

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, December 9, 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 Debbie Husband, Treasurer Kelly Jensen, Trustee Richard Hults, Trustee Matt Soper,

Also Present: B. Derman, T. Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Under Sheriff Lasiter, Chief Williamson, and 4 people signed in as audience.

1. **Meeting Called to Order Pledge of Allegiance.**
 2. **Public Comments:** C. Brady: Addressed the Board stating that the interest in the rezoning is not personal, but rather concerned citizens voicing an interest in protecting land use. She would like to have had more input in the Master Plan Review. Feels like the rezoning was not wanted and no one asked for it. P. Brady wanted more input in the Master Plan by the community. S. Castronovo: He is not in agreement with the way the County fixed the culvert issue that he has been complaining about.
 3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Hults/Jensen** to approve the agenda as presented. All voting yes, **MOTION APPROVED.**
 4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - B. Zoning Report
 - C. Treasurers Report
 - D. Paying of the Bills: General Fund- \$9,350.94. Fire Fund - \$1,411.65.
- MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen** 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:** Under Sheriff Lasiter– reviewed the incidents and traffic stops. Reported they have new recruits and training is taking place.
Commissioner Report: B Hefferan: Change of Prosecutor-Craig Cooper will be working in the prosecutor’s office. Also new Soil and Erosion inspector is taking over and is now working under the County umbrella and is under the Building Department. A new Public Safety Center still on his agenda to pursue.
 6. **Ambulance Department** MMR – no report presented. Supervisor Amos reported that the increase of the MMR contract has been signed by both Elk Rapids and Milton Township.
 7. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson: Report as presented mentioning false alarms at the Dexter Inn which he is going to address. Training is up and he has secured a grant to help cover the extra expenses. Chief Williamson will research concerns brought to them regarding rodent infiltration. **Motion/S: Amos/Hults** to approve \$14,000 for the retirement account for the ERFD. **Roll Call Vote:** Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**
 8. **Agreement for Collection of 2025 Summer School Property Taxes:** Kelly Jensen reported the agreement is signed for \$2.50 per parcel that we charge the school. She reported many Townships are charging an average of \$3.50. She would like to remain at the same amount this year, but revisit an increase for the 2026 season.

Delinquent Personal Property Tax Collection: Jensen gave update on collecting delinquent personal property taxes that have not been actively pursued. She is putting in place procedures for future and will be disbursing the collected taxes she has procured.

9. **Planning Commission Appointments:** Supervisor Amos suggests the following: Jim Lundy and Gary Pepler for another 3-year term expiring August 2027. Also Matt Soper and Dick Hults for reappointment as Representatives to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals respectively. **MOTION/S Soper/Jensen** to approve Lundy and Pepler to the Planning Commission. All voting yes. **Motion Approved. MOTION/S: Amos/Jensen**, to retain Soper to be Township Representative to the Planning Commission Board and Hults as Township Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals, all voting Yes. **MOTION APPROVED.**
10. **Varnum Law: M. Shaver: 9:55 am. MOTION/S: Jensen/Amos** Move to go to closed session to discuss matter pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal statute, specifically a written legal opinion by legal counsel regarding the Elk Rapids Village Downtown Development Authority. The matter discussed is exempt from disclosure under sections 12 (1)(g) under the Freedom of Information Act. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, Soper, all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED. 10:40 am Reopen meeting: MOTION/S: Amos/Hults**, All voting Yes **Motion Approved. Motion to send letter to DDA: MOTION/S Jensen/Amos**, Roll Call Vote: Amos, Husband, Hults, Soper, Jensen, all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**
11. **Attorney's Report: T. Morgan and B. Derman:** Bill Derman mentioned the rezoning ordinance amendment is now in effect.
12. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:** Township and Village Holiday Party December 18th at 6:30pm. **Village Update:** John Matthews reported Village is working on budgets, and is addressing a lawsuit involving Burnett Foods. He has been approached by township residents regarding hooking into the village sewer, and gave an update on the Homestretch housing project.

Adjourned: 11:00 am

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