

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025**

WORK SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

1. **Motion** by Clerk Larsen supported by Supervisor Reenders to enter closed session at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation pursuant to the Open Meetings Act at the Superintendent's request. **Which motion carried,** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Larsen, Reenders, Wagenmaker, Kieft, Behm, Gaasch, Dumbrell

Nays:

Absent:

Motion by Clerk Larsen supported by Trustee Behm to exit the closed session at 6:19 p.m. **Which motion carried.**

2. The Board discussed the report from Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. (LEI) regarding low water conditions in the vicinity of the American Dunes Golf Club and the November 4th Letter from Supervisor Reenders.

Attorney Redick noted that the State has exclusive authority regarding the regulation of the withdrawal of large quantity withdrawals of groundwater (*i.e., greater than 100,000 gallons per day*) which limits the Township ability in the matter.

Superintendent Cargo briefly reviewed the Township's Special Assessment District (SAD) process noting that a watermain extension cost estimate has been provided for Golf Shore Estates.

Supervisor Reenders believes that American Dunes golf course and their large groundwater withdraw that is used for irrigation has negatively impacted private wells and ponds near the golf course. Reenders is also concerned with the burial of organic and construction material by the golf course within the groundwater table.

Attorney Redick responded to a Board query noting that although Supervisor Reenders is likely impacted by American Dunes water withdrawal, this alone would not create a conflict of interest or require the Supervisor to recuse himself from the discussion or the proposed vote to refer the LEI report to the State.

Kurt Koella, the Senior Hydrologist from LEI, notes that the report can be used to support a request to the state seeking a modification of the American Dunes large groundwater withdrawal permit.

Motion by Trustee Dumbrell supported by Trustee Wagenmaker to instruct the legal firm of Mika Meyers to draft a letter to EGLE forwarding the October 29th Report from Lakeshore Environmental, Inc. and requesting that (1) EGLE review the report, (2) consider an amendment to the groundwater withdrawal permit for American Dunes, and (3) consider the report in view of any citizen Part 317 complaints. **Which motion carried.**

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Reenders called the regular meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Board members present: Gaasch, Reenders, Kieft, Wagenmaker, Behm, Dumbrell and Larsen

Board members absent:

Also present were Manager Cargo, Assistant Manager Sherwood, Fire/Rescue Chief Schrader, and Finance Director Sandoval.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Dumbrell and seconded Trustee Behm to approve the meeting agenda. **Which motion carried.**

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve November 24, 2025, Regular Board Minutes
2. Approve Payment of Invoices in the amount of \$1,143,033.28 (*A/P checks of \$1,000,580.19 and payroll of \$142,453.09*)
3. Approve 2026 Township Board Meeting Dates

Motion by Treasurer Kieft and seconded by Trustee Gaasch to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Which motion carried.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Clerk Larsen supported by Trustee Gaasch to approve Resolution 25-12-01 that adopts the final budget amendments for fiscal year 2025. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Yeas: Larsen, Wagenmaker, Kieft, Dumbrell, Gaasch, Behm, Reenders

Nays:

Absent:

2. **Motion** by Trustee Gaasch supported by Trustee Wagenmaker to approve and adopt the proposed Consumers Energy franchise ordinance that will replace Ordinance No. 236. This is the second reading. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:

Yeas: Behm, Wagenmaker, Dumbrell, Gaasch, Kieft, Reenders, Larsen

Nays:

Absent:

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Redick shared his legal opinion regarding the Life EMS Ambulance Agreement noting that both Supervisor Reenders (*because of his employment position with Trinity*) and Trustee Gaasch (*because of her position on the Trinity Muskegon Board*) could have a statutory conflict of interest under Public Act 317 of 1968; a likely common law conflict of interest; or, at a minimum, there would certainly be an appearance of impropriety. Any of these circumstances would require recusal regarding consideration of the Life EMS Ambulance Agreement.

1. **Motion** by Trustee Dumbrell supported by Treasurer Kieft to authorize Supervisor Reenders and Trustee Gaasch to be recused from consideration of the Life EMS Life Ambulance Agreement pursuant to the opinion shared by the Township's legal counsel. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:
Yeas: Kieft, Reenders, Dumbrell, Behm, Wagenmaker, Larsen, Gaasch
Nays:
Absent:

Both Supervisor Reenders and Trustee Gaasch stepped away from their Board seats.

Without objection, the Board appointed Clerk Larsen as the temporary President Pro Tem.

Chief Schrader explained the Ambulance Agreement process and responded to specific questions regarding the Life EMS proposal and specifically noted the reasons that the Review Committee unanimously recommended approval a four-year agreement with Life EMS.

2. **Motion** by Trustee Dumbrell supported by Treasurer Kieft to authorize the Township Superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding finalized by the legal firm of Mika Meyers PLC with LIFE EMS, Inc. based on the RFP and the proposal, as reviewed. **Which motion carried** pursuant to the following roll call vote:
Yeas: Wagenmaker, Larsen, Kieft, Behm, Gaasch
Nays:
Absent: Reenders, Gaasch

Both Supervisor Reenders and Trustee Gaasch returned to their Board seats.

VIII. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Committee Reports
2. Manager's Report, which included:
 - a. November Ordinance Review Report
 - b. Cargo noted the Board packet contained a legal opinion regarding the inspection of mobile homes within manufactured housing developments. This will be a topic of an upcoming Board work session.
 - c. Cargo notified the Board that staff would begin enforcing the Zoning Ordinance prohibition on Window Signs. In brief, the number of window signs at some

businesses has become problematic – i.e., blocking large segments of windows with advertisements.

- d. Cargo shared an email showing two possible cell tower locations for the Comstock/Mercury property. Staff will discuss the cell tower and/or affordable housing option at an upcoming Board work session.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. County Commission Philip Kuyers provided an update.
2. Joseph McCarter (*Georgetown Township*) requested support on a 2nd round Campbell Plant Resolution.
3. Doug Bell (*American Dunes General Manager*) requested a copy of the LEI report, which staff provided.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Clerk Larsen and seconded by Trustee Gaasch to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. **Which motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurie Larsen
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk



Mark Reenders
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor