

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 9, 2023**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Sean R. Miller, Clerk



**Call to Order:** Supervisor Moreau called the February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 7:30 pm at the Springfield Township Civic Center with members of the public onsite in the Conference Room and remotely via phone/video conference.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Laura Moreau	Township Supervisor
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Jason Pliska	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Bill Whitley	Township Trustee

**Board Members Not Present**

Sean Miller	Township Clerk
Denny Vallad	Township Trustee

**Others Present**

Greg Need	Township Attorney
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**Agenda Additions & Changes:**

Supervisor Moreau requested that Resolution 2023-03 to Execute Interlocal Agreement for I.T. Services with Oakland County be added as Consent item i.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

**Trustee Hopper moved to approve the Consent agenda with the addition of item i to add adoption of Resolution 2023-03 execute interlocal agreement for I.T. services with Oakland County. Trustee Whitley supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- a) Approve Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023
- b) Accept the December 2022 and January 2023 Treasurers Report

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- c) Receive January 2023 Monthly Reports: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Ordinance, Fire, Police, Comp Time, IT, and Natural Resources
- d) Authorize payment of bills: January Additional Disbursements totaling \$74,060.33 and February 2023 Bills List totaling **\$61,212.81**
- e) Approve 2023 Annual Membership Dues to SEMCOG in the amount of \$1,805.00
- f) Approve 2023 Holly Area Youth Assistance Sponsorship in the amount of \$3,500.00
- g) Receive 2023 Liquor License Renewal Review
- h) Approve Resolution 2023-02 Assistance from the Michigan Department of natural resources in the removal of Nuisance Geese
- i) Adopt Resolution 2023-03 to Execute Interlocal Agreement for I.T. Services with Oakland County

**Old Business:**

- 1. Oakland County Sheriff's Substation Relocation
  - a) Award Construction Contract

Supervisor Moreau noted that the Township Board has been working since September, 2021 on a plan to relocate the Oakland County Sheriff's Springfield Township Substation from its current location at the Colombiere Center to the Civic Center. She added that the location will be on the lower level of the Civic Center in what used to be the Building Department Office and a portion of what is currently the Parks and Recreation offices. AEW, the consulting engineer, has assisted in the design and preparation of specifications for bidding. The last major step in this process is to award the construction contract. The goal is to have the build out completed and the substation moved in by the end of June of this year. The request for sealed bids was posted on December 20, 2022. Eight contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting and 3 sealed bids were received in time for the public bid opening which occurred on January 24, 2023. Board members have the recommendation and bid tab in their packets. The two lowest bidders were fully evaluated by AEW and their recommendation is to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, L&R Construction Services of Davisburg, MI.

Trustee Hopper commented that he is glad that L&R is a local company. They always look to utilize local companies and this one happened to be the low bidder. He is also happy to see that the Township has used L&R in the past for other projects at Schultz Park. He supports AEW's recommendation.

Trustee Whitley concurred.

Supervisor Moreau also concurred. She commented that it's great that the lowest bid came from a resident of the Township and she introduced Brian Lance from L&R Construction who was in

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attendance. She commended Parks and Recreation Director, Sarah Richmond and Facilities Manager, Jerry David on the great working relationship during the bidding process.

**Trustee Hopper moved to award the contract for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Substation at the Springfield Township Civic Center to L&R Construction Services, P.O. Box 7, Davisburg, Michigan 48350 in the amount of \$204,900 from the Police Fund Capital Outlay. Supported by Trustee Pliska. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

b) Approve Purchase of Storage Lockers

Supervisor Moreau stated that the new substation will have locker room space. 10 lockers for the men's locker room and 4 lockers for the women's locker room. The current substation only has locking cabinets, so it has been a priority to make sure that the new substation has lockers to accommodate all the uniforms and gear. They are trying to be as efficient as possible with the space available. AEW and Sheriff's Office personnel are recommending they use The Casper Corporation for lockers. Supervisor Moreau stated that she looked for other companies that could provide the desired features so that she could bring competitive quotes to the Board but what she found is that The Casper Corporation is the only dealer in the State of Michigan and other dealers outside of Michigan were not responding to her requests for bids. She noted that the quote says that pricing is based on Sourcewell Contract and she explained that Sourcewell is a cooperative purchasing agency for state and local governments which means that the pricing is already competitive. She stated that this could likely fall under the single source exception to the purchasing policy and she also noted that there is a five-month lead time on these lockers. Supervisor Moreau asked if the Board would like to see quotes from other companies.

