



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820  
April 10, 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. Autumn and Easton Wiswasser led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None.

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

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

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA** **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Board of Trustees regular meeting draft minutes, March 27, 2023; and General vouchers 75410-75462.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**PRESENTATION**

DeWitt Township  
Firefighter  
Introductions

Fire Chief Dave DeKorte introduced the following DeWitt Township Firefighters:

- Currently attending fire school – Olivia Carty, Stacy Pace.
- New Firefighters – Halim Tran, Andrew Fore, and Ronald Patterson.

DeWitt Township  
Police Department  
Certificate of  
Honorable Service  
Sergeant Andrew  
Wiswasser

Police Chief Matt Merony presented Sergeant Andrew Wiswasser with a Certificate of Honorable Service for his actions during and following a child welfare investigation. Sergeant Wiswasser thanked the Board for its support, as well as Officers Parviainen and Rennaker for their work on this case.

**PUBLIC HEARING** None.

**COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER  
REPORT**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Correspondence included the following: Clinton County Sheriff's Office March 2023 Jail Billing.

**UNFINISHED**

**BUSINESS**

**Remy-Chandler Drain Special Assessmen** The Remy-Chandler Intercounty Drain Board undertook a large maintenance project beginning in 2021. The cost to the Drain Board was \$600,000. DeWitt Township's portion, after applying the apportionment across the five affected communities, is \$180,838. The Township agreed to pay the Drain Board five equal annual payments of approximately \$36,767. After agreeing to make a \$28,568 at-large payment, the Township endeavored to assess the remaining \$152,269 to each of the affected property owners over three years.

The first Public Hearing was noticed and held on October 11, 2021, and was met with numerous resident challengers both in the boardroom and by mail / email response. An error was uncovered in the calculation of the assessment district and a second Public Hearing was scheduled.

The second Public Hearing was noticed and held on October 25, 2021, using corrected assessment totals for the residents. Again, the resident response was passionate and voluminous. At risk of missing the required timing of the winter tax roll, the Board elected to make the first Drain Board payment at-large to allow more time to respond to resident concerns. The first payment was made in April of 2022. Clerk Cramton collected input from those residents requesting on-site review of their particular drainage conditions. The concerns are numerous and varied.

The second payment to the Drain Board was due on March 1, 2023.

A decision needs to be made if DeWitt Township will continue to pursue a special assessment for the Remy-Chandler Drain project or if the project will be funded by at-large funds.

This item was considered during the March 27, 2023 Board meeting. The Board in attendance voted to postpone a decision due to the absence of three members.

A lengthy discussion between Board members ensued. Trustee Seeger offered a history of the Remy-Chandler drain, its status as an inter-county drain, and what that status means for maintenance and the associated cost liability. Work is approved by the Inter-County Board, assessed to the partner communities, and the communities pay Ingham County Drain Commission who acts as the collecting agency for the Board. Supervisor Galardi, recalling past drain assessments, noted that it was always the intent to assess those who directly benefit from the drain and spare those property owners that do not. Trustee Seeger noted that there typically is a small "at-large" payment as residents who drive through the district do benefit from the drain. Clerk Cramton offered that while he has collected a list of property owner concerns, the on-site review with the drain commission has not yet occurred. Treasurer Stump summarized a meeting she had with five members of the Ingham County Drain Commission and noted that the philosophies of the partner communities are inconsistent; some communities assess the property owners, some communities pay the board 100% at-large. Clerk Cramton explained the possible logistical steps involved with the creation of the drainage district and assessment of the maintenance costs. He also questions if a property owner complaint over benefit, if found to be valid, is

it paid at-large or does it get distributed amongst the assessed district? Trustee Smith offered a possibility of using 425 funds to cover a portion of the cost as it is infrastructure capital improvement. Trustee Ross agrees that the use of 425 funds would be proper. Supervisor Galardi is concerned with the use of 425 funds as it may set a precedent that will be difficult to move away from in the future. The Board generally feels that an at-large payment is unfair to the Township residents that don't directly benefit from the drain and goes against a well-established history of district assessments.

