

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2024

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 Shelley Boisvert, Treasurer Kelly Jensen, Trustee Richard Hults, Trustee Matt Soper,

Also Present: B. Derman, T. Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Sheriff Hoch, Chief Williamson, and 21 people signed in as audience.

1. **Meeting Called to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Public Comments:** S. Castronovo: parcel near Woodland Dr.- a new driveway on to Williams Dr. could hurt wetlands and cause more traffic issues.
K. Morris: agrees with Castronovo regarding danger of additional traffic in that location on Williams Dr. The following people came up to talk about the process used for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would rezone various parcels in the Township and the process used in the adoption of the current Master Plan; C. Brady, P. Brady, B. Holland, C. Osterhaven: J. Muth. When asked, there was only one property owner at the meeting whose property was listed in the amendment but they had no objection. No other property owners were heard from.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Boisvert/Hults** to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION APPROVED.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. October 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - B. Zoning Report
 - C. Treasurers Report
 - D. Paying of the Bills: General Fund- \$22,716.65 Fire Fund - \$135,199.73

MOTION/S: Jensen/Hults to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Hults, Soper, Amos, Jensen and Boisvert, all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**
5. **Sheriff Report:** Sheriff Hoch – Stolen political signs. New project called “Take It Down” that would take down pictures from social media that young people may have been talked into.
Commissioner Report: B Hefferan: Public Safety Center millage failed. New County Clerk - V. Bishop, new Probate Judge - S. Truesdall, Drain Commissioner – Leslie Meyers.
6. **Ambulance Department:** MMR – Report as presented
7. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson: Report as presented:
8. **HERTHA :** K. Morris: Contact issues for HERTHA have been cleared up. Their website and telephone should be up to date and usable. We request that R. Hults as the Township Representative, be contacted for updates from HERTHA in the future.

- 9. Consideration of Planning Commission recommendation to approve the Rezoning of various parcels in the north portion of the Township.** A letter submitted from Pat and Carole Brady regarding the action taken by the Planning Commission at their September 24th 2024 meeting to rezone various parcels was read at the meeting. Memos dated November 8, 2024 and November 11, 2024 from L. Nix, our planning and zoning administrator were also read in response to the Brady's letter. **MOTION/S: Soper/Hults.** (as read by Matt Soper, including the property tax numbers for all 30 parcels) To approve the rezoning of the stated (30) parcels for the following reasons: **1)** The Twp Planning Commission followed the rezoning process as set forth in the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. **2)** The action of the Planning Commission on this rezoning does not impact the protection of wetlands in Elk Rapids Township. **3)** The 5 year review of the Township Master Plan as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act was conducted by the Planning Commission and the Master Plan process followed State Law. **4)** The wetland map in the Master Plan is based on the State of Michigan Wetland Map and is used in making land use decisions by the Township and private citizens. **5)** The action of the Township to adopt this rezoning amendment of the Zoning Map does not impact or reduce the commitment of the Township to protect wetlands as stated in the Master Plan. **6)** The action of rezoning these parcels does not impact or reduce the obligation of the State of Michigan of enforcing the provisions of protecting regulated wetlands as defined by Part 303 (Wetland Protection) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451 in Elk Rapids Township. **Roll Call Vote:** Soper, Jensen, Boisvert, Hults voting Yes, Amos abstains. **MOTION APPROVED.**
- 10. Zoning Board Appointments:** Julia Pollister Amos and Lisa Lundy: Terms expire this year. Supervisor Amos Suggests the following appointments:
Lisa Lundy for another 3-year term to expire in 2027 and Brennen Hitchcock to replace Julia Pollister Amos for a 3-year term to expire in 2027. **MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen** to approve Lundy and Hitchcock as Zoning Board Members through August 2027. **MOTION APPROVED.**
- 11. Board of Review Appointments:** Supervisor Amos suggests the following: Jim Lundy, Don Glowicki and Zach Amos for another 2 year term ending December 2026 and David Krill as alternate replacing Brian Martineau for a 2 year term ending December 2026. **MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen MOTION APPROVED.**
- 12. Antrim County Road Commission:** Twp Drive around with B. Thompson and D. Amos
Proposed projects for 2025: Road Commission allocated \$13,831 to Elk Rapids Twp for 2025.
- Cairn Hwy (10,430 feet) seal larger cracks, chip seal with CM-90 hot asphalt and 25A slag and fog seal with asphalt emulsion. Total estimated costs is \$117,000.
 - Birch Lake access site: Install 80 feet of 15 inch culvert leaving a five foot gap between the cross culvert under Williams Dr. to drain the ditch, place fill, topsoil and seed. Total estimated cost is \$4,000.
- MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen** to approve these projects with the estimated costs. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Amos, Boisvert, Hults and Soper all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**
- 13. Attorney's Report: T. Morgan and B. Derman:** As reported.

14. Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:

- Nov. 5, 2024 Voter turnout in Elk Rapids Township was 83.6% of total voters
- N. Bayshore Drive – 8 to 10 Residents are interested in connecting to the sewer. Amos and Engineer B. Muma have met with them to discuss a short extension that would connect to the Village sewer main.
- Village Update: J. Matthews

Adjourned: 11:16 am

Shelley Boisvert, Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333

Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting