

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

**Board members present:** Larsen, Reenders, Behm, Wagenmaker, Meeusen, Kieft and Redick

**Board members absent:**

Also present were Manager Cargo, Assessing Director Larrison, and Senior Planner Thibault.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

**Motion** by Trustee Meeusen and seconded by Trustee Wagenmaker to approve the meeting agenda. **Which motion carried.**

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve October 9, 2023, Regular Board Minutes
2. Approve Payment of Invoices in the amount of \$452,938.40 (*A/P checks of \$307,777.14 and payroll of \$143,161.26*)
3. Approve Purchase of Emergency Generator for New Fire/Rescue Station (*\$140,000*)

**Motion** by Trustee Redick and seconded by Trustee Meeusen to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda, with a correction to the October 9<sup>th</sup> minutes (*i.e., NORA fundraiser being October 17<sup>th</sup>; not November 17<sup>th</sup>*). **Which motion carried.**

VI. PUBLIC HEARING – JOST INTERNATIONAL IFT APPLICATION

Supervisor Reenders opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Assessing Director Larrison reviewed the October 19<sup>th</sup> memorandum noting that the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption application of \$3.155 million is for the renovation and expansion of the industrial facility at 14000 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, a vacant industrial building. This will include the addition of 43,660 square feet to the facility and will create 10 jobs and the transfer of 190 jobs.

There being no further public comments, Supervisor Reenders closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Trustee Meeusen supported by Trustee Behm to adopt the Resolution 10-23-01 approving Jost International's application for a 12-year exemption of \$3,155,559 on real property and enter into an agreement concerning the application's representation of its business investment and employment creation. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Larsen, Wagenmaker, Kieft, Meeusen, Redick, Behm, Reenders  
Nays:  
Absent:
2. **Motion** by Treasurer Kieft supported by Trustee Redick to approve and adopt the restatement of the Rental Regulatory Ordinance. This is the second reading. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Behm, Wagenmaker, Meeusen, Redick, Kieft, Reenders, Larsen  
Nays:  
Absent:
3. **Motion** by Trustee Redick supported by Treasurer Kieft to approve Commissioner Cousins indefinite Leave of Absence until such time when the Village of Spring Lake appoints a replacement manager and Commissioner Cousins can resume his Planning Commission duties. This determination shall be reviewed after six months. **Which motion carried.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion was held on the proposed City of Grand Haven Charter amendment that would dissolve the voter elected BLP Board.

Julie Norkoli (*17168 Burkshire Drive*) opposes the proposed City Charter amendment dissolving the BLP voter-elected Board believing it will neither improve reliability nor affordability. Believes the City Council will not be effective managers of the electric utility.

Vanessa Wilhelm (*13461 Ravine View Drive*) opposes the City Charter amendment dissolving the BLP voter-elected Board noting that the majority of the rate payers do not live within the City and that the City Council will be less effective in representing these utility users.

Trustee Redick and Trustee Meeusen do not disagree with the residents opposing the City Charter amendment but are opposed to interfering within the affairs/elections of another municipality.

Supervisor Reenders, Treasurer Kieft, and Trustees Behm and Wagenmaker expressed concern with giving control of the BLP to the City Council, especially given the City's financial situation and political turmoil at the council level.

Clerk Larsen noted that BLP users outside of the city do not have any representation

under either the current or proposed BLP governance form.

The Township Board did not take any action.

IX. REPORTS AND CORESPONDENCE

1. Committee Reports
2. Manager's Report
  - a. Manager Cargo discussed naming an un-named branch of the Alder Creek that traverses Schmidt Heritage Park and Hofma Park/Preserve to "Dad's Creek" pursuant to a request from Jim Schmidt, which would require the adoption of a Board resolution. The Board instructed Cargo to proceed with drafting the required resolution.
  - b. The FY2024 Budget Work Session was scheduled for a 5:30 p.m. work session prior to the Board meeting on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Manager Cargo noted a request from Ottawa County Clerk's office to utilize the Township Board room for early voting in 2024. The Board instructed staff to proceed with a lease agreement that would include a refundable security deposit for any damages but no lease payment (*i.e., pro bono*).
  - d. September Building Report
  - e. September Public Services Report

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (*Non-Agenda Items*)

1. Geri McCaleb (*12014 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue*) expressed her opposition to the GHAPS bond vote noting that it would abandon the current middle school campus in the city and the related expense.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** by Clerk Larsen and seconded by Trustee Wagenmaker to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. **Which motion carried**

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurie Larsen  
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk



Mark Reenders  
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor