

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
January 19, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Monroe Charter Township was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 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 Howe, Janssens, Raymo, Manor.

Others Present: Chief Cherney, Attorney Patricia McCormick and twenty four (24) attendees.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2020).

Motion #1. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to approve and place on file the regular meeting minutes of the December 22, 2020, as presented.

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

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/INVOICES

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Department report on the fire runs for the month of December 2020.

Motion #3. Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to accept and place on file the December 2020 Fire Department Report, as presented.

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

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Department Report on police activity for the month of December 2020.

Motion #4. Motion by Raymo, supported by Janssens to accept and place on file the December 2020 Sheriff Department Report, as presented.

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

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PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Trustee Manor advised that there was no Planning Commission meeting to report on but that the Marihuana Advisory Committee will be doing a walkthrough of Lume marihuana dispensary on January 27, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Reports:

1. Clerk's 2020 Budget Summary Report, period ending December 31, 2020.
2. Treasurer's Monthly Statement of Bank Accounts & Investments, period ending December 31, 2020.

General Reports:

1. Supervisor.
2. Building Official.
3. Blight Report.

Communications:

1. Comcast Communications correspondence dated December 17, 2020.
2. Charter Communications dated January 4, 2021.

Motion #5. Motion by Manor, supported by Raymo to accept the Consent Agenda and place on file, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #21-01, Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to establish and maintain a Cadet Program within the Monroe Charter Township Fire Department, comprised of individuals from 14-18 years of age.

Motion #6. Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to adopt Resolution #21-01, Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to establish and maintain a Cadet Program within the Monroe Charter Township Fire Department, comprised of individuals from 14-18 years of age, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barton yes, Smith yes, Barron yes.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider purchase of Pierce Manufacturing Velocity Chassis 100 foot mid mount platform, for a total cost of \$1,447,564.00. At this time approve payment of Chassis only, for a cost of \$466,897.00.

Motion #7. Motion by Manor, supported by Raymo to approve purchase of Pierce Manufacturing Velocity Chassis 100 foot mid mount platform, for a total cost of \$1,447,564.00. At this time approve payment of Chassis only, for a cost of \$466,897.00, as presented.

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NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

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

Consider purchase of new sound system and digital recording system for the Board Room. (Tabled from December's meeting)

Motion #8. Motion by Barton, supported by Janssens to approve purchase of new sound system and digital recording system for the Board Room, as presented.

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

Approve payment of \$100.00 annual dues to River Raisin Watershed Council, (Richard Janssens is our delegate).

Motion # 9. Motion by Barton, supported by Janssens to approve payment of \$100.00 annual dues to River Raisin Watershed Council, as presented.

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

Adopt revision to Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, as required by MIOSHA.

Motion #10. Motion by Manor, supported by Raymo to adopt revision to Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, as required by MIOSHA, as presented.

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

Authorize payment of 2021 Annual membership dues to SEMCOG in the amount of \$1,662.00.

Motion #11. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to authorize payment of 2021 Annual membership dues to SEMCOG in the amount of \$1,662.00, as presented.

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

Authorize payment of 1st quarter 2021 service agreement to Monroe County Business Development Corporation in the amount of \$750.00.

Motion #12. Motion by Smith, supported by Janssens to authorize payment of 1st quarter 2021 service agreement to Monroe County Business Development Corporation in the amount of \$750.00, as presented.

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

Authorize Supervisor and Clerk to sign 2021 Monroe Charter Township Firefighters Agreement.

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NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

Motion #13. Motion by Barton, supported by Manor to authorize Supervisor and Clerk to sign 2021 Monroe Charter Township Firefighters Agreement, as presented.

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

Authorize Supervisor and Clerk to sign Lake Erie Transit Agreement for bus service to be provided to the township for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$31,854.00.

Motion #14. Motion by Manor, supported by Barton to Authorize Supervisor and Clerk to sign Lake Erie Transit Agreement for bus service to be provided to the township for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$31,854.00, as presented.

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

Consider forbearance pursuing default against Nazar Holdings for 14 days in order to negotiate a six-month extension with Nazar Holdings that would extend their loan payment to Monroe Charter Township that was due on January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021, on terms to be negotiated by the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer but to include (1) payment in full by July 1, 2021; and (2) interest at a minimum of 5% not to exceed 7%.

Motion #15. Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to approve a forbearance pursuing default against Nazar Holdings for 14 days in order to negotiate a six-month extension with Nazar Holdings that would extend their loan payment to Monroe Charter Township that was due on January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021, on terms to be negotiated by the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer but to include (1) payment in full by July 1, 2021; and (2) interest at a minimum of 5% not to exceed 7%, as presented.

