

Minutes
Eagle Township Board Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024
Eagle Twp. Hall - 14318 Michigan Street, Eagle, MI 48822

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Stroud at 6:00 pm - Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Present:** Trustee Dennis Strahle, Supervisor Troy Stroud, Clerk Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer Chelsea Hoppes, Trustee Michelle Hoppes
3. **Others Present:** Chris Khorey, McKenna Associates; Matt Kuschel, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC; John Clark, Chairperson Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority; Dave Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner
4. **Citizens:** Diane Schulte, Larry Schulte, Carolyn Donaldson, Jim Donaldson, Judy Sena, Dick Sena, Joe Haddix, Denise R Dankenbring, Ann Kirschke, Tim Kirschke, Janine Dyer, Casey J. Godlewski, Linn Romanik, John Iszler, Rob Currie, Cori and Dan Feldpausch, Darrin Grey, David VanderBroek,
5. **Citizens Comments:** A citizen thanked the Township Board and residents for the progress made in the last year on local planning and zoning. Also a citizen requested everyone to keep an eye out for a state-wide ballot initiative for local control of wind and solar that is being reviewed by the State Election Commission.
6. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Trustee Strahle to accept the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried.
7. **Agenda Approval:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
8. **Public Hearing for Termination of Industrial Development District 2023-1:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Supervisor Stroud to open the public hearing at 6:12 pm to terminate industrial development district 2023-1. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Citizen recommended to terminate the Industrial Development District.

Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to close the public hearing at 6:15 pm to terminate industrial development district 2023-1. Motion carried.

9. **Discussion of Termination of Industrial Development District 2023-1:** Motion by Treasurer C. Hoppes supported by Trustee Strahle to adopt Resolution 01-18-2024-01 Resolution to Terminate Industrial Development District 2023-1 in Eagle Township as presented. Roll Call Yes Votes: Treasurer C. Hoppes, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Trustee M. Hoppes, Supervisor Stroud. No Votes: None. Absent: None. Resolution adopted.
10. **Commissioner Report:** Clinton County Commissioner Dave Pohl reported that the County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution approving a revised Greater Lansing Area Regional Stormwater

Program agreement. The Broadband Project is awaiting results of the comment period which ended December 21, 2023. Results are expected in February. Board of Commissioners approved a contract for a Parks and Greenspace Master Plan and 5-year Plan. The Board of Commissioners approved the St Johns Chamber of Commerce request to use Clinton Lakes Park for three night hike events at Clinton Lakes parks to be held on January 25, February 24, and March 25 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. A person from MSU Abrams Planetarium will be explaining sights in the night sky. Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family. The Board of Commissioners approved participation with a State of Michigan cybersecurity services grant program.

11. **LGRFA Report:** John Clark, Chairperson Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority, reported that the 2023 year-end unaudited financial reports show that the LGRFA is under budget by approximately 2%. In 2023 there were 1100 runs in Eagle and Watertown Charter Townships plus mutual aid runs. 75% of the runs were EMS runs. The station is manned 98-99% of the time. The new ambulance will arrive in April. The station is 20 years old and things are wearing out requiring an increase in Capital Outlay.

Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Supervisor Stroud to accept the percentages of Eagle Township 36% and Watertown Charter Township 64% for the LGRFA Operations Budget for calendar year 2024. Motion carried.

The Operations Budget is \$934,000 of which 36% is for Eagle Township (\$336,240) and Capital Outlay Budget of \$230,000 of which 35% is for Eagle Township (\$80,500).

12. **Airport Advisory Board Report:** Report by Trustee Strahle for Steve Colby who attended the January 9 meeting of the Abrams Airport Advisory Board. Three subjects were discussed:
 - National Guard PFAS project
 - Review proposed lease agreement if someone wants to lease land to build a hangar
 - Forgive hangar rent for the extended shutdown of hangars during the PFAS project

13. **Eagle Township Planning Commission Report:** Chairperson Robin Currie gave an update on the Special Meeting of the Planning Commission on January 9, 2024. The Planning Commission made recommendations to the Eagle Township Board on the following: Code Enforcement, Website Hosting, BS&A Cloud Software for Planning and Zoning, Interim Zoning Ordinance amendment for lot splits, and recommendation to fill the Planning Commission Vacancy. See the Eagle Township Planning Commission minutes for the January 9, 2024, meeting for full details. Also discussed were a proposed budget for Planning and Zoning and the Planning Commission Work Plan.

Public Comment: As a follow-up to the Planning Commission budget discussion, several citizens commented that they are amenable to an increase in property taxes in order for Eagle Township to provide local zoning. A suggestion was made to add this as a question for feedback on the upcoming Master Plan survey.

14. **Niles Cemetery Report:** Larry Schulte, from the North Eagle Cemetery Association, gave an update on how they have divided up North Eagle Cemetery into sections and rows and have an online map showing where the lots are located and an online search of names. Larry also places US flags on all veteran graves in both North Eagle Cemetery and Niles Cemetery before Memorial Day and removes them after Veterans Day. They keep track of where the veteran graves are located at the North Eagle Cemetery, but the Niles Cemetery records are not as helpful/complete as they could be.

