



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
March 13, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Supervisor Rick Galardi, Treasurer Sandy Stump, and Trustees David Seeger, Brian Ross, David Fedewa, and Steven Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Clerk Adam Cramton.

**ALSO PRESENT** Manager Andrew Dymczyk, Police Chief Matt Merony, Fire Chief Dave DeKorte, and citizens.

**AGENDA** **Fedewa moved, Smith seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**AYES: Smith, Fedewa, Stump, Seeger, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Cramton. Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA** **Seeger moved, Galardi seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Board of Trustees regular meeting draft minutes, February 27, 2023; Board of Trustees closed session 01 draft minutes, February 27, 2023; Board of Trustees closed session 02 draft minutes, February 27, 2023; and General vouchers 75322-75364; tax vouchers 9551-9563.**

**AYES: Ross, Seeger, Stump, Fedewa, Smith, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Cramton. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**PRESENTATION**

**Life Saving Award – Steve Smith** Fire Chief DeKorte recognized St. Johns resident Steve Smith for a Life Saving Award in recognition of his actions on February 24, 2023 that rescued a person in danger. Chief DeKorte shared the letter received from the rescued person, as well as the following text as written in the award:

*“Steven Smith, this life saving award is in recognition of your actions on February 24, 2023. You were at a storage facility when you observed a person lying on the ground near their vehicle. You felt that something was not right and checked further into why this person was on the ice. You found an elderly female on the ice that needed assistance. You recognized that the person needed medical attention. You then called 911 for help. You then met EMS and Fire at the front gate to assist them into the facility and to the location of the patient. Your actions that day saved this person's life. She and I thank you for saving her life. Awarded this 13th day of March, 2023.”*

**PUBLIC HEARING** None.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT Clinton County District 6 Commissioner John Andrews introduced himself and updated the Board on the solar farm in Greenbush Township. He stated that additional staff was added to the County Prosecutor's office, and that planning for the Greenbush solar farm and the Eagle Township mega site is currently conducted at Clinton County.

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence included the following: Auditor's preliminary governance letter; Clinton County Township Officers Association meeting; Clinton County Solid Waste Planning Committee meeting; DeWitt Area Recreation Authority March 2023 Newsletter; and Clinton County Sheriff's Office February 2023 Jail Billing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS Police Department Outer Carrier Budget Adjustment Since year end of 2022, two members of the Police Department have tested an outer carrier to hold utility belt items and their body armor with great success. The outer carrier removes weight off of an individual's hips, and in times of non-field activity, the carrier can be completely removed to provide some relief and a more comfortable working environment. Chief Merony and Manager Dymczyk recommended a budget adjustment from the Drug Forfeiture Fund Balance to the Drug Forfeiture Fund – Operating Supplies in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for the purpose of purchasing 13 Outer Carriers.

**Seeger moved, Smith seconded, to approve the following budget adjustment to the 2023 Budget:**

**\$3,000 To: 265-000-740-000 From: 265-000-390-000**  
**Drug Forfeiture Fund – Operating Drug Forfeiture Fund**

**AYES: Stump, Smith, Seeger, Fedewa, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Cramton. Motion carried.**

Municipal Building South (MBS) Financial Advisor At the January 9th Board meeting, the Board established an ad-hoc committee to explore financing considerations associated with the Municipal Building South. Treasurer Stump, Clerk Cramton, and Manager Dymczyk then solicited firms for a Financial Advisor.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bendzinski & Co.	\$22,500
PFM Financial Advisors LLC	\$23,750
Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC	\$29,500

The committee recommends executing an agreement with Bendzinski & Co. at a cost not to exceed \$22,500. The proposed cost indicated is based on a \$12.5 million bond issuance.

**Galardi moved, Fedewa seconded, to confirm the recommendations of the MBS ad-hoc committee and authorize the Manager's Office to execute an agreement with Bendzinski & Co. at a cost not to exceed \$22,500.**

**AYES: Smith, Seeger, Ross, Stump, Fedewa, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Cramton.**

**Motion carried.**

Cemetery Rules and Regulations Update

The Clerk's Office maintains the current rules and regulations for Gunnisonville and Hurd Cemeteries. An innovation that is becoming more prevalent in cemeteries is the use of a grave marker, or headstone, that contains receptacles for cremated remains. This would constitute an above-ground burial, and would serve to be the equivalent of a "mini" mausoleum. Mausoleums and crypts have long been prohibited in the Township's cemeteries, and this new concept of inurnment has exposed a potential grey area in the current regulation.

Clerk Cramton proposes a simple change to Section VII (11) of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to include the word "columbarium" along with the existing prohibition of mausoleums and crypts. Using the definition of columbarium provided in the Michigan Cemetery Regulation Act of 1968, this would ultimately prevent cremains from being interred above-ground in DeWitt Township cemeteries. It should be noted that since 2013, grave owners in DeWitt Township cemeteries have had the ability to inter four sets of cremains in a single grave. Additionally, numerous non-content updates are being applied to the document to clean up formatting, font, and grammar.

**Ross moved, Stump seconded, to adopt the DeWitt Charter Township Cemetery Rules and Regulations effective March 13, 2023.**

**AYES: Fedewa, Stump, Smith, Seeger, Ross, Galardi.**

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: Cramton.**

**Motion carried.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC, Fire Chief Dave DeKorte presented the following:  
STAFF, & BOARD  
COMMENTS

- DTFD responded to a structure fire, and a barn fire in Bath.
- Administrative Assistant Laura Plaza has resigned. He is looking to fill that position as well as the Fire Inspector position.
- The LUCAS was successfully used at a local restaurant on a patient that was in cardiac arrest.
- Ability testing is on-going for potential new hires.

Police Chief Merony presented the following:

- DTPD's full-time Administrative Assistant is to start March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting with the Blended Learning Academy.
- Two patrol cars have gone to auction.
- He has met the newest Prosecutor at the County and believes that the office is moving in the right direction.

Manager Dymczyk offered updates on the following:

- Bids for the wage study have been received. The committee has met with firms via Zoom. The evaluation is continuing.
- Attended the annual Road Commission meeting.
- Along with Supervisor Galardi, a meeting was held with LEAP.
- Conference call with Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) about the organizing effort by MAFF. Additional calls are scheduled, and ballots

to potential union members will be issued on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to be returned by April 12<sup>th</sup>, and results due to be issued on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Working to schedule the Step 3 grievance from the POLC Non-Supervisory Division.

Trustee Seeger reminded everyone that there is a Solid Waste Council meeting tomorrow evening at 5:30 PM at the Township Hall.

ADJOURNMENT      **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn 7:48 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Fox, Deputy Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor

DRAFT