**Fedewa moved, Seeger seconded, to establish, per resolution, a special assessment district, notice and hold a public hearing, and levy a special assessment for residents served by the Remy-Chandler Drain, for the purpose of collecting funds for the Remy-Chandler Intercounty Drain Long Term Maintenance Note.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fire Inspector Hire**

Chief DeKorte and Manager Dymczyk conducted interviews on April 6th for the position of Fire Inspector. They recommend the hiring of Mr. Jonathan Braska for the position of full-time Fire Inspector in the Fire Department.

Mr. Braska is a current member of the Fire Department and would not require a preemployment physical.

**Fedewa moved, Seeger seconded, to approve the hiring of Jonathan Braska at Grade 4, Step 6 of the Classification and Wage Scale, for the position of full time Fire Inspector in the Fire Department.**

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**Dump Trailer Budget Adjustment**

The Township has received notice that the long-serving grave opener is ramping down their business. Their intention is to continue to do the earthwork required but the hauling of the overburden from grave openings will stop. The Township maintenance staff currently has a small 20-year-old dump trailer that is not optimal for the proposed new workflow. After discussions with Maintenance Supervisor Moody and Clerk Cramton, the Manager's Office would recommend the purchase of the Sure-Trac dump trailer from US 27 Motorsports & Trailers in an amount not to exceed \$11,880.

The recommended trailer has a larger lift capacity and greater axle weight capacity than the lowest bid received. It is believed that these specifications will better support the 3-4-yards hauling required for openings, as well as the other long-term needs of providing grave services.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Price</u>
Adado Trailer Sales & Service, Inc.	\$8,770
US 27 Motorsports & Trailers	\$11,880
Becks Trailer Superstore & Service Center	\$12,605

**Galardi moved, Smith seconded, the following actions:**

- 1. Authorize the Manager's Office to execute an agreement with US 27 Motorsports & Trailers in an amount not to exceed \$11,880 for the purpose of purchasing a Sure-Trac dump trailer.**
- 2. Approve the following budget adjustments to the 2023 Budget:**

<b>\$11,880</b>	<b>To: 101-265-977-000</b>	<b>From: 101-000-390-000</b>
	<b>Physical Plant Cap Expenditures</b>	<b>General Fund Balance</b>

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

**NAYS: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**Motion carried.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC,  
STAFF, & BOARD  
COMMENTS

Brian Hurtekant, 4147 Keepsake Ln., inquired if the Board felt that they were receiving enough communication from Clinton County Commissioner Ken Mitchell. Supervisor Galardi responded that Commissioner Mitchell frequently attends Board meetings and there are no complaints from the Board about his level of communication.

Fire Chief Dave DeKorte informed the Board that the Fire Department received 148 calls for service in the month of March. The Department responded to a mutual-aid call today. He also updated the Board on the complete outfitting of the new F150 Lightning electric emergency response vehicle and invited the Board to review it after the meeting.

Police Chief Merony reports that illegal narcotics arrests are increasing, and updated the Board on a recent pursuit with a successful deployment of stop sticks. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests are, likewise, increasing in number, and the newly installed body and vehicle cameras will add to the workload of FOIA response.

Manager Dymczyk offered updates on the following:

- MS4 reporting
- Building Department workflows
- Step 3 Grievance
- Sanitary Sewer Master Plan draft review
- SCCMUA ad-hoc meeting
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows with recent weather events
- SCCMUA plant enhancements meeting

Trustee Fedewa inquired if the Townships financial status is secure in light of recent global banking concerns. Treasurer Stump responded that the Townships funds are divided appropriately, and the banks holding the funds have been extremely proactive and responsive to any concerns.

Clerk Cramton presented that the AARP Tax-aide program is reaching its natural conclusion having prepared over 295 returns for residents for free. The annual Clean Sweep program with Granger is underway with many residents seeking vouchers to haul their refuse. Lastly, there is a Solid Waste Planning Committee Meeting at Clinton County on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT      **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn 8:58 PM.**

**Motion voted and carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Cramton, Clerk



Rick Galardi, Supervisor