Trustee Hopper stated that they might find someone who is a little bit cheaper but has a longer wait time.

Treasurer Dubre stated that with all of the work that went into it up to this point just to get the lockers configured the way they need them to be, she doesn't see any reason why they should try to find another quote.

Supervisor Moreau added that this company was great to work with and she feels very comfortable moving ahead with this product and this company.

**Treasurer Dubre moved to authorize the purchase of storage lockers for the Sheriff's Substation from The Casper Corporation as outlined from customer quote number 19413-50349 at a cost not to exceed \$46,000 from the Police Fund Capital Outlay. Supported by Trustee Whitley. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**



c) Approve Interview Room Video System

Supervisor Moreau stated that she received the quote from American Video Transfer for \$17,800 through the Sheriff's Office back in August. Initially, this was the preferred vendor, product, and software and what they wanted in the substation. However, it seemed like a lot of money and so they started researching other options. Lieutenant Baldes suggested Supervisor Moreau reach out to Thumb Communications which is who Addison Township uses for their substation. Their quote was less than \$3,500. The difference between the Thumb Communications system and the American Video Transfer system is that the Thumb Communications system is DVR based, which is more suitable for a surveillance system than an interview room because it has a running tape and can only record a certain number of hours at a time.

Lieutenant Baldes told the Board that there are requirements in state and federal courts for interview rooms and one of those requirements is that the interview room must have a minimum of 6 hours of continuous video. The problem with DVR systems is that it records and saves in one-hour increments instead of continuous recording. He also noted that the customer service and tech response for American Video Transfer was superior to that of Thumb Communications. A lot of departments still use DVR systems, but they are being phased out and eventually will need to be replaced.

Trustee Whitley asked if a DVR system could cause video evidence to not be accepted in Court.

Lieutenant Baldes answered that the evidence could be challenged in court. Another issue is that when there is a lengthy interview that spans several hours, the breaks in recording can cause the audio and video to be out of sync. He added that there is a list of criteria that the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards requires for interview room videos systems and the American Video Transfer system meets every criteria.

Supervisor Moreau stated that the system uses proprietary software and has enhanced functionality which is part of the reason for the price.

Trustee Whitley and Treasurer Dubre agree with the recommendation for American Video Transfer.

**Treasurer Dubre moved to authorize the purchase of the interview room video system for the Sheriff's Substation from American Video Transfer as outlined on quote number 5932 at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 from the Police Fund Capital Outlay. Supported by Trustee Hopper. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**



## **New Business:**

1. Service Agreement with Michigan Natural Features Inventory for Natural Community Plant Inventory work in 2023

Natural Resources Manager, Mike Losey stated that he would like to continue working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). He has identified some areas in the Clinton River Watershed where it be useful to collect information as this will inform some of our natural resource efforts and improve wildlife habitats. In 2022, MNFI assisted in doing rare insect surveys at the Shiawassee Basin Preserve and natural features assessments at River Run Preserve. These surveys produced new occurrences of several interesting species of borer moths including the Blazing Star Borer Moth which is a species of special concern in Michigan. Mr. Losey also noted that surveys of natural communities at River Run documented high-quality wetlands and forest habitat in addition to management recommendations to minimize disturbances to a red shouldered hawk nest.

For 2023, Mr. Losey is proposing to survey areas in the Clinton River Watershed. He would secure landowner permission prior to the growing season, although he has already established good connections with many of the landowners in that area. They would go in and survey the natural features as well as the priority invasive species. He stated that information from these surveys would be leveraged to help obtain funding for natural resources management on these properties where landowners have already expressed interest in managing the unique habitats within this part of the Township. MNFI is the foremost experts in this area of work so this would fall under the single source procurement exception to the purchasing policy. He is requesting the Board approve the service agreement with MNFI to conduct a natural community and plant inventory of priority areas at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

**Treasurer Dubre moved to authorize the Natural Resources Manager to enter into an agreement with Michigan Natural Features Inventory to conduct a natural community and plant inventory of priority areas as directed by Township staff and provide preliminary findings at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 to be paid from the General Fund Stewardship Cost Center Contract Services. Supported by Trustee Pliska. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

2. Proposal for Grant Application for Engineering Services to Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

Natural Resources Manager, Mike Losey explained that Long Lake is a 45 foot deep kettle lake which means it was formed by a glacier. Long Lake has been very popular for recreation in recent years and there are some very interesting and unique species of fish in Long Lake as well. This grant proposal is to address an eroding 70 year old ditch that was caused by the installation of a metal pipe to pump water uphill to water livestock in the prairie fen. This disrupted the hydrology of the prairie fen and allowed for invasive species to become established. Mr. Losey asked AEW to put together an estimate of costs for design engineering to restore that part of the preserve. AEW

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Estimated \$70,000 for the design work. Mr. Losey believes that this is a really pressing environmental issue as these wetlands directly affect the quality of the lake and the prairie fen which is the highest quality asset the Township has. Mr. Losey would like to apply for the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership grant which is a 1 to 1 matching grant. He is requesting \$45,000 in matching funds for this grant. These funds would be obligated next year if the grant is awarded.

Treasurer Dubre thanked Mike Losey for all the time and effort that went into his presentation.

Supervisor Moreau stated that she believes this project is a priority whether or not they get the grant money.

Mr. Losey added that if they don't get this grant, they could go back to the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative after the culvert replacement project is completed, and ask for funds to complete this project. The challenge is that there is not a lot of funding for design and engineering. Funding sources prefer to fund shovel-ready projects.

Trustee Whitley asked, in light of the fact that this has existed for 70 years, what is the sense of urgency to get this done now.

Mr. Losey responded that we continue to spend money treating the invasive plants that are present in that area because that area is artificially dry. That part of the fen has lost its natural resilience. By not fixing this problem, they will just continue to do management for invasive species that are continually establishing because of these site conditions. The urgency is that the invasive species spread to adjacent areas in the fen. Additionally, sediment is flowing out into the lake which affects the fisheries habitat.

Trustee Whitley asked if any of the erosion and degradation is on private property.

Mr. Losey responded that it is all on Township property.

Treasurer Dubre asked if there would be reporting requirements like on typical grants or if this would be different because it's all for engineering and whether his time would count towards matching or if it is straight dollars.

Mr. Losey responded that that the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership grant requires a 1 to 1 match. But his time in administering the grant and coordinating meetings and selecting vendors would all be eligible matching expenses.

Trustee Hopper stated that they have been treating the symptoms and it's time to correct the problem or it will just continue to get worse.



**Treasurer Dubre moved to authorize the Natural Resources Manager to submit a grant application for engineering services with Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership with a matching commitment from the Township not to exceed \$45,000 in fiscal year 2024 to be paid from General Fund Stewardship Cost Center Contract Services. Supported by Trustee Whitley. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

3. 2023 Gravel Program Participation

Supervisor Moreau stated that this is an ongoing effort that goes back many years. Supervisor Moreau, together with the Road Commission Superintendent have identified Bigelow, Eaton, and Ridgewood as the sections of gravel road that in most need. They budgeted \$100,000 for graveling. This proposal would be approximately \$111,000. Supervisor Moreau added that they get Metro Act funds for work in the right of way and those funds will either go towards chloriding or graveling.

**Trustee Hopper moved to approve the participation in the 2023 gravel haul program with the Road Commission for Oakland County to apply gravel to Bigelow, Eaton, and Ridgewood at a cost of roughly \$111,000 for 3.7 miles. Supported by Trustee Whitley. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hopper, Moreau, Pliska, and Whitley; No: none; Absent: Miller, Vallad. The motion carried by a 5 to 0 vote.**

4. Planning Commission Annual Report

Trustee Hopper, the Township Board representative to the Planning Commission, stated that the Michigan Planning Enabling Act requires the Planning Commission to submit an annual report to the Township Board. The report documents the plans that the Planning Commission received and reviewed, any action on the zoning ordinance, any work that the site plan committee worked on, and comments on what the Planning Commission looks to undertake next year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chief Feichtner commented that it is time for the ISO to re-score the Township.

**Adjournment:**

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Moreau adjourned the Board meeting at 8:35 pm.

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Laura Moreau, Supervisor

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Sean R. Miller, Clerk