

Unapproved

REGULAR FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MEETING OF THE GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P. M.

THE MEETING WAS ALSO CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY FOR THE PUBLIC TO VIEW.

THE SUPERVISOR LEAD THE BOARD IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, ROLL CALL.

JAMES CHAPMAN	SUPERVISOR
JANET CLARK	CLERK
DENISE MACFARLANE	TREASURER
ROGER CARROLL	TRUSTEE
DALE JERNSTADT	TRUSTEE
JAMES T. PEEK	TRUSTEE
GARY TODD	TRUSTEE

MINUTES

The clerk presented the minutes of the 1-12-2021 regular board meeting and the Budget hearing for 2021-2022 fiscal year.

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to accept the minutes of the 1-12-2021 regular board meeting.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes

Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll.

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to accept the minutes of the 1-12-2021 Budget hearing for 2021-2022 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes

Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll.

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer presented the treasurer's report:

2-4-2021 General fund balance \$500,029.70

2-4-2021 Sewer fund balance \$499,985.30

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to accept the treasurer's reports as presented in all funds. **MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes**

SEWER REPORT

Troy McDonald presented the sewer report

12-30-2020 - 1-29-2021 30 days

Reading 237,609,436 Total Flow 919086, Average daily flow 30636

KW -517, KW Y.T.D. 517

No issues reported.

Troy reported he has met with Fleis and Vandenbrink Engineering regarding the sewer lift station's replacement study.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Commissioner M. Vargo reported on the following and a discussion followed. Morton Township is contracting their Building & Zoning with Mecosta County. Three new doctors are working with Spectrum Health here in Big Rapids. Mecosta County Parks will be on the May 4th, 2021 ballot, asking for .5 mill.

OLD BUSINESS**FIRE CONTRACT RENEWAL 2021-2026**

MOTION was, made by J. Peek and supported by R. Carroll to approve the five year, April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026 Mutual Fire Protection Contract renewal with the City of Big Rapids for the fire protection of Green Charter Township.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES – Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

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MUTUAL FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GREEN

THIS AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of _____ 2021, for the period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026, by and between the city of Big Rapids, a municipal corporation, of Big Rapids, Michigan, hereinafter referred to as the CITY, and the Charter Township of Green, Mecosta County, Michigan, hereinafter referred to as the TOWNSHIP.

WITNESSETH

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. For firefighting service provided by the City, the Township shall pay to the City annual service charges for the period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026, as follows:
 - A. The first annual payment of (1 mil taxable plus \$5,000) is due on April 1, 2021.
 - B. Subsequent payments due on April 1 of each following year equal to the amount raised by 1 mil of taxable value in the TOWNSHIP.
 - C. The TOWNSHIP shall also pay an additional fee of \$5,000 annually toward the cost of capital improvements for the CITY Fire Division.
 - D. Either party to the contract may re-open it if there are any changes in the current Michigan property tax law.
 - E. The City will provide an annual report of the activity in the TOWNSHIP, and a representative of the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety will present the report to the Green Charter Township Board, with a general description of the number and type of runs provided to the TOWNSHIP, and the TOWNSHIP shall have the opportunity to make suggestions for improved services.
 - F. The contract will be for 5 years with each party having the right to re-open the contract after 1 year.
2. It is further agreed by and between parties that the City shall assume all legal liability for any personal injury or injuries or property damage which may be incurred in responding to calls for service in the Township.
3. It is understood that the City shall not be responsible for performing fire inspection and related activities within the Township. The Township shall hold the City harmless for liability arising from acts of fire inspection and related activities.
4. The City will provide the Township with Medical First Responder Services equivalent to those provided to City residents by the Department of Public Safety Fire Division. It is understood that fire and rescue units will respond to Township calls from the City’s public safety facility or from scenes of other fires or emergencies and that the location of that facility is solely the CITY’s decision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE CITY OF BIG RAPIDS AND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GREEN officials have signed below.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GREEN
Mecosta County, Michigan
BY: James Chapman, It’s Supervisor

CITY OF BIG RAPIDS
BY: Tom Hogenson, It’s Mayor

BY: Janet Clark, It’s Clerk

BY: Tammy Gillis, It’s Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Eric D. Williams, City Attorney

AUDITOR RENEWAL CONTRACT – Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

A renewal contract was presented to the board with a proposal for a complete financial audit of Charter Township of Green as of and for the years ended March 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Three- year bid for fiscal year ending not to exceed as follows:

March 31, 2021 - \$4,550, March 31, 2022 - \$4,675, March 31, 2023 - \$4,800

MOTION was made by D. MacFarlane and supported by J. Clark to approve the three-year contract with Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C. for the amounts of

March 31, 2021 - \$4,550, March 31, 2022 - \$4,675, March 31, 2023 - \$4,800

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MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES – Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION EVALUATION

Fleis and Vandenbrink Engineering has submitted a proposal to conduct a review of the township lift station located at 205th Ave. and Ross Parkway. The existing lift station was constructed in the 1970's and many of the components are at or beyond their expected useful life. The township wishes to begin planning for upgrading the lift station to maintain reliable operation of the system.

