

## Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, February 10, 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, Tom Stephenson, Commissioner Hefferan, Sheriff Hoch, Chief Williamson, and 3 people signed in as audience.

1. **Meeting Called to Order Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** Village President Tom Stephenson introduced himself and is looking forward to working with the Township.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Hults/Jensen** to approve the agenda as presented. All voting yes, **MOTION APPROVED.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
  - A. January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
  - B. Zoning Report
  - C. Treasurers Report
  - D. Paying of the Bills: General Fund - \$34,721.12. Fire Fund - \$52,668.96
  - E. Budget Adjustments

**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 gave updated information on arrest in the village.  
**Commissioner Report:** B. Hefferan: Reported the Commission voted to proceed with the Safety Building using funds not a new milage. The County is still in the process of consolidating the court system.
6. **Ambulance Department:** MMR – Chief Williamson presented updated information which was included in the packet.
7. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson: Budget was presented to the Fire Board. Vince Cooper was voted Captain, Tony Jones Lieutenant. Various awards were presented at the meeting and the Fireman of the Year is Neil Harris. Chief Williamson discussed the decrease in rating system affecting their review will only be remedied by getting information about the fire hydrant pressure from the Village.
8. **Zoning/Planning Assistant:** Creston Scheel has been interviewed to assist Larry Nix, who is beginning to phase out. Larry will be working closely with Creston until he is more familiar with our area. Scheel will have a 5-year agreement with the Township. He will begin today with a Planning Commission meeting at 1:00pm. **MOTION/S:** Hults/Soper to hire Creston Scheel as Zoning/Planning Assistant to Larry Nix; **Roll Call Vote:** Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults - all voting Yes, 0 No **MOTION APPROVED.**
9. **Township Sewer:** Bills from Performance Engineering \$1,845, and Michigan Pipe \$24,099.92, for the pump station emergency were presented. There will be additional bills coming in. Total may come in slightly higher than the \$50,000 anticipated cost.  
**MOTION/S:** Amos/Jensen. