

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Board Workshop Minutes
April 9, 2026
5:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

A Board Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Manor at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026, in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Manor, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Sulfaro, Trustee's Heck and Merkle. Trustee Shipman arrived at 5:41 p.m.

Excused: Trustee Raymo

Others

Present: Chief Hernandez, Sheriff Goodnough, Captain Raymond and three (3) audience members.

Supervisor Manor reminded everyone that this is only a Workshop, not a Board Meeting; therefore, no Board actions can be taken today. The purpose is to discuss the Sheriff's presentation, OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits), Fire Department millage and open discussion on other topics. The notice was posted to the front and back doors of the Township Hall on 03/27/2025 and on the Township Website and Facebook on 03/26/2026.

SHERIFF'S PRESENTATION

The Sheriff and Captain Raymond presented a pilot program for Flock DFR, which utilizes drones for all first responders. This program aims to enhance the safety of both the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office.

The drones can reach a location within a 3.5-mile radius within minutes, providing real-time data to determine if additional personnel are needed or if responders can slow their approach, thereby increasing safety for civilians and staff. Key benefits include reduced response times and support for search and rescue, SWAT operations, and evidence collection. Please note that the technology will not be used for surveillance without a warrant.

The Sheriff is requesting that Monroe Charter Township allow two drones to be launched from Township Hall. He has committed to educating the public for transparency through a public portal and providing training to the Fire Department on all necessary procedures.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE

Chief Hernandez presented the Board with proposed wording for a millage request and explained why a renewal is not feasible at this time.

The subsequent discussion focused on the following key areas:

- Addressing aging equipment.
- The addition to or replacement of Station #2 on LaPlaisance Rd.
- The potential construction of a new Station #3.
- Enhanced training programs to ensure the safety of our firefighters.

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD WORKSHOP

MINUTES

April 9, 2026

FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE (con't)

- Eventually moving towards shift-work

-Contract for all new applicants requiring a multiple-year commitment or education investment must be repaid.

OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits)

Treasurer Sulfaro presented a proposal regarding post-employment health insurance retirement benefits for employees. The purpose of this discussion was to gauge the Board's interest in placing the proposal on a future agenda for formal legal review.

During the presentation, several concerns were raised, specifically regarding legacy costs and the potential financial impact on the Township if the Fire Department transitions from paid-on-call to shift-work as it would add quite a bit to the overall future budget.

OPEN DISCUSSION

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district has been proposed for the LaPlaisance Rd corridor to encourage future business growth in the area.

A TIF is a public financing method that allows municipalities to subsidize redevelopment, infrastructure, and community projects by capturing future tax revenue increases within a designated district.

A request was made to investigate .gov email addresses and website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments received regarding the usage of drones and surveillance. Additionally, there were comments concerning the previous and proposed millages specifically in relation to shift work.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.



Christina Smith, Clerk

Monroe Charter Township

Attested



John Manor, Supervisor.

Monroe Charter Township