

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020**

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Reenders called the regular meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Board members present: Reenders, Redick, Gignac, Kieft, Meeusen, Behm and Larsen (*arrived at 7:04 p.m.*)

Board members absent:

Also, present was Manager Cargo, Human resources Director Dumbrell, and Community Development Director Fedewa.

Motion by Trustee Meeusen and supported by Trustee Redick to appoint Treasurer Kieft as Temporary Clerk. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Reenders, Redick, Gignac, Kieft, Meeusen, and Behm

Nays:

Absent: Larsen

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Treasurer Kieft and seconded by Trustee Gignac to approve the meeting agenda. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Clerk Larsen arrived at the meeting and assumed the role of Clerk.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (*Agenda Items Only*)

Supervisor Reenders announced that a period for public comments on agenda items was now opened.

Manager Cargo noted that if any member of the public would like to comment on an Agenda item, they may now text your comments via Facebook live stream found at <https://www.facebook.com/GHTownship/>; email bcargo@ght.org; or call (616) 402-0350 when prompted. Comments through the phone are limited to three (3) minutes.

The following public comments were offered:

1. Katy Barclay (*17620 Buchanan Street*) spoke of the need to amend the 90-person limit contained in the Buchanan road end settlement agreement.

There being no further public comments, Supervisor Reenders announced that the period for public comments on agenda items was now closed.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve August 10, 2020, Regular Board Minutes
2. Approve Payment of Invoices in the Amount of \$615,686.30 (A/P checks of \$486,012.70 and payroll of \$129,673.60)
- ~~3. Approve Extension of COPS Contract with Ottawa County (\$469,672)~~
4. Approve Hire of Part-Time Firefighter - Michael Nail
5. Approve Hire of Part-Time Firefighter - Joseph Voss
6. Approve Removal & Replacement of Northbound and Southbound Street Lights at Comstock and US-31
7. Approve Removal & Replacement of Northbound and Southbound Street Lights at Ferris Street and US-31
8. Approve Removal & Replacement of Street Light at Brucker Street and Lakeshore Avenue
9. Approve Removal & Replacement of Street Light at Comstock Street and 172nd Avenue

Motion by Trustee Meeusen, supported by Trustee Gignac to remove the COPS Contract from the Consent agenda to be addressed at a later meeting with representatives from the Sheriff's Department. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Behm, Larsen, Reenders, Gignac, Meeusen, Kieft, Reenders

Nays:

Absent:

Motion by Trustee Meeusen and seconded by Trustee Gignac to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda, excluding the COPS Contract. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Redick, Behm, Reenders, Meeusen, Gignac, Kieft, Larsen

Nays:

Absent:

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Manager Cargo noted that the settlement agreement covering the use of the Buchanan Street road end as a "beach" allows for a limit of 90 people. This concentration of people is too high for the current conditions and will likely be too high for the summer of 2021.

If the Township wants to open the road end for beach activities in 2021 – it may be prudent to re-negotiate the settlement agreement to allow for the Township to open the road end for a lesser number of people. Also, this could allow for a project to mitigate erosion, such as a boardwalk (*i.e., six inches off the ground*).

It was noted that the Township could not unilaterally modify the settlement agreement, with Trustee Redick noting that the agreement has both the characteristics of a contract

and a court order.

It was noted that trying to re-open the agreement to modify the 90-person limit would be expensive in terms of legal fees and obtaining approval would be difficult since all of the original parties (*or their successors*) would have to support any amendment.

The Township Board instructed staff to not re-open the Buchanan Street road end settlement agreement. It was noted that the lake levels might prevent the re-opening of the road end for beach usage beyond 2020 due to both the 90-person limit and safety concerns.

Manager Cargo noted that he would keep the elected officials informed on the status of the Buchanan Street road end – which is currently closed – and would not open the road end for beach usage until (1) lake levels drop; (2) the Fire/Rescue department reviews the safety concerns; and, (3) the elected officials have an opportunity to discuss the matter.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Treasurer Kieft noted that he had concerns with the benefit package offered to Sipe – specifically the PTO allotment. Staff briefly discussed the reasons for the package.

Motion by Trustee Gignac seconded by Trustee Behm to approve the hire of Brian Sipe as Fire/Rescue Chief with a start date of September 8th, 2020. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Reenders, Meeusen, Kieft, Redick, Gignac, Larsen, Behm

Nays:

Absent:

VIII. REPORTS AND CORESPONDENCE

- a. Committee Reports
 - ✓ The Harbor Transit Board will have a public Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. to hire a new Executive Director of the Authority.
 - ✓ The NORA Board meeting for this week is cancelled.
 - ✓ The Personnel Committee meeting will be held on September 9th at 7:00 a.m.
 - ✓ The Board requested that all Board of Determination public hearings for Township Drain projects be forwarded to the full Board.
 - ✓ Manager Cargo was requested to discuss the MTA “Township of Excellence” program at the December Board meeting.
- b. Manager’s Report, which included:
 - ✓ July Public Services report.
 - ✓ Staff discussed the concerns regarding pond levels south of the American Dunes golf course and the increased ground water pumping from the golf course. Staff will continue to try to mediate an appropriate solution.
- c. Others

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Reenders announced that a period for public comments on non-agenda items

was now opened.

Manager Cargo noted that if any member of the public would like to comment on an Agenda item, they may now text your comments via Facebook live stream found at <https://www.facebook.com/GHTownship/>; email bcargo@ght.org; or call (616) 402-0350 when prompted. Comments through the phone are limited to three (3) minutes.

1. Edward Everhart (*12087 Bluewater Road*) expressed concern about the road end being used as an access point for trespassers.

There being no further public comments, Supervisor Reenders announced that the period for public comments on non-agenda items was now closed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Clerk Larsen and seconded by Trustee Behm to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Reenders, Meeusen, Behm, Redick, Gignac, Kieft, Larsen

Nays:

Absent:

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Larsen
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk

Mark Reenders
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor