

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MONITOR
SPECIALTOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2020

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Members present: Kowalski, Pike, Reder, Walsh
Members present by conference call: Malkin, Brandt, Kochany
Also present: Chief J. Kramer

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible cancellation of the March 23, 2020 regular meeting and items of township business that need to be addressed in the event the meeting is cancelled.

Chief Kramer explained the township has been receiving all directives regarding the COVID-19 virus from the Governor, the CDC and Bay County Health Department Officer J. Strasz and Medical Director Dr. B. Blaker.

Chief Kramer encouraged all board members to disregard all the misinformation placed on Facebook and other Social media sites and to instead get the information direct from the Bay County Health Department website.

Kramer explained his department and the administrative officials are being diligent to stay informed during these changing and challenging times and to maintain compliance to all directives. Kramer stated the main reason for the reduction in public gatherings, closure of schools, bars and restaurants and required 6 ft. separation between individuals is to slow down the spread of the virus. Because there is no cure or vaccine for the COVID-19 virus, slowing down the spread is essential to limit overwhelming of the medical community, hospitals and emergency rooms.

One problem that all health and emergency responders are facing is the shortage of masks and other medical supplies due to public panic.

Chief Kramer explained the steps the fire department is taking to deal with the additional measures they need to take to run the department and reduce the chance for exposure. The fire department follows all safety measures mandated from the Bay County Health Department at this time. Kramer stated the General Manager from Meijer should be commended for going above and beyond for reaching out to keep the fire department supplied with disinfectant and hand sanitizer.

Chief Kramer stated he foresees the restrictions for the closure of schools and businesses could continue till mid-June. The mandates from the Health Department, Governor and CDC are constantly changing and will work to keep the board informed.

Chief Kramer reported foot traffic to the fire department has been light and has had only 4 people come into the station. Foot traffic to the township office has also been minimal.

The main issue that needs to be stressed is to not panic.

Cancellation of March 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

Board members had expressed concern regarding limiting public exposure to the COVID-19 virus even with the measures to hold the township board meeting in the township hall and maintain the 6 ft. separation.

Motion by Brandt supported by Reder to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 and reinstate the original April 27, 2020 meeting date that had previously been cancelled.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Malkin, Kowalski, Pike, Brandt, Kochany, Reder, Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

2019 Budget Adjustments

Motion by Malkin supported by Brandt to authorize the Clerk to make any and all 2019 budget adjustments necessary in preparation for the 2019 audit.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Malkin, Kowalski, Pike, Brandt, Kochany, Reder, Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Payment of Township Bills during State of Emergency

Motion by Malkin supported by Reder to authorize the Clerk's office to pay all bills during the state of emergency.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Malkin, Kowalski, Pike, Brandt, Kochany, Reder, Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Authorization to Purchase Washer/Dryer for Fire Department

Chief Kramer stated he would like to implement a S.O.P to require all full-time fire department personnel to change from street clothes to uniforms at the beginning of their shift and change again at the end of their shift and to have all uniforms laundered on the premises. The reason for this is to avoid possible exposure of virus contaminates.

Chief Kramer stated the washer and dryer for the turnout gear cannot be used for clothing and asked the board for authorization to purchase a residential washer and dryer to serve this purpose.

Motion by Reder supported by Walsh to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase a washer and dryer to launder fire department uniforms on site.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Malkin, Kowalski, Pike, Brandt, Kochany, Reder, Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Cindy L. Kowalski, Clerk