There was a discussion.

MOTION was made by D. MacFarlane and supported by R. Carroll to contract with Fleis and Vandenbrink Engineering regarding the sewer lift station's replacement study for a lump sum fee of \$1,900.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll.

ROAD BRINING

Information has been received from the Mecosta Co. Road Commission explaining their position on the road brining in Mecosta County.

"The Road Commission will no longer be applying the first round of dust control free of charge on gravel roads." The road commission will be doing a 50/50 split on actual costs for labor, equipment, and materials to conduct each and every round of dust control. In 2020 that cost was approximately \$355 per mile, \$177.50 per mile applied will be the starting budget number for townships to use going forward in 2021.

There was a discussion.

Green Township has 32 miles of gravel which equates to \$5,680 per application.

The Road commission did indicate they will revisit this issue at their next meeting.

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to approve one (1) brining application at the estimated cost of \$5,680 and consider additional if necessary.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

STONE WALL REPAIR FOR STONE HATCHERY PARK

There was a discussion on the proposal for the stone wall repair at the Stone Hatchery Park. As suggested another contractor estimate has been received which was higher.

MOTION was made by R. Carroll and supported by G. Todd to accept the proposal from StoneFace Products to re-grout, cap and replace the stones on the Stone Hatchery Park east end of the stone wall. Not to exceed \$2,500 without permission.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

NEW BUSINESS**2-9-2021****ROADS****2021 and 2022 ROAD PROJECTS**

Mecosta County Road Commission is requesting the township's priority list for 2021 and 2022. There was a discussion.

2021

#1 Ash Drive – finish the road project of Ash Dr. from 20 Mile to Oak Road, \$68,000.00

#2 Estimate ¾ mile, 190th Avenue north of Hoover Rd. to Indian Village Rd. remove trees & stumps: Estimated cost of \$15,000 - \$20,000.

The county would do the ditching

MOTION was made by J. Clark and supported by D. MacFarlane to contract with the Mecosta Co. Road Commission for the 2021 road projects:

#1 Ash Drive – finishing the road project of Ash Dr. from 20 Mile to Oak Road, \$68,000.00

#2, 190th Avenue (estimate ¾ mile) north of Hoover Rd. to Indian Village Rd. remove trees & stumps, \$15,000 - \$20,000.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

There was additional discussion on bridge repair/replacement and 190th Ave. county primary south of Hoover.

2022 ROAD PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED

The following were put on the 2022 township heavy road project list submitted to the MCRC.

180TH Ave. 23 Mile to River Ranch - Overlay

205th Ave. Hoover Rd to Indian Dr – Overlay

18 Mile Northland to 205th – Overlay (hope to coordinate with BRCT)

205th Ave. 18 Mile to Spruce Rd - Overlay (hope to coordinate with BRCT)

CEMETRY**NATURAL BRUALS (green burials)**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding natural burials (green burials)

The supervisor researched and reported: No State requirement for a vault, or for embalment or requirement for a separate designated burial area in the cemetery. The township ordinance currently requires a vault. No action taken.

POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION AMENDMENT**Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test**

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Green Charter Township, Mecosta County, adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year. Asset level for 2021 includes the amount of cash, fixed assets or other property that could be used, or converted to cash for use in the payment of property taxes. The asset test should calculate a maximum amount permitted and all other assets above that amount should be considered as available.

The Asset Level does not include the primary residence for which exemption is being sought. However, it does include, but is not limited to: - A second home, additional land not associated with the primary residence, or other buildings other than the primary residence being sought for exemption. - Vehicles and other recreational vehicles such as motor homes, campers, ATVs, boats, and motorcycles. - Net receipts from farm self-employment. (The same provisions as above for self-employment.) - Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker’s compensation, veteran’s payments and public assistance. - Alimony, child support, and military family allotments. - Private pensions, governmental pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments. - College or university scholarships, grants, fellowship, and assistantships. - Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings. - Jewelry, antiques, artwork, equipment, and other personal property of value. - Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms. - Withdrawals of bank accounts and borrowed money. - Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, and one-time insurance payments. Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and school lunches.

“...The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the homestead...” THE ASSET LEVELS SHALL INCLUDE THE AMOUNT OF CASH, FIXED ASSETS OR OTHER PROPERTY THAT COULD BE USED, OR CONVERTED TO CASH FOR USE IN THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES. THE ASSET TEST SHALL BE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT PERMITTED AND ALL OTHER ASSETS ABOVE THAT AMOUNT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AVAILABLE. THE ASSET LEVEL FOR 2021 SHALL NOT EXCEED \$ 16,000

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget

Size of Family Unit Poverty Guidelines	
1 - \$12,760	5 - \$30,680
2 - \$17,240	6 - \$35,160
3 - \$21,720	7 - \$39,640
4 - \$26,200	8 - \$44,120

For each additional person \$4,480

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BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines, and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member D. Jernstadt and supported by Board Member G. Todd.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "7 Aye Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll:" "0 Nay:"

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Clerk

I, Janet Clark, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Green Charter Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on **February 9, 2021**, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk

DATA STORAGE SYSTEM and SERVER

Network Access System

The clerk brought it to the attention of the board that the backup systems on the computers are in need of upgraded. All the office backup files are nearly full.

