



Richland Township Board – Regular Meeting

February 18, 2025 7:00 PM

7401 North 32nd Street, Richland, MI 49083

Supervisor Priest called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Supervisor Priest led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

Those present:

Trustee Bill Peter

Trustee Trey Eldridge

Clerk Art White

Supervisor Bear Priest

Treasurer Marsha Drouin

Trustee Andrew Woolf

Those absence: Trustee Wendzel

Also Present: Attorney Roxanne Seeber, Fire Chief Jerry Luedecking, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Doran, Firefighter Chad Wireman, Denise Wilcox Treasurer Alamo Township, Kevin Wilcox citizen.

Citizen Comment

Douglas Rampy addressed the Board regarding difficulties building a house. Supervisor Priest gave Mr. Rampy an application for Construction Board of Appeals.

Meeting Agenda

Treasurer Drouin moved, supported Trustee Peter to approve agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED; 6-0.

Advisory Committee & Department Report

1. Building & Grounds Report Chair Supervisor Priest: expecting brick work quotes for March meeting and working on quotes to design the Park/Fire Department building.
2. Cemetery Advisory Report Chair Clerk White discusses Spring Cleanup for April with Dave Turf works.
3. Communications Advisory Chair Treasurer Drouin Township post card printed mailing with assessment notices.
4. HR Advisory-Chair Trustee Eldridge Compensation and Staff Wages discussion 2025/2026 increases checking pricing on Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability Township provided benefit. Work space, future staffing needs, new timesheets for all staff, new Sick Time Law.
5. Parks Advisory Chair Wendzel, Supervisor Priest committed to having summer employment applications on the web site by end of week.
6. Roads Advisory Chair Drouin listed 2025/2026 Road projects to be added to end of March.
7. Fire Advisory Chair Wendzel-Supervisor Priest welcomed back Chief Luedecking from vacation, Deputy Fire Chief Doran reviewed January activities.
8. Ordinance Officer McCain- not present no report.



9. Planning & Zoning Planning Commission Chair Trustee Woolf updates Planning Commission Minutes January 22, 2025.
10. Clerk's Report: Clerk White received preliminary Election Fees for 2024 estimated \$7231 savings of \$6700 for early Voting.
11. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Drouin Assessments processing for mailing waiting on \$700,000 tax income out of \$20 Million Dollars.
12. Supervisor report: Supervisor Priest highlighted Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union Partner for shredding Township Cleanup Day. 7 New homes in 2025 compared to 2 New homes in 2024. Board of review March 4, 2025, 830am. With March 11 2pm to 9pm and March 13, 2025, 9am-4pm. New cubicles installed.

Consent Agenda

Treasurer Drouin moved, supported by Trustee Peter to approve the Consent Agenda February 18, 2025. Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025, January Financial Statement, Pay March 2025 bills and submitted February 2025 Invoices.

MOTION CARRIED; 6-0.

New Business

Gull Lake Little League Contract –

Treasurer Drouin moved, supported Trustee Eldridge to accept with the addition of an integrated clause.
MOTION CARRIED; 6-0.

Resolution (No. 25-02-06) Sanitary Sewer & Water Authority Rate Increase. Treasurer Drouin resolved supported Trustee Eldridge, adopt the Resolution 25-02-06 allowing appropriate fees, costs and require plans for growth financial responsibility from the Board for the residents as presented. The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 4-2.

AYES: **PRIEST, WHITE, DROUIN, ELDRIDGE**

NAYES: **PETER, WOOLF** _____

ABSENT: **WENDZEL** _____

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 4-2

Resolution (No. 25-02-07) Township Officers Salary April 1, 2025, thru March 31, 2026. Supervisor Priest resolved, supported by Clerk White, to adopt Res.# 25-02-07 to be resolved at a rate of \$172.18 per meeting.

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 4-2

AYES: **PRIEST, WHITE, DROUIN, ELDRIDGE**

NAYES: **PETER, WOOLF** _____

ABSENT: **WENDZEL** _____



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The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 4-2

Resolution (No. 25-02-08) Township Officers Salary Supervisor Trustee Eldridge resolved supported Trustee Peter to adopt Resolution 25-02-08 salary adjustment April 1, 2025.

AYES: PRIEST, WHITE, WOOLF, PETER, DROUIN, ELDRIDGE,

NAYES: NONE _____

ABSENT: WENDZEL, _____

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 6-0.

Resolution (No. 25-02-09) Township Officers Salary Treasurer Trustee Eldridge resolved, supported Trustee Peter to adopt Resolution 25-02-09 salary adjustment April 1, 2025.

AYES: WHITE, PRIEST, WOOLF ELDRIDGE, DROUIN, PETER,

NAYES: NONE _____

ABSENT: Wendzel _____

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 6-0.

Resolution (No. 25-02-10) Township Officers Salary Clerk Trustee Eldridge resolved, supported Trustee Peter to adopt Resolution 25-02-10 salary adjustment April 1, 2025.

AYES: PETER, ELDRIDGE, PRIEST, WOOLF, WHITE, DROUIN, ELDRIDGE, PRIEST

NAYES: NONE _____

ABSENT: WENDZEL _____

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted by Vote of 6-0.

Staff and Appointed Wages

Mast records original motion: Trustee Woolf moved, supported Supervisor Priest, to adopt recommended Staff salaries as presented. Trustee Woolf amended the motion with following changes: 1- remove additional office help. 2- change Hourly compensation for Assistant to Treasurer to \$23.00 per hour. 3-Adjust Level 5 Parks to \$19.00 per hour. Supported by Supervisor Priest agreed with the amendment.

MOTION CARRIED; 6-0.



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Public Budget Hearing Year End March 31, 2025

Motion to open Public Hearing January, 18, 2025

Trustee Eldridge motion to Open Public Budget Hearing at 8:44PM, supported Treasurer Drouin.

AYES: PETER, ELDRIDGE, PRIEST, WOOLF, WHITE, DROUIN, ELDRIDGE, PRIEST

NAYES: NONE _____

ABSENT: WENDZEL _____

The supervisor declared Public Budget Hearing Open by Vote of 6-0.

Open Public Budget Hearing 8:44 PM February 18, 2025

Review Budget 4/1/2024 to 3/31/2025 discuss New Budget 4/1/2025 to 3/31/2026. Clarification of budgets and adjustments per discussion. Road Projects, Parks department, IT systems support costs, Cemetery, Township operations, Elections, Fire Department, Grounds/maintenance, Signage at Township Hall, Utilities.

Review and seek public comment Deputy Chief Doran input on IT support for Fire Department.

Treasure Drouin moved, Supported Trustee Eldridge to close Public Budget Hearing, at 9:22 PM,

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Trustee Updates

Each Board Member had the opportunity to give updates to the community. Nothing to Report

Adjournment Supervisor Priest moved, supported Treasurer Drouin, to adjourn Board Meeting @ 9:24pm. February 18, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Prepared by: Art White Clerk of Richland Township

Date minutes available: February 26, 2025

Date minutes approved: March 19, 2025



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