15. **Accounts Payable:** Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Supervisor Stroud to approve paying the bills as presented, with the exception of reissuing check 11956, as well as all other regular monthly bills. Motion carried.
16. **AccuMed Hardship consideration request:** Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Trustee M. Hoppes to request payment in \$100 monthly payments until paid for LGRFA run 23.53027 that occurred on November 7, 2023. Motion carried.
17. **Planning and Zoning Requests from January 9, 2024, Special Meeting – Code Enforcement:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes for Eagle Township to activate Section 9 of the McKenna Associates contract allowing McKenna Associates to perform Code Enforcement and Inspection Services per Resolution 01-18-2024-02 Resolution Appointing an Eagle Township Enforcement Official based upon a bi-weekly basis at a rate of \$500 per half day starting on March 4, 2024, until January 1, 2025, and the Board authorizes McKenna Associates to utilize Mr. Skunda to begin communications with Clinton County regarding ongoing code enforcement cases in the Township, and to perform other code enforcement and inspection duties on an as-needed basis, invoiced hourly by McKenna Associates, until March 3, 2024 with McKenna Associates submitting a request to Eagle Township Planning Commission Chair and Eagle Township Supervisor before committing any billables to Eagle Township for approval. Roll Call Yes Votes: Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Trustee M. Hoppes, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Supervisor Stroud. No Votes: None. Absent: None. Resolution adopted.
18. **Planning and Zoning Requests from January 9, 2024, Special Meeting – Website Hosting:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Trustee Strahle for the Board to approve website hosting for Planning and Zoning be part of the current Eagle Township website hosted and supported by Shumaker Technology Group. Motion carried.
19. **Planning and Zoning Requests from January 9, 2024, Special Meeting – BS&A Software:** Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes for the Planning Commission to use BS&A Cloud software for Planning and Zoning at a cost not to exceed \$13,000 which includes a \$1,000 fee for McKenna for implementation. Roll Call Yes Votes: Trustee Strahle, Trustee M. Hoppes, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Supervisor Stroud. No Votes: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.
20. **Planning and Zoning Requests from January 9, 2024, Special Meeting – Interim Zoning Ordinance Amendment:** Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Trustee Strahle to set aside the recommended motion from the Planning Commission to amend the Interim Zoning Ordinance to update the lot split permit rules until the survey and public engagement are complete. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Trustee Strahle to request the Planning Commission look at existing non-conforming lots for potential amendments to the Interim Zoning Ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Clerk Briggs-Dudley to request the Planning Commission review and update the current land division ordinances on the Eagle Township website because they contain blanks. Motion carried.

21. **Planning and Zoning Requests from January 9, 2024, Special Meeting – Planning Commission Vacancy:** Motion by Supervisor Stroud supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to recommend that Brad Rich be appointed to the Planning Commission for the remainder of the 2-year term vacated by Michelle Hoppes which ends July 20, 2025. Motion carried.
22. **Zoning Board of Appeals and By-Laws:** Motion by Supervisor Stroud supported by Trustee Strahle to appoint Robin Currie, Mike Dyer, and Larry Strzalka as Zoning Board of Appeals members with alternates George Bedard and Dennis Strahle all for 3-year terms to expire January 18, 2027. Motion carried.
23. **City of Portland Email Regarding Eagle Township Master Plan:** Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes for the Supervisor to respond to the City of Portland email with what information is currently available and with more information to come with a BCC to the Eagle Township Board. Motion carried.
24. **Planning and Zoning – Mailing of Newsletter:** Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Supervisor Stroud to increase the previously approved \$1500 for postage to \$2500 to include postage and distribution of a newsletter. Motion carried.
25. **Planning and Zoning – Public Engagement Day:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to approve rental of the Eagle Park Reception Hall for the Public Engagement at a cost not to exceed \$400. Motion carried.
26. Motion by Trustee Strahle supported by Trustee M. Hoppes to continue business beyond 10:30 pm. Motion carried.
27. **City Pulse Newspaper Box:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to move the discussion on the City Pulse newspaper box to the next regular meeting. Motion carried.
28. **Budget Amendment for 2023-2024:** Motion by Treasurer C. Hoppes supported by Clerk Briggs-Dudley to approve the budget amendment to take \$4,000 from account 265-930 Township Hall Repairs and move to account 265-704 Township Hall and Yard Maintenance. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Trustee Strahle to keep town hall monthly maintenance hours at an average of 30 hours or less per month. Motion carried.
29. **Set Training Date for Planning Commission training for Township Board:** Motion by Treasurer C. Hoppes supported by Trustee Strahle to pay McKenna \$500 for a Planning and Zoning training webinar for the Eagle Township officials including the Board, new Planning Commission member Brad Rich, and Zoning Board of Appeals members and any others that wish to attend to be held on February 13, 2024, @ 9:30 am with the link to be posted on the Eagle Township website. Motion carried.
30. **Auditor Results:** Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to approve auditor Steve Bryer to do a phone conference at a maximum cost of \$500 to review the FY 22-23 audit report and any other financial questions. Motion carried.

31. **Township Insurance:** Motion by Trustee M. Hoppes supported by Treasurer C. Hoppes to allow Trustee M. Hoppes to continue to work with our insurance agent at the Dave Chapman agency to look at additional quotes for professional liability with defense outside \$250,000 limit for Planning and Zoning and get a quote from EMC for overall insurance. Motion carried.
32. **2024 Poverty Exemption Guidelines Update:** Motion by Clerk Briggs-Dudley supported by Trustee M. Hoppes to make changes to the Poverty Exemption Instructions and Guidelines as presented. Motion carried.
33. **Adjournment:** Motion by Treasurer C. Hoppes supported by Trustee M. Hoppes to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 pm. Motion carried.

Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk