

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2025

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St., Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.

Present: Supervisor Dorance Amos, Clerk Debbie Husband, Treasurer Kelly Jensen, Trustee Richard Hults, Trustee Matt Soper,

Also Present: T. Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Sheriff Hoch, Chief Williamson, Drain Commissioner Meyers, Brad Kiviste, and 3 people signed in as audience.

1. **Meeting Called to Order Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** Pam Williams Director from the Elk Rapids District Library introduced herself and Assistant Director Aaron Hill, and extended an invitation to a future Open House.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Jensen/Hults** to approve the agenda as presented. All voting yes, **MOTION APPROVED.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - B. Zoning Report
 - C. Treasurers Report
 - D. Paying of the Bills: General Fund - \$20,583.67. Fire Fund - \$1,568.74.

MOTION/S: Soper/Hults to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. **Roll Call Vote:** Hults, Soper, Jensen, Amos and Husband, all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**

5. **Sheriff Report:** Sheriff Hoch reviewed the incidents and traffic stops. Reported they apprehended a fugitive that was at large and also a drug dealer that committed murder that is housed at the jail. Sheriff Hoch gave his incident report for the month and year.
Commissioner Report: B. Hefferan: Reported the elevator at the County Building is out of order for 3 weeks as a public notice. Household hazardous waste collection is scheduled for Elk Rapids for June 14, 2025. The County is looking for a few volunteers for positions in the construction code appeals board and farm land preservation committee. A new Public Safety Center is on the agenda to move forward out of current revenue.
6. **Ambulance Department:** MMR – updated information was included in the packet.
7. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson: The new firetruck may be ready in August of 2025. Updated the Board on Grants for the new equipment. Fire Board will have an election of officers at the meeting January 13, 2024.
8. **County Drain Commissioner/ Operator of Dams:** Leslie Meyers gave an update on the floodplain map that hopefully will be available in the next few months. She also updated the dam conditions in the County that are under her supervision. She introduced the new Soil and Erosion Officer Brad Kiviste.
9. **Township Sewer:** Brad Muma of Performance Engineering gave an overview of the emergency situation caused by the double pump failure at the prior Sportsman Club property. Manual pumping needed to take place by the Village, replacement of pump and supporting rail structure was reviewed by the Board and will be getting constructed this week to update the infrastructure of the pump station.
MOTION/S: Amos/Soper to approve moving forward with an estimated cost of \$50,000 to replace lift station equipment at property. Roll Call Vote: Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Supervisor Amos discussed the need to raise rates to be able to have the suggested 1/3 portion of replacement in reserve. It was mentioned to apply a COLA amount at an annual frame, rather than not raising and then adding larger increases less often.

Brad Muma has also had conversation with approximately 10 individuals on North Bayshore Drive that have had septic failures. They are privately pursuing and financing an extension of the Village Sewer up to their homes. The Township would be the entity to notify the effected land owners of the installation and present the compliance of the public health ordinance that whenever there is a sanitary sewer within 200 feet of their property line, they are required by law to hook up. The Township will stay in contact and notice a Public Hearing when needed.

10. **Antrim County Road Commission:** Culvert extension bill overage of \$108.12 and future Cairn Highway resurfacing were mentioned to the Board by Supervisor Amos.
11. **Poverty Exemption Guideline Resolution #2025-1:**
MOTION/S: Amos/Jensen to adopt the Poverty Exemption Guideline Resolution: **Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, Soper, all voting Yes, 0 No. **RESOLUTION PASSED.**
12. **Update on internet and firewall:** Husband informed the Board that the Village has offered to share the newly installed fiber optic network as a monthly utility bill share, saving both the Village and Township funds. It was discussed the firewall will be a certified unit and will not cause any issues for security between the two entities.
MOTION/S: Husband/Soper to approve cost sharing of fiber optic network with Village of Elk Rapids. All voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**
13. **Building Maintenance and Reserve:** Discussion to appoint 2 members to monitor maintenance and review proper valuation and reserve fund. Hults and Husband volunteered to interact with the Village and represent the Township in the shared Government Real Property.
14. **HERTHA update:** Dick Hults will be the liaison between the Hertha Board and Township getting bimonthly reports. Hults expressed we are planning on putting money in reserves for long term items, and would not be doing the past payments toward window replacement this year. Lease agreement with Hertha was discussed to move to a Commercial Lease and will be pursued in the coming months. The ER District Library is now off the tax rolls.
15. **Attorney's Report: T. Morgan:** Update on lame duck bills in progress. Not much change from last month. Treasurer Jensen will be proceeding with collecting delinquent personal property.
16. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:**
 - MTA Annual Convention is April 1-3.
 - Amos updated the status of the DDA situation.
 - Hults is in contact with the Assessor for the ER District Library to be off of the tax rolls.

Adjourned: 11:30 am

Debbie Husband, Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333
Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting