

EAST CHINA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – Supervisor Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., with Clerk Mattei, Treasurer Hart, and Trustees Babel and Reichle. Trustee Knotts & Blackstock absent. Deputy Clerk Patricia Biebuyck, also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA – Trustee Reichle, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – Trustee Reichle, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2023. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Ben Abraham, 5295 Pointe Drive asked about making Marell a public road. It is currently not up to county road standards. St. Clair County Sheriff Captain Pole was present to review the quarterly activity report.

CONSENT AGENDA – Trustee Reichle, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Department Reports, DPW requests for training, Township Manager quarterly report, Non-Union staff rate increase. Carried. Trustee Babel asked to have the Code Enforcer be included in the monthly department reports.

DISBURSEMENTS – Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to approve Payroll \$65,528.14, Accounts Payable \$253,608.79, EFT's \$62,615.36, E-check \$302.30. Roll call vote: Yea: Hart, Reichle, Babel, Mattei, Westrick. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1 – Resolution 04-2023 Inches Drain

Supervisor Westrick, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to adopt Resolution 04-2023. Roll call vote: Yea: Westrick, Hart, Reichle, Babel, Mattei. Carried.

EAST CHINA TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION 04-2023

(Authorization for Expenditure of Funds in Excess of Statutory Maintenance Limit)

Inches Drain

WHEREAS, the St. Clair County Drain Commissioner has advised East China Township Board of Trustees that, pursuant to Section 196 of the Michigan Drain Code (MCL 280.196), an inspection has been made of the Inches Drain and it has been determined, as a result of the inspection, that certain maintenance must be performed upon the drain; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has the authority to expend Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5000.00) dollars per mile in any one (1) year for the maintenance of the drain, and where it is estimated that expenditures in excess of Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5000.00) dollars per mile are necessary, those amounts may not be expended until approved by Resolution of the governing body of each township, city and village affected by more than twenty (20%) percent of the cost; and

WHEREAS, the Drainage Board estimates that the cost of the maintenance of the Inches Drain will be approximately One Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and no/100 (\$149,900.00) dollars, which constitutes One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and no/100 dollars (\$144,900.00) in excess of the authorized Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5000.00) per mile.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that East China Township, pursuant to Section 196(5) of the Drain Code, authorizes the Drain Commissioner to expend funds for the maintenance and repair of the Inches Drain in excess of Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5000.00) dollars per mile, to the extent that the drain fund for the Drain contains insufficient funds for the payment of costs incurred for the maintenance or repair of the Drain, the Drain Commissioner is authorized to levy a special assessment, as allowed by law.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

NB 2 – Resolution 03-2023 Fire Authority Member Pay

Trustee Reichle, supported by Clerk Mattei, moved to adopt Resolution 03-2023. Roll call vote: Yea: Reichle, Hart, Westrick, Mattei, Babel. Carried.

RESOLUTION 03-2023 PAY FOR EAST CHINA TOWNSHIP FIRE AUTHORITY MEMBERS East China Charter Township County of Saint Clair, Michigan

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board of Trustees of East China Township, County of St. Clair, Michigan, held in the Township Hall, on the 3rd day of April 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Westrick, Mattei, Hart, Babel, Reichle.

ABSENT: Blackstock, Knotts.

The following Resolution was offered by Reichle and supported by Mattei.

WHEREAS, East China Township is a member of the Marine City Area Fire Authority (MCAFA) AND the St. Clair Area Fire Authority (SCAFA) (herein referred to as the Authority), and

WHEREAS, East China Township appoints two members to each Authority pursuant to the Authority Agreements, and

WHEREAS, The MCAFA and SCAFA Authority Agreements stipulate that *the members of the Authority Board member shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of Authority Board duties,*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Trustees establishes a \$25 reimbursement for East China Township appointed members for attendance at meetings of the MCAFA and SCAFA to cover *actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of Authority Board duties*. This amount shall be paid via accounts payable upon proof of meeting attendance and is not considered compensation via payroll.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

AYES: Westrick, Mattei, Hart, Babel, Reichle.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blackstock, Knotts.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

NB 3 – Resolution 05-2023 Supporting HB 5054 of 2022

Trustee Reichle, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to adopt Resolution 05-2023. Roll call vote:
Yea: Mattei, Babel, Hart, Reichle, Westrick. Carried.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA

RESOLUTION 05-2023

REQUEST THAT LEGISLATURE/GOVERNOR INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE 2023 BUDGET

FOR COMMUNITIES FOLLOWING PENSION BEST PRACTICES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE

The following resolution was offered by Member Reichle, seconded by Member Hart, at a regular meeting of *Board of Trustees of East China Township* conducted April 3, 2023 at East China Township Hall, 5111 River Road East China MI 48054.

WHEREAS, East China Township has taken financially difficult steps to stabilize its pension program and get its pension costs and liabilities under control; and

WHEREAS these steps followed best practices established by the State of Michigan and kept East China Township operationally viable in the face of enormous financial pressure; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 of 2022 would have divided \$250 million between East China Township, and other communities like it, that made the tough decisions and followed those best practices; and

WHEREAS, East China Township and others like it are ineligible for \$750 million in pension relief allocated by the State in 2022 despite experiencing the same pension-related financial stresses as those who will receive that relief; and

WHEREAS, these stresses have been amplified by market losses in 2022 and a volatile market in 2023; and

WHEREAS, this \$250 million would have immeasurable impact on our ability to address our pension liabilities, maintain employment levels, and provide the services our taxpayers depend upon; and

WHEREAS, both the \$750 million allocated and the \$250 million requested here had broad, bipartisan support in the House a year ago; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 created an equitable balance between those with pensions the House considered substantially underfunded and those who had followed best practices to achieve a higher funding ratio; and

WHEREAS, unallocated revenues are available to the State in 2023 to again make this pension assistance equitable by helping those communities struggling with pension costs, but ineligible for the \$750 million;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of East China Township asks the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor's Office to revisit HB 5054; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor give bipartisan support to the inclusion of the \$250 million in the 2023 State budget to be divided between communities including East China Township that meet the best practices required in that Bill.

The resolution was adopted by a vote with Members Westrick, Mattei, Hart, Reichle, Babel voting yes, Members None. voting no, and Members Knotts, Blackstock, absent.

I certify that the following resolution was adopted April 3, 2023 by East China Township at a regular meeting conducted April 3, 2023 at (East China Township Hall.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

NB 4 – Cemetery Columbarium Purchase

Supervisor Westrick, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to table action regarding the purchase of new Columbarium units for Rosehill Cemetery. Carried.

NB 5 – Include Rosehill Cemetery in the Master Plan update as an Asset

Supervisor Westrick, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve adding Rosehill Cemetery to the Master plan as an Important Asset. Carried.

NB 6 – SEMCOG Membership Renewal

Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to approve annual SEMCOG Membership Renewal at a cost of \$852 for 2023. Roll call vote: Yea: Westrick, Babel, Reichle, Hart, Mattei. Carried.

MEMBER COMMENTS – Trustee Reichle spoke about unused 26 Mile Corridor funds from St. Clair County coming to the surrounding communities. He also asked if the Master Plan update process has begun. Trustee Babel asked about multiple trees down in the Belle River, and who is responsible for removing them.

ADJOURN – Trustee Reichle, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Carried.

Sandra Mattei, Clerk

Verne Westrick, Supervisor

Approved 4.17.2023