

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Board Workshop Minutes  
April 2, 2024  
6:00 p.m**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Board Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 6 00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

**Present:** Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Trustees Manor, Raymo and Howe.

**Excused:** Treasurer Barton and Trustee Janssens

**Others**

**Present:** Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro, Chief Cherney, Fire Inspector Schmitt and six (6) audience members.

Supervisor Barron 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 proposed 2024 Budget Amendments, ARPA Fund Report/Projects, Marihuana Funds/Projects, Fire Hydrants and Blight. The notice was posted to the front and back doors, the Township website and Facebook on March 25, 2024.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

There are no changes to the overall budget for the individual departments only amendments to move budgeted expense lines from within respective Departments.

**ARPA FUNDS/PROJECTS**

ARPA Funds have been allocated for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. This is a restricted fund that if not used, the Township will lose the money. The remaining ARPA Funds to be used is \$1,018,578.01 of which \$750,000 is the maximum that can be used in any given year and must be spent no later than December 31, 2026. Funds being expended are repairs to Fire Station #2 on LaPlaisance Road, a new Police vehicle for the third contract Sheriff Deputy that will also be paid using ARPA Funds. The Township also purchased a speed trailer to assist the Sheriff in areas of concern.

**MARIHUANA FUNDS/PROJECTS**

The Township Hall addition was discussed as a potential use, as well as a Parks and Recreation project to add tennis courts, basketball court, gaga ball court and cornhole boards, as well as repaving Barron's Way and the Nature Trail. Fire Station #3 could also use a restroom, showers and hot water.

The law does not allow for the Township to refund any of the Marihuana Excise Tax funds back to the residents it must be used in services. A suggestion was made to allow for a survey to gauge what the residents would like to see done within our community. It was also mentioned that the Township use the ARPA Funds first since that has a time frame associated with it.

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Merkle suggested using the funds towards beautification on South Dixie Highway in order to make it feel like a downtown district.

**FIRE HYDRANTS**

Fire Inspector Schmitt reviewed his conservative yet critical recommendation's for adding and eliminating certain fire hydrants within the Township. There are neighborhoods where there aren't enough and it is cost effective to do these necessary changes for the safety of our residents while the watermains are being replaced by the city.

**BLIGHT**

A Full-time Blight Officer was recommended. We currently have a part-time Blight Officer that currently responds to complaints after hours. A full-time Blight Officer would be available during business hours to answer resident complaints as well as actively be able to look for blight throughout the Township.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chief Cherney expressed his agreement with Fire Inspector Schmitt's assessment of the need for additional fire hydrants. He also notified the Board of an issue where there is lack of drainage at the corner of Albain Road and South Dixie Highway.

Larry Merkle suggested looking into getting the parcel back from the County that is on Herr Road to build a new fire station #3 that would leave the pole barn behind the Township Hall for the maintenance department.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.



Christina Smith, Clerk  
Monroe Charter Township

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor  
Monroe Charter Township