

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Via Zoom  
February 16, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Monroe Charter Township was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, via Zoom from the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Barton, Trustees Manor, Howe, Janssens, Raymo.

**Others Present:** Chief Cherney, Attorney Patricia McCormick and nine (9) attendees.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021)**

**Motion #1.** Motion by Howe, supported by Manor to approve and place on file the regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2021, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Manor yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.

**Motion carried.**

**APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/INVOICES**

**Motion #2.** Motion by Raymo, supported by Howe to approve payment of bills/invoices as listed by the Clerk, as presented.

Roll call vote: Raymo yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.

**Motion carried.**

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

**Planning Commission report for the month of January 2021.**

**Motion #3.** Motion by Janssens, supported by Raymo to accept the Planning Commission report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

Roll call vote: Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Smith yes, Barton yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Barron yes.

**Motion carried.**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**Fire Department report on the fire runs for the month of January 2021.**

**Motion #4.** Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to accept and place on file the January 2021 Fire Department report, as presented.

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT (Con't)**

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Consider purchase of battery operated tools for the Fire Department. Monroe Charter Township Fire Department to pay half of the purchase (\$3,573.47) and the other half to be paid by the Fire Department Association.**

**Motion #5.** Motion by Barton, supported by Manor to approve the purchase of battery operated tools for the Fire Department. Monroe Charter Township Fire Department to pay half of the purchase (\$3,573.47) and the other half to be paid by the Fire Department Association, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Manor yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Smith yes, Barron yes. **Motion carried.**

**Consider purchase of a second Lucas Automatic CPR machine, cost between \$15,000.00 - \$16,000.00.**

**Motion #6.** Motion by Smith, supported by Janssens to approve the purchase of a second Lucas Automatic CPR machine, cost between \$15,000.00 - \$16,000.00, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Janssens yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**Sheriff Department Report on police activity for the month of January 2021.**

**Motion #7.** Motion by Manor, supported by Janssens to accept and place on file the January 2021 Sheriff Department Report, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Presentation by Monroe County Sheriff Department on staffing proposal.**

**Motion #8.** Motion by Barton, supported by Raymo to accept and place on file the Monroe County Sheriff Department staffing proposal, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Financial Reports:**

1. Clerk's 2021 Budget Summary Report, period ending January 31, 2021.
2. Treasurer's Monthly Statement of Bank Accounts & Investments, period ending January 31, 2021.

**General Reports:**

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**CONSENT AGENDA (Con't)**

1. Supervisor.
2. Building Official.
3. Blight Report
4. Fire Chief.
5. Sheriff.

**Communications:**

1. Correspondence from Comcast dated 1-27-2021; Re: Expansion of Lift Zones program.
2. Correspondence from Comcast dated 1-29-21; Re: Programming Advisory.

**Motion #9.** Motion by Janssens, supported by Barton to accept the Consent Agenda and place on file, as presented.

Roll call vote: Janssens yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**PLAT EXTENSION**

**Consider approving a 1-year extension of Final Preliminary Plat for Canterbury Farms Phase Three.**

**Motion #10.** Motion by Barton, supported by Smith to approve a 1-year extension of Final Preliminary Plat for Canterbury Farms Phase Three, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Smith yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Adopt Resolution 21-02, set Poverty Exemption Guidelines.**

**Motion #11.** Motion by Smith, supported by Barton to adopt Resolution 21-02, set Poverty Exemption Guidelines, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Barton yes, Raymo yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Appoint Steve Evans to Planning Commission, as recommended by Supervisor.**

**Motion #12.** Motion by Smith, supported by Janssens to approve appointment of Steve Evans to Planning Commission, as recommended by Supervisor, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Janssens yes, Barton yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**NEW BUSINESS (Con't)**

**Set Spring Clean-up Day for Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Fall Clean-up Day for Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Township Nature Center Parking Lot location using Steven's Disposal as the waste hauler.**

**Motion #13.** Motion by Howe, supported by Barton to set Spring Clean-up Day for Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Fall Clean-up Day for Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Township Nature Center Parking Lot location using Steven's Disposal as the waste hauler, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Barton yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Set Spring and Summer Household Hazardous Waste Days for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (document shredding as well) at the Township Nature Center Parking Lot. This program is funded by the County of Monroe.**

**Motion #14.** Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to Set Spring and Summer Household Hazardous Waste Days for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (document shredding as well) at the Township Nature Center Parking Lot. This program is funded by the County of Monroe, as presented.

Roll call vote: Smith yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Consider approving the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> of 2021 as "Free Building Permit" week in honor of Michigan Week.**

**Motion #15.** Motion by Barton, supported by Smith to approve the week of May 10th through 14th of 2021 as "Free Building Permit" week in honor of Michigan Week, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Smith yes, Manor yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Appoint Cheryl McLaughlin as the 2021 Custer Ball Director.**

**Motion #16.** Motion by Manor, supported by Smith to appoint Cheryl McLaughlin as the 2021 Custer Ball Director, as presented.

Roll call vote: Manor yes, Smith yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Barton yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Accept and place on file 2020 Planning Commission Annual Planning Report and 2021 Work Plan.**

**Motion #17.** Motion by Howe, supported by Smith to accept and place on file 2020 Planning Commission Annual Planning Report and 2021 Work Plan, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Smith yes, Raymo yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

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**NEW BUSINESS (Con't)**

**Approve McKenna Associates to review Master Plan at approximate cost of \$1,500.00, as recommended by the Planning Commission. This plan must be updated every five (5) years.**

**Motion #18.** Motion by Barton, supported by Manor to approve McKenna Associates to review Master Plan at approximate cost of \$1,500.00, as recommended by the Planning Commission, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Manor yes, Smith yes, Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Consider offering a traditional 457(b) compensation program for all Monroe Charter Township employees and Monroe Charter Township Fire Department full and part-time employees.**

**Motion #19.** Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to approve offering a traditional 457(b) compensation program for all Monroe Charter Township employees and Monroe Charter Township Fire Department full and part-time employees, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**Approve 2021 contracts with Monroe County Road Commission for the following projects:**

- a. Hull-Dunbar-LaPlaisance**
- b. Northfied Village/Woodside**
- c. Southgate Heights**
- d. Mortar Creek-M-125**

**Motion #20.** Motion by Barton, supported by Howe to approve 2021 contracts with Monroe County Road Commission, as presented.

Roll call vote: Barton yes, Howe yes, Raymo yes, Janssens yes, Manor yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.  
**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public and Board comments began at 8:04 p.m. Treasurer Barton mentioned that she would like to get the liquor license back into escrow that was approved for Davinder Sohi to open an event center.

Clerk Smith mentioned the new Monroe Charter Township webpage and that the web address is still the same [www.monroechartertownship.org](http://www.monroechartertownship.org). The calendar is being updated with meetings and will have links to Zoom meetings, as well as agendas.

David Swartout wanted to clarify what Trustee Howe had mentioned about the position of the Planning Commission regarding Marihuana businesses and would it be available for the Citizen's Advisory meeting on February 17, 2021? Trustee Howe made another comment about how many businesses were approved and I was under the impression that none were approved.

Supervisor Barron stated that the Committee doesn't approve anything, the committee is an advisory committee, and everything is approved first through the Planning Commission and then the Township Board.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Con't)**

Mr. Swartout also mentioned to Chief Cherney that there are grants available for the purchase of tools and different items that he may want to look for.

Chief Cherney responded that there were no grants available at the time for the purchase of the tools but that is something he is looking into for future purchases.

Katybeth Davis mentioned that she loves the new website, it's easy to use and mobile friendly. Invited the public to a panel that is being put on by MCCC called Symbols Of Racism & How To Heal in honor of Black History Month. She would like the Board to consider changing the name of Custer Ball. There is also a piece of property located at the corner of LaPlaisance Road and Dunbar that is currently up for sale that she would like to make a formal complaint on that is a blight due to overgrown weeds.

Wayne Blank brought up that a new committee person was appointed but wanted to know why it wasn't brought to the public. He also wanted to know why the same person is making the appointments and feels that we should broaden our horizons because there may be other people who are interested in being appointed. He also asked, who does the 457(b) benefit? He feels that it is a way to shelter \$19,500 from taxes.

Clerk Smith advised that this is a way for the Fire Department to offer incentives while maintaining a budget in order to staff the Fire Department. It is in no way funded by taxpayer money.

Chief Cherney feels that this is an incentive to all of his current and future staff.

Trustee Howe said that this is a great thing that will encourage everyone to invest in their future by offering this plan. It shows that we are looking out for our employees.

Matt Vanisacker commented that he also loves the new website.

Public comments ended at 8:21 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion #21.** Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.

**Motion carried.**



Christina Smith, Clerk  
Monroe Charter Township

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor  
Monroe Charter Township

