

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Supervisor Brenda Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe and Treasurer Stan Eldridge
Trustees: Ryan Hunter, John Newman II, Gloria Peterson, and Debbie Swanson

Members Absent: None

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

Presentation by Barrier Busters

Moonson Eninsche, Human Services Supervisor for the Washtenaw County Office of Community Economic Development. He said he was here to provide an update on the generous monies that Ypsilanti Township has given to the Barrier Busters Emergency Needs Fund for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. He said to date they have assisted just over 126 households with about \$126,000.00. Mr. Eninsche said that housing and utilities seem to be the most need they have. He said the community continues to have a great need for their services, especially in Ypsilanti Township. He said the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners released \$470,000.00 eviction prevention money. Mr. Eninsche said every month if there are any eviction requests, they use an allotment of these funds until they almost run out before they focus on municipal funds like Ypsilanti Township.

Trustee Swanson thanked Mr. Eninsche for doing this presentation and for hearing what our board had asked about distribution of funds. She questioned if the 42% of the emergency requests that came from Ypsilanti were the township only. Mr. Eninsche said it was only for Ypsilanti Township. He said that 48197 and 48198 is over 70% of the requests for emergency funds in Washtenaw County. Trustee Swanson stated that was a high percentage and that shows that the County should be doing more than just emergency funds for this area. She said we need more

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programming that creates a situation where people don't require emergency funding. She said the County needs to focus on the reasons these people need emergency funding and help with that. Mr. Eninsche agreed and said he has spoken to other elected officials that Barrier Busters is great, but we are an emergency room solution and if people go to the ER they should have an after-care plan.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that Ypsilanti Township is the second largest community in Washtenaw County and we need to find solutions so we can lift people up so everyone can thrive. She said this is helping but we need long term solutions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Trustee Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections and edits to the minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS

- 1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR MARCH 19, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,074,526.74**
- 2. CLARITY HEALTHCARE DEDUCTIBLE ACH EFT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,110.61**
- 3. CLARITY HEALTHCARE DEDUCTIBLE ADMIN FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,582.21**

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Trustee Swanson to approve the Statements and Checks.

The motion carried unanimously.

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C. TREASURER’S REPORT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2024

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Treasurer Eldridge to approve the Treasurer’s Report January and February 2024

The motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY REPORT

A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Winters stated he and Attorney McClain continue to work on 2402-2416 E. Michigan Avenue. He said that is the property where illegal coal by-product was trucked into that site and we still do not know where it came from. He said it has been removed but no one knows where it was moved to. He said there is still a high concentration of oil and grease that is in the soil. Attorney Winters stated that they are not satisfied that the removal of this product still has residue and may be harmful in the long term if not completely cleaned up. He said they need to get answers from the State and EGLE as to what happened here and what will be done to completely clean it up. He said sometimes things happen in this part of the county that would never be allowed to happen in other areas of the county. He said we continue to be in court over this issue and will update the Board as we move forward.

Attorney Winters stated that Supervisor Stumbo has met with representatives from the City of Ann Arbor regarding the challenges of the water quality of Ford Lake specifically monitoring the algae bloom and the spills from their treatment facility. He said he has been in contact with the Deputy City Attorney for Ann Arbor and the City Chief of Staff and they are sending over a revised MOU that would allow the township to partner with the City of Ann Arbor to try and figure out how we can work together to improve the quality of Ford Lake water. He said we cannot do it ourselves it will have to be a continued collaboration.

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Attorney Winters stated the Firefighters negotiations continue to move forward. Attorney Winters stated John Hines continues to monitor and oversee a number of contracts that have been entered into at the Community Center, the Ford Lake shelters, and the pickleball courts. He said they have also lined up a contractor to work on the Community Resource Center. Attorney Winters stated that good things are going on in the township as we move forward.

Trustee Swanson stated she appreciated the follow-up on the environmental issues regarding the pollutants that were dumped in the Township. She said we have a responsibility now to make sure somebody continues to follow up on this so it cannot happen again.

NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI LIQUOR COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CLASS "C" LICENSE TRANSFER FOR LA FUENTE RESTAURANT

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Treasurer Eldridge to approve the recommendation of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Liquor Committee to approve the Class "C" License transfer for La Fuente Restaurant.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he and the Township Liquor Committee which includes Trustees' Swanson and Newman met with the owners of La Fuente Restaurant located at 1930 Whittaker Rd. Treasurer Eldridge explained that Mr. Sosa, owner of LaFuente, in 2022 obtained a liquor license from another business within Ypsilanti Township and was not aware they needed to come before the Township Board to make sure they were in compliance with township ordinances. He said he and Trustees' Swanson and Newman are recommending that the Board approve this license so they can move forward and begin to operate the business at 1930 Whittaker Rd. Treasurer Eldridge said they have passed all our local building and LLC inspections. He said our Fire Marshall has inspected the facility and they passed those tests as well.

The motion carried unanimously.

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2. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI LIQUOR COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE SDM (SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MERCHANT) LICENSE FOR THE FAMILY DOLLAR STORE

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Treasurer Eldridge to approve the recommendation of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Liquor Committee to approve the SDM (Specially Designated Merchant) License for the Family Dollar.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he and the Township Liquor Committee met with representatives from the Family Dollar Store. Treasurer Eldridge explained this is a license to sell only beer and wine. He said the representatives stated they would not be discounting beer and wine it would be strictly a convenience for their customers. He said although other Family Dollar Stores in our region have begun selling beer and wine this will be the first Family Dollar within Washtenaw County to do so. Treasurer Eldridge stated that he and the Township Liquor Committee are recommending that the Board approve this Specially Designated Merchant License.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI LIQUOR COMMITTEE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A CLASS "C" LICENSE FOR THE BIG SKY DINER

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Trustee Hunter to approve the recommendation of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Liquor Committee to deny the request for a Class "C" License for the Big Sky Diner.

Treasurer Eldridge and the Township Liquor Committee met with the owner of Big Sky Diner, and that after speaking with the owner of they concluded to deny the class "C" license **due to no plans for expansion and decrease in customers.**

The motion carried unanimously.

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**4. REQUEST TO REAPPOINT MONICA ROSS-WILLIAMS TO THE ANN ARBOR
AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD WITH THE TERM EXPIRING
APRIL 30, 2029**

A motion was made by Trustee Peterson and supported by Clerk Jarrell Roe to approve the request to reappoint Monica Ross-Williams to the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board with the term expiring April 30, 2029.

The motion carried unanimously.

**5. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH WASHTENAW COUNTY AND
THE WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO PERMIT THE TOWNSHIP
TO CONTRACT FOR A COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER**

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Treasurer Eldridge to approve the agreement with Washtenaw County and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office to permit the Township to contract for a Community Service Officer.

Supervisor Stumbo explained that in 2021 Mike Radzik was working to bring a neighborhood watch deputy position to a community service office position which didn't materialize. She said in 2023 Deputy Garlick was assigned to the Township and really did a great job working with our residents. Supervisor Stumbo stated that Deputy Garlick may be leaving and once again we would like to get someone without taking an officer off the road. She said they would like to hire a Community Service Officer for Ypsilanti Township. Supervisor Stumbo stated they will meet with Sheriff Clayton tomorrow and go over what the cost would be to hire a CSO. She said she would like to get the agreement with Attorney approval so they could move forward with the position.

Trustee Swanson asked if they won't be deputized would they still have all the access to the information that is asked during neighborhood watch meetings.

Supervisor Stumbo stated they would be working for the Sheriffs' Office, and they will be able to obtain the information through the Sheriff.

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Trustee Swanson stated she was not sure if this position wasn't a deputy they may not be as informed or experienced as they would need to be to provide the information that our residents expect at our neighborhood watch meeting.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that if we had an officer at the meeting it would be taking one off the road and if there was an emergency they would have to leave.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that CSO's are a lot more common than an actual certified law enforcement officer to do this kind of detail. He said they will have a lot of information that a sworn deputy would have. He said they will understand how they respond to certain calls. He said of course there will be certain things they can't answer because they aren't sworn officers.

Lt. Chad Teets stated that they currently have one CSO at the Sheriffs Department. He said they are fluent in software programs and web-based programs where they can gather all the data. He said it would take a very brief period of time for a new CSO to develop the understanding to be able to articulate those things.

Trustee Swanson stated that just at the last couple of neighborhood watch meetings the deputy was able to share with residents about certain crimes and how to protect themselves. She said she wondered if that kind of information would be available or will they be just collecting and reporting on data.

Lt. Teets stated initially they will just be reporting the data but eventually they will be able to speak on those topics.

Trustee Swanson said she is not comfortable with minimizing a position because we want to save money.

Lt. Teets stated the benefits of having a CSO is they are dedicated to the neighborhood watch because that is their job.

Supervisor Stumbo stated this will be an assigned position with the same CSO for the Township. She said it's hard when it's a deputy that comes to the meetings because they still have their radio and may have to leave.

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Trustee Swanson stated she wasn't against this. She said at the neighborhood watch meetings she has attended she has seen how important the relationships between officers and our residents were. She said she wants this new position to still meet the needs of our residents.

Trustee Peterson stated the residents want a detailed report on what is going on in their neighborhood.

Supervisor Stumbo stated the motion again and confirmed it would be with attorney approval of the agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT LITIGATION TO ABATE A PUBLIC NUISANCE LOCATED AT 1071 HAWTHORNE BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-729-801-023

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Treasurer Eldridge to approve the request for authorization for circuit court litigation to abate a public nuisance located at 1071 Hawthorne budgeted in Line Item #101-729-801-023.

Belinda Kingsley, Community Compliance Director explained the public nuisance located at 1071 Hawthorne.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. BUDGET AMENDMENT #4

Clerk Jarrell Roe read Budget Amendment #4.

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and supported by Trustee Peterson to approve Budget Amendment #4 (see attached).

The motion carried unanimously.

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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Treasurer Eldridge thanked the Clerk and her staff, for making sure the election went well in Ypsilanti Township including the nine-day early voting.

Clerk Jarrell Roe thanked Treasurer Eldridge for his comment.

Clerk Jarrell Roe gave a quick overview of the presidential primary election 2024 and explained the new law regarding elections in Michigan.

Township resident thanked Clerk Jarrell Roe for her diligence in running a smooth election and complimented her on her positive attitude regarding the changes in the election law.

Trustee Swanson asked about reimbursement for some of the purchases that were made for this election.

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated that we thought we would have to purchase the ballot on demand system, but we were given them by the state. She said our reimbursement for the entire election is not due yet. She said the grant that the County submitted on our behalf, even though the Board chose to go independently will be covered.

Christina Benitez, township resident, stated she works in the Clerks Office and thanked Clerk Jarrell Roe for the phenomenal job leading our department and pulling the election together.

Jamie Kelsey, Intern, asked about the drop boxes and if there are video surveillance.

Clerk Jarrell Roe confirmed the drop boxes are under video surveillance, but we would not look at the video unless there was an issue.

Supervisor Stumbo asked about the trailer that was purchased for the elections.

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Clerk Jarrell Roe stated that the trailer is used to haul all the equipment to the polls. She said the ~~van~~ trailer that had been used leaked and some of the voting booths were saturated with water.

Karen Lovejoy Roe A resident stated she had been helping with other elections in the County and explained the voting booths that Dexter uses. She said they were easy to set up and suggested that the township check those if they are ever looking for different voting booths.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that the residents were very pleased with how secure the election was. She said she was an advocate for keeping it local because we can locally control it. She said the election went very well and the staff did great.

Supervisor Stumbo stated they sent out the postcards for the cybersecurity online training for up to 10,000 residents. She said the kickoff in person is April 1st and there will be opportunity throughout the year to be updated on cybersecurity.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she attended the grand opening for a new credit union on Packard Road.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she met with Senator Irwin, Representative Wilson, GCSI Advocates for the State of Michigan, and Luke Blackburn regarding the change in the law for low interest loans for water and sewer. She explained the change and they are trying to fix it.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she attended the First Justice 40 Community Task Force meeting. She said there is money available at the federal level for infrastructure improvements for areas that are designated a Justice 40 Community.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she and Clerk Jarrell Roe had a zoom meeting with the Washtenaw County Road Commission regarding calming device petitions and allowing renters to sign the petitions.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she attended the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board Meeting regarding the 42 million debt relief that would eliminate the debt for the

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former Willow Run **and Ypsilanti Public Schools residents**. She said they still don't have an answer when that will be erased.

A motion to adjourn was made by Treasurer Eldridge and supported by Clerk Jarrell Roe.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**



**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT # 4**

March 19, 2024

AMOUNTS ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR

101 - GENERAL OPERATIONS FUND	Total Increase	<u><u>\$30,328.00</u></u>
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Request to carryforward the OHM engineering portion of the Carport project approved by the Board on 10/3/2023. This will be funded by an appropriation of prior year fund balance.

Revenues:	Prior Year Fund Balance	101-000-699.999	\$30,328.00
			<u>Net Revenues</u> <u>\$30,328.00</u>
Expenditures:	Civic Center Carport	101-901-975.107	\$30,328.00
			<u>Net Expenditures</u> <u>\$30,328.00</u>

Motion to Amend the 2024 Budget (#4)

Move to increase the General Fund budget by \$30,328 to \$26,936,268 and approve the department line item changes as outlined.