Roll call vote: Howe yes, Janssens yes, Raymo yes, Manor yes, Barton no, Smith yes, Barron yes.
Motion carried.

Present end of year 2020 Budget adjustments, as approved on November 17, 2020.

Motion #16. Motion by Raymo, supported by Janssens to approve presented end of year 2020 Budget adjustments, as approved on November 17, 2020, as presented.

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

Approve office closure on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, for School Election.

Motion #17. Motion by Smith, supported by Howe to approve office closure on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, for School Election, as presented.

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

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PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

Public and Board comments began at 7:41 p.m. Wayne Blank, 5019 Skylark - asked what the cost of the new sound system would be. Clerk Smith responded that we would not be purchasing a camera so that will adjust the initial quotes however the cost was \$4,095.00 and that we may need a new computer if the extra ones we have won't work. He also asked if the Township does drug testing on employees. Supervisor Barron stated we do not however we do have a drug and alcohol policy in place for all Township employees. Chief Cherney also confirmed that the Fire Department does not do random drug testing.

Harrison Carter, 4888 Mortar Creek Road - has been observing meeting minutes and speaking with family and residents on the marihuana issue over that last few meetings. He stated it is easy to follow what is going on within the Township, on the Township website. I am here in support of marihuana business within the Township. I find that there is a double standard within the coalition that was formed to fight the implementation of a strategic plan that would allow the companies and businesses to open that would drive commerce into the Township and the City of Monroe. We've seen the effects of a 10% excise tax and the 6% sales tax that are applied to all new marihuana business. Those tax monies are earmarked to go to the state general fund which supports specific projects for schools, roads and of course townships and other municipalities. The coalition has called the implementation of the marihuana ordinance a disenfranchisement of Monroe Township residents, while also citing the need for a community survey to gather opinions. Survey will bring out opinion on the issue, the voices of Monroe Township resident were brought out in another survey. This survey was brought about on November 4, 2018 during the General Election where any qualified voter could voice their opinion. Proposal 1 passed with majority approval from Township residents, City residents and County residents as a whole. I respect the need for open dialogue on marihuana and other issues within the township in the exact forum we are in tonight to bring forth civility while also respecting the will of our great democracy and the votes that were heard in 2018. The double standard I referenced earlier regarding the coalition formed against the nullified marihuana ordinance and any future ordinances that were to be brought forth by this body. Where was the coalition for the approval of 9 on premises liquor licenses that have been issued? The 15 off premises liquor licenses that have been issued? The coalition for the 15 pharmacies that aided in the opioid epidemic? The coalition for the 4 methadone clinics? The coalition for the ketamine clinic in the city? We must work together and continue the work the township board is continuing in advancing the will of Monroe Township, the City of Monroe and Monroe County residents in finding a best fit solution moving forward to allow marihuana businesses to operate within the Township. Any other action is a true disenfranchisement of Monroe Township residents.

Deputy Danny Greenwood introduced himself to the board and gave the Sheriff Report.

Katybeth Davis, 15277 LaPlaisance Road - I want to thank everyone for what they do. I know it is hard times right now to be in office. I want to bring up the Cannabis Prohibition Coalition that I caught wind of today. I saw in the Monroe News that Stephen McNew was quoted as saying, "It's an industry that continuously needs new users to stay in business". Where are those users coming from? Not sure if anyone is aware or not but a person named God put this weed here on earth and I don't know if any of you have lived through the 60's or 70's but weed has been around for a long time and a lot of people have been smoking it. It hasn't gone anywhere. Instead of working together they've suggested a voter referendum. It's reminding me of a certain group that's questioning the legitimacy of the election. Monroe Township, we voted on it the people spoke and just because a group of people don't like the results of a certain election does not give you the right to try to overturn it. When we formed the Citizen's Advisory Board it was made so that we were supposed to work together. How does it make it any easier to reach across the aisle when you find out that there is a group that is working against you and it's in a

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PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS (Con't)

negative way when you know it's what a majority of the people in the Township voted for? There is another group that anyone can check out its Monroe for Marijuana. Currently there are 400 members and over half of them reside in Monroe Charter Township.

Kurt Darrow, 5457 Teakwood Drive - I want conversations to be factual and legal. Conversation continue that in 2018 that Monroe Charter Township voted for 25 marihuana operations to be in the Township and that is not true. The State of Michigan and Monroe Township voted to legalize recreational marihuana. There was nothing in that vote that said anything about how, where or when the establishments would be approved for the sale of it. They are two different things and dialogue keeps on saying that the Township voted for using marihuana. We're not challenging the state law. The question is how many should, could, would be approved. Number two, the original ordinance was not a legal ordinance. Al submitted it publicly that it was not properly vetted and that is a problem for our committee. At the last meeting when the committee was put together we put a moratorium for six months on how this process would evolve and that there would be a lot of discussion, a lot of input from everybody. We come back from the holidays and a new number has been set up on the written proposal that came out of the Township office that we want to consider 25 facilities in our small township. That is the real facts.

