

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
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, January 17, 2023 from the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Barton, Trustee's Howe, Manor and Raymo.

Excused: Trustee Janssens

Others Present: Chief Cherney, Attorney McCormick and twenty-four (24) audience members.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2022)

Motion #1. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2022, as presented.

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

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/INVOICES

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Motion #3. Motion by Raymo, supported by Manor to accept and place on file the Fire Department Report for the month of December 2022, as presented.

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

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT

Motion #4. Motion by Howe, supported by Smith to accept and place on file the Sheriff Department Report for the month of December 2022, as presented.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Reports:

1. Clerk's 2023 Budget Summary Report, period ending December 31, 2022.
2. Treasurer's Monthly Statement of Bank Accounts & Investments, period ending December 31, 2022.

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CONSENT AGENDA (con't)

General Reports:

1. Supervisor
2. Building Official
3. Blight Report
4. Zoning Enforcement Officer

Communications:

1. Correspondence from Comcast Communications dated 12-15-2022; Re: upcoming channel changes.
2. Correspondence from Charter Communications dated 12-16-2022; Re: upcoming changes.
3. Correspondence from Charter Communications dated 12-21-2022; Re: upcoming changes.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Adopt Resolution #23-01, recommending revocation of Class "C" Liquor License for River Raisin Event Center Corp at 14750 LaPlaisance Road, St. H110-140, Monroe, MI 48161, Liquor License Request I.D. #810856 issued under MCL 436.1531.

Motion #6. Motion by Barton, supported by Howe to adopt Resolution #23-01, recommending revocation of Class "C" Liquor License for River Raisin Event Center Corp at 14750 LaPlaisance Road, St. H110-140, Monroe, MI 48161, Liquor License Request I.D. #810856 issued under MCL 436.1531, as presented.

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

Adopt Resolution #23-02, set Poverty Guidelines and repeal Resolution #22-01.

Motion #7. Motion by Smith, supported by Raymo to adopt Resolution #23-02, set Poverty Guidelines and repeal Resolution #22-01, as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approve 2023 Membership dues to the River Raisin Watershed Council in the amount of \$100.00.

Motion #8. Motion by Manor, supported by Smith to approve 2023 Membership dues to the River Raisin Watershed Council in the amount of \$100.00, as presented.

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

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NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Approve renewing contract with Quadiant and purchase new machine.

Motion # 9. Motion by Barton, supported by Smith to approve renewing contract with Quadiant and purchase new machine, as presented.

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

Consider quote with Penchura for \$247,362.00 for Township Park Project using ARPA Funds.

Motion #10. Motion by Smith, supported by Manor to consider quote with Penchura for \$247,362.00 for Township Park Project using ARPA Funds, as presented.

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

Approve contract from Calkins, Hehl and Rafko for conducting the audit for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Motion #11. Motion by Barton, supported by Smith to approve contract from Calkins, Hehl and Rafko for conducting the audit for the year ending December 31, 2022, as presented.

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

Consider annual support renewal in the amount of \$498.00 for Soniclear digital recording software.

Motion #12. Motion by Manor, supported by Howe to consider annual support renewal in the amount of \$498.00 for Soniclear digital recording software, as presented.

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

Approve sale of 2005 Chevy Silverado Regular Cab Truck (building department truck) to Eric Kronk for \$500.00 (only bid submitted).

Motion #13. Motion by Howe, supported by Manor to Approve sale of 2005 Chevy Silverado Regular Cab Truck (building department truck) to Eric Kronk for \$500.00, as presented.

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

Accept and place on file 90 Day Progress Report for Quality Roots DBA Buddi (as required by Township Board's approval on October 18, 2022 for one-year extension to become a state licensee at 1235 S. Monroe Street until November 7, 2023).

Motion #14. Motion by Barton, supported by Raymo to accept and place on file 90 Day Progress Report for Quality Roots DBA Buddi, as presented.

Comments: Attorney for Quality Roots and CFO Michael Klar announced that they were present to answer any questions that the Board may have. They also stated that they had a bid for demolition.