There was a discussion regarding the following.

N.A.S. BACKUP SYSTEM needed for better file sharing.

Green Township Assessor reported he works with one in Morton Twp., BR City and Fremont and it works well.

Requirements in the near future for FOIA, including emails and telephone conversations and camera videos.

The supervisor presented an estimate cost sheet for a N.A.S. Backup System of \$7,855, with a Server estimate of \$8,387.

There was discussion to divide the fixed asset project into two budget years.

(4-1-2020-3-31-2021 and 4-1-2021-3-31-2022)

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by J. Clark to approve the Network Access System (N.A.S.) with the estimated cost of Backup System of \$7,855 in current (4-1-2020-3-31-2021 budget year. And to approve the NETWORK SERVER in the (4-1-2021-3-31-2022) budget year, estimated cost of \$8,387.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

POINT BROADBAND METRO ACT APPLICATION

The Supervisor informed the board that Casair has been sold to Point Broadband. The township has sent Point Broadband a letter stating the 2021 application received does not include a list of any buildouts listed after 2015. And further, the application does not include any reference to the request for a \$500,000 Bond.

MOTION was made by R. Carroll and supported by J. Peek to deny the Metro Act application

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for failure to provide proper documentation of all facilities within Green Charter Township as requested, and failure to provide the \$500,000 bond.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

PERMISSION TO SELL OR DISCARD PBX

The new phone system is installed and will be active February 1, 2021.

MOTION was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to dispose of the old phones & system (over twenty years old),

MOTION CARRIED. 7 YES Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

FYI

These businesses in Green Township were in the Mecosta County People's Choice Winners:

1. Paris Fish Hatchery,
2. Pizza in Paris,
3. Mr. C's
4. Mecosta Co. Parks,
5. Stratz Heating & Cooling,
6. Fullmer & Sons Heating & Cooling and Fireplaces,
7. M&M Lawn Care & Snowplowing,
8. Pro Turf,
9. Stone Hatchery Park,
10. JR Customs and Collision,
11. Michael Oil,
12. Freeman Propane,
13. Paris Auto Sales,
14. Mecosta Co. Habitat for Humanity Restore,
15. Bare Furniture,
16. Paris Archery

MECOSTA CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

January 2021 monthly report received.

Streetlight is installed at Northland Dr. & Sunrise Haven

Stone Hatchery Park Blocked off with snow to prevent cars entering and getting stuck.

CLEANUP DAY MAY 8TH, 2021

Change of contractor for cleanup day - Sam's Disposal waste hauler provider
There was a discussion regarding possible new location.

XEROX COPY MACHINE CONTRACT RENEWED

A fax will now come through the new phone email system

DOLLAR GENERAL -

Sewer connection application has been received.

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BUDGET AMENDMENTS

MOTION was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to approve the following budget amendments. 7 yes Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

2/9/2021		BUDGET AMENDMENTS		ACTUAL	BUDGET	AMENDED	NEW	AMENDED
ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION					AMOUNT	BUDGET	BALANCE
SEWER FUND								
#1	590-800-820	COMPUTER SUPPORT	\$ 501.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 9.00	
	from							
	590-800-826	ATTORNEY	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (10.00)	\$ 2,990.00	\$ 2,990.00	
#2	590-000-956	MISC EXPENSE	\$ 103.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 7.00	
	from					\$ -	\$ -	
	590-000-930	REPAIRS	\$ -	\$ 15,230.00	\$ (10.00)	\$ 15,220.00	\$ 15,220.00	
GENERAL FUND								
#3	101-265-953	PHONE - HALL	\$ 1,394.74	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 555.26	
	FROM					\$ -	\$ -	
	11-265-726	HALL SUPPLIES	\$ 850.24	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (350.00)	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 799.76	
Note: Pioneer Group invoice came in after all checks & reports were printed will be paying when due and will be include in this months payables \$185.10.								

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION was made by G. Todd supported by J. Peek to approve payment of the following bills:

GENERAL FUND

1/14/2021- 2/09/2021 ck # 14745- #14773 - \$19,368.52

SEWER FUND

01/20/2021- 2/09/2021 CK #4004- #4016 - \$15,855.43

MOTION CARRIED. 7 yes Jernstadt, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Carroll

Janet Clark, Township Clerk 2/09/2021 – 9:00 P.M. meeting adjourned

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