **Consent Agenda**

- Communications
- Minutes – December 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- Accounts Payable
- Payroll
- Meeting Pay
- Fire Reports

**Bills** moved **Rice** supported to approve the consent agenda as amended, pulling the December 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

### **BOARD AGENDA**

#### **A. December 16, 2020 Draft Minutes**

**Cody** moved **Brown** supported amend the minutes under extended public comment to add: “email correspondence submitted into the record”. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

#### **B. Discussion/Action: (Stuhldreher) To approve a Resolution to allow a resident to appeal to the Board of Review in writing without a personal appearance by the taxpayer or his or her agent.**

**Thering** moved **Rice** supported to approve a Resolution to allow a resident to appeal to the Board of Review in writing without a personal appearance by the taxpayer or his or her agent. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

#### **C. Discussion/Action: (Stuhldreher) Approve the 2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution to be used by the Board of Review when considering property tax exemption requests.**

**Brown** moved **Bills** supported to approve the 2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution to be used by the Board of Review when considering property tax exemption requests. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

### **EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: RESTRICTED TO 5 MINUTES REGARDING ANY ISSUE**

Open 7:48 p.m.

No comments were offered.

Closed 7:48 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

7:52 p.m.

**Rice** moved **Bills** supported to go into closed session Regarding the cases of *James and Jeremy Zalud v Charter Township of Union*, now pending in Isabella County Circuit Court Case No. 20-016281-CK, and *Concerned Citizens of Union Township v Charter Township of Union*, now pending in Isabella County Circuit Court Case No. 20-016292-CZ, I move to go into closed session to consult with the Township’s attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

**8:45 p.m.**

**Hauck** moved **Rice** supported to come out of closed session. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

**8:48 p.m.**

**Rice** moved **Brown** supported that the Board meet in closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider written material from the Township's attorney that is exempt from disclosure by Section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

**9:50 p.m.**

**Cody** moved **Rice** supported to come out of closed session. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

**Cody** moved **Hauck** supported to increase by \$23,000 for a total for Pung vs DePriest case 20-cv-13113 capping at \$53,000. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mielke, Rice, Cody, Bills, Brown, Hauck, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

#### **MANAGER COMMENTS**

- Possibly out next week, will name an acting manager
- Will bring forth a recommendation to the Board to supply members with an electronic device to become a paperless board.

#### **FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Mielke** – In support of using laptop/tablet, would like this board to have visionary discussions during light Agendas, commented on happenings at the State Capitol last Wednesday stressing the importance at the local level to be leaders in the community

**Cody** – Hopes to finish the Election Audit tomorrow, the board needs to appoint a new election commission

**Bills** – Happy New Year

**Rice** – In support of becoming an electronic board

**Brown** – In support of becoming an electronic board

**Hauck** – brought up using solar panels at the WWTP and doing a feasibility study that Block Electric can do at both the WWTP and Water Plant for \$600

**Thering** – In support of becoming an electronic board

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hauck** moved **Thering** supported to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. **Vote: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

**APPROVED BY:**

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**Lisa Cody, Clerk**

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**Bryan Mielke, Supervisor**

*(Recorded by Jennifer Loveberry)*