Banty Hill, 5488 Raven Parkway - use facts and science when making a decisions that can potentially impact people's lives.

Jerry Oley, Monroe Charter Township Resident – Looks like Monroe News article was read. It looks like when the sub-committee was formed that it is completely unbalanced.

Supervisor Barron stated that it is not true he has three individuals each that are for, neutral and against Marihuana.

Jerry Oley – When I see people on a committee that aren't residents of the township I feel like they don't have an opinion on the matter. You have eluded in the past that there is an agreement can you please elaborate on what that is?

Patricia McCormick, Monroe Charter Township Attorney – We accepted applications before the moratorium was in place. That is what I'm familiar with.

Jerry Oley – Mr Barron eluded to the fact that there were agreements with individuals. I don't know the name of the agreement. What are these agreements?

Attorney McCormick – I'm not sure what you're referring to.

Supervisor Barron – I think he's referring to the agreement when the ordinance was deemed illegal because of that technicality. Some of those people were already approved said yes we will wait even though legally they can open once they had all their state approvals.

Jerry Oley – Did the Township sign any?

Supervisor Barron – I don't know if they were signed. Kim (Fortner) would have that information.

Jerry Oley – It's been brought up a few times and I think the public has the right to know.

Attorney McCormick – The purpose was to put in place some perimeter's which the approved marihuana businesses would be governed. What happened when the ordinance was deemed invalid there was really no ordinance governing the use or opening of marihuana businesses. Cooperation with those businesses

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we tried to put the same governance in place so that the applicants would in fact comply with the limitations in the proposed ordinance.

Jerry Oley – Do you know the name of that agreement? I can't make a FOIA request without it.

Supervisor Barron – If you email me the agreement, I'll know what you're asking for.

Jerry Oley – I'd like to bring up one more item regarding the committee. If we're really trying to work together there should be open dialogue, you can't encourage that and have comments at the end.

Tony Cusumano, 5339 Aimy Drive – I own Giuseppe's Pizza I have been around a lot of people but I have a question for Jerry Oley. What is your major concern with this other than the possibility of too many businesses opening up? The revenue that these businesses bring in, will in turn bring more business in to our community. There are so many vacant buildings already and now you're complaining that businesses want to come in and fill those spots, do renovations, clean up the neighborhood. These people are not going to be smoking weed outside. There is nothing worse than the ketamine place, the methadone clinics. I know more about methadone than anyone on here. There has not been one police officer that has had to use Narcan on an individual because of marihuana. Jerry Oley is not trying to work together and I am a part of the community that is for this.

Supervisor Barron – Marihuana is not on the agenda tonight so there really is no reason to discuss it tonight. Nothing will be becoming before the Board until it has gone to the Planning Commission first.

David Swartout – I think there is a lot of hearsay about things and Jerry is trying to pinpoint some of the issues that weren't done right. I brought up some issues about distancing College of Beauty and things. It was agreed that something would go into that China Express it's within the distancing just like Monroe County Community College.

Vicky Loveland – We were given a proposal and we do understand that it was a proposal but the number 25 was put in there. I guess I should've questioned that as part of the committee. We do know that 6 businesses were approved and that there are 8 more on the map. The concern I have is Monroe Township is not that big and you're looking in a 5 mile radius 14 marihuana businesses and I think our group has been clear. We know that marihuana is legal but we do want to make sure this is done the correct way, in a way that can be safe for everybody. I live in a subdivision and if I pull out there will be 4 businesses in a 1/2 mile radius.

Katybeth Davis - Can we get the website updated? And with the Citizens Advisory Board I have 2 recommendations. One we should figure out what we're deciding on. If it's just a number to cap and the distance and that's it. And if we were to open up the chats during that meeting so that the public can be involved or if they have questions or want to say something in the chat, it can be addressed sometime throughout the meeting. That may be a solution if people want to be more involved in the process. Also the property between Hull Road and LaPlaisance Road has just gone up for sale has anyone done an evaluation on them to be maintenance?

Supervisor Barron – I can find that out for you. Send me an email with the address. As far as the website goes we are working on having a new one designed.

Public and Board Comments ended at 8:24 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion #18. Motion by Howe, supported by Janssens to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 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