The Board inquired on when a contract would be in place for demolition, on why the performance bond wasn't paid sooner, and why there has been a lack of progress made at the location? They also asked when progress will begin at the location?

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

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NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Re-consider request of BRT Capital 3 LLC (due to new management agreement with NU Group LLC) to extend the November 3, 2022 deadline to obtain a State of Michigan license for a marihuana adult use retailer at 15530 S. Telegraph Road for an additional year, or until November 3, 2023.

Motion #15. Motion by Barton, supported by Manor to re-consider request of BRT Capital 3 LLC (due to new management agreement with NU Group LLC) to extend the November 3, 2022 deadline to obtain a State of Michigan license for a marihuana adult use retailer at 15530 S. Telegraph Road for an additional year, or until November 3, 2023, as presented.

Comments: Attorney Ermal Mandija advised the Board that there have been some changes since the extension was last considered. The property transfer affidavit shows the purchase of 15530 S. Telegraph Road which was missing from the last meeting. Admittedly BRT had a lack of responsibility and disrespect towards the process. They did not attend Planning Commission Meetings and took way too long to provide reviews which is why it took until August 2022 for the site plan to be approved. Mr. Mandija stated that we are not BRT, we are NU Group. Nu Group has quickly completed a location on LaPlaisance Rd. and became licensed. He also stated that he had a \$100,000 check available upon approval as a performance bond.

Architect advised the Board that he has been retained to complete the project and assured the Board that it would be moving quickly.

There were comments from Managers and Employees attesting to where they began in the company and the promotion they've gotten from within.

Cherie Cherney owner of the Monroe Escape Rooms informed the Board of the assistance she received from the business as a result of broken pipes in her unit. She also spoke about the increased beautification in the landscaping on LaPlaisance Rd. as a result of these new businesses.

Chris Harter spoke about his involvement and how they want to change the area. He also provided statistics comparing the amount of revenue marijuana retailers bring to the Township as opposed to what Cabelas brings to Dundee or how much the County sees in annual liquor sales revenue. He also mentioned the impact that the excise tax will bring to the Township and County.

Mr. Mandija reiterated that they will get the project done on time.

Trustee Howe stated that they have been good neighbors and have brought up valid points and the additional revenue but this is not the Boards only decision. We are not only looking at what we are doing in our community but we also have zoning laws. The current property was Grandfathered in and it is currently expired and is currently a non-conforming property. When the ordinance was written we were looking at what the residents were asking.

Trustee Raymo stated that he agreed with Trustee Howe.

Attorney McCormick advised the Board that the Township did receive a notice of appeal and were granted an extension to respond and will likely be in active litigation after this vote.

Mr. Mandija stated that the Special Land Use has not been revoked by the Planning Commission and that BRT is still the applicant and Nu Group is managing.

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NEW BUSINESS (con't)

Monroe Township Resident spoke against the approval of a marijuana business at that location. Resident also stated that this intersection is the worst intersection in the Township and has been even before these businesses have gone in. Making an exception now will cause the Board to make additional exceptions and is violating the ordinance. It is not good for the Township.

Roll call vote: Barton no, Manor yes, Howe no, Raymo no, Smith no, Barron yes. **Motion denied.**

Consider proposal from Florence Buchanan regarding appointment to SEMCOG as a non-voting member representing Monroe Charter Township's Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee.

Motion #16. Motion by Raymo, supported by Manor to table the proposal from Florence Buchanan regarding appointment to SEMCOG as a non-voting member representing Monroe Charter Township's Pedestrian/Bike/Trail Committee, as presented.

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

Accept and place on file end of year 2022 Budget Amendments.

Motion #17. Motion by Barton, supported by Smith to accept and place on file end of year 2022 Budget Amendments, as presented.

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

Authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign 2023 contract with Lake Erie Transit Commission in the amount of \$32,172.54.

Motion #18. Motion by Manor, supported by Smith to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign 2023 contract with Lake Erie Transit Commission in the amount of \$32,172.54, as presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments began at 8:15 p.m. and ended at 8:18 p.m.

There was 1 comment regarding turnout gear for the firefighters.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #19. Motion by Smith, supported by Manor to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

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



Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township