



1 **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF TEXAS BOARD MEETING, APRIL 11, 2022**

2
3 **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4 Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join Treasurer
5 Roberts in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6
7 **ROLL CALL**

8 Clerk Beutel called the roll, and the following board members were present: Trustee Don Boven,
9 Trustee Barbara Hammon, Trustee Linda Kerr, Trustee Wendy Mazer, Treasurer Trish Roberts,
10 Supervisor Nick Loeks, and Clerk Emily Beutel. Also attending were Superintendent Julie VanderWiere,
11 Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp, Engineer Tom Wheat, Acting Fire Chief Michael Miller, and
12 five members of the public.

13
14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

15 Lisa Koop, township resident, thanked the Board for pursuing the 360-degree review for the Fire
16 Department and encouraged Board members to be involved in the process.

17
18 **PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS/COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

19 There were none.

20
21 **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

22 The Board reviewed the Superintendent Report, which highlighted the following items:

23 *Administration*

- 24 • The new temporary office assistant will be starting April 11.
- 25 • The Farmers' Market will begin May 7, and market manager Molly Buckham is still seeking an
26 assistant market manager for the season. The position is being re-posted to the website.
- 27 • Plumbing Inspector Ken Jewell has started doing plumbing inspections and plan reviews.

28 *Information*

- 29 • All of the requested data and documents have been provided to McGrath Consulting Group for
30 the Fire Department 360 Review.
- 31 • The MDNR Trust Fund Grant for the 6th Street Park Phase III project was submitted within the
32 deadline to construct a pavilion and playground at the park.
- 33 • The Curbside Bulk Item Collection pilot program is scheduled to begin April 18th.
- 34 • Staff has been working with BS&A on the Building Department.net overhaul of the permit
35 database to improve data accuracy, process consistency, and streamline workflows for
36 administrative staff. The launch date is still uncertain with the Planner position remaining vacant
37 at this time.
- 38 • The DDA was informed by Mr. Callander that he and his partners are not interested in the DDA
39 property on Texas Drive, so it is revisiting how to continue to participate on the project.
- 40 • The Planning Commission denied the Wedel's request for rezoning a portion of their property to
41 R-4. If the applicant doesn't withdraw for the application, it will be coming to the Township Board
42 to be heard.

43 *Flood Mitigation*

- 44 • The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. by Zoom.

45
46 **ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

47 Motion by Kerr, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

48
49 **APPROVAL OF GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA**

50 Clerk Beutel had a correction to the March 28 minutes to add to line 92 "Resolution 22-06 to
51 Authorize MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application."

52 Motion by Roberts, seconded by Roberts, motion carried, to approve the General Consent Agenda
53 as amended, consisting of:

- 54 • Approval of March 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 55 • Approval of Bills for \$104,248.18
- 56 • Payroll \$51,825.30
- 57 • Financial Reports: 2021 Investment Report; Cash by Bank & Fund: Dec 2021, Jan 2022, Feb
58 2022

59
60 **BUSINESS**

61 ***Tabled***

62 There was none.

63
64 ***New***

65 Authorize Promotion of Firefighters Flemming and Markus to EO

66 Acting Chief Michael Miller, on behalf of Fire Chief Chad Tackett, explained that firefighters Flemming
67 and Markus had completed their equipment operator training. He recommended promotion of both
68 individuals to Equipment Operator.

69 Motion by Beutel, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to approve the promotion of Nathan Markus
70 and Ryan Flemming to the rank of Equipment Operator.

71
72 Resolution 22-07 Mute Swan Management

73 Superintendent VanderWiere explained that the Eagle Lake Texas Association (ELTA) is requesting
74 support from the Township Board to apply for a permit for mute swan management from MDNR. The
75 ELTA counted approximately 13-15 swans on the lake earlier this spring, which is many more than the
76 four to six nesting pairs in previous years. The goal is to utilize this permit to help to control the
77 population via egg and nest destruction, not exterminate it. ELTA Board members Len Bosma and Phil
78 DeYoung provided information to Board members from MDNR on the growing mute swan populations
79 and their status as an invasive species posing negative ecological impacts to native swan and waterfowl
80 species, as well as native vegetation.

81 Motion by Roberts, seconded by Loeks, motion carried, to adopt Resolution #22-07 in support of the
82 Eagle Lake Texas Association Mute Swan Management MDNR permit application.

83 Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Boven, Hammon, Kerr, Mazer, Roberts, Loeks, and Beutel. Nays – None.

84
85 Applegate Pointe Phase I Sewer Upsizing

86 Superintendent VanderWiere explained that Allen Edwin recently discovered that it never submitted
87 for reimbursement for the upsizing cost to their sewer system in Applegate Pointe Phase I. During the
88 approval process for that project, Prein & Newhof recommended upsizing the sanitary sewer to benefit
89 future expansion of the system at a probable cost estimate totaling \$42,930.00.

90 She did note that for future such projects, the request should be brought to the Board as a separate
91 agenda memo before it comes in at Step 3 and is already complete.

92 Motion by Loeks, seconded by Boven, motion carried, to authorize payment of \$42,930 to Allen
93 Edwin to reimburse for sewer upsizing in the Applegate Pointe Phase I project.

94
95 Letter of Support for ARPA Grant Request for Countywide Broadband Assessment

96 Supervisor Loeks stated the Supervisors in the County have been discussing broadband access at
97 their recent meetings and have been working with the Upjohn Institute to assess broadband availability
98 across the county. Collaboratively, they are submitting a request for ARPA grant funds from Kalamazoo
99 County for up to \$85,000 to cover the study to determine where the coverage gaps are. While Texas
100 Township is fairly well covered with broadband, many other jurisdictions are lacking access. He clarified
101 that this grant is for the feasibility study only.



102 Motion by Beutel, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to support the ARPA grant application for
103 the countywide broadband study and authorize Supervisor Loeks to sign the letter of support
104

105 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

106 Planner Report

107 Board members reviewed Interim Planner Johnston’s Planner Report, which provided an overview of
108 activities and projects being managed by the Planning/Zoning Department for the month of March.
109

110 **BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

111 Kathy Staufer, township resident, asked about the Wedel’s rezoning request. The Planning
112 Commission recently denied the request to rezone to higher residential density, and that decision will
113 come to the Township Board if the applicant chooses not to withdraw the request.
114

115 **ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

116 The attorney was not present.
117

118 **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

119 Trustee Boven said he’s enjoying the nice weather.

120 Treasurer Roberts explained the reimbursement to the City of Portage in the bills, which is an annual
121 reimbursement for the Township’s sewer contracts with them. This began at \$668,890, and there is
122 \$61,250 still left to pay on that portion of the contract.

123 Clerk Beutel stated that more than 2,000 absentee ballots have been issued for the May 3 election
124 and encouraged everyone to vote.

125 Supervisor Loeks said that Texas Township had planned to host the Supervisors’ Meeting next week,
126 but it was moved to KATS downtown.
127

128 **ADJOURNMENT**

129 Motion by Boven, seconded by Kerr, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned
130 at approximately 6:30 p.m.
131

132 **SUBMITTED:** April 20, 2022

133 Clerk Emily Beutel

134 Attested: Supervisor Nicholas Loeks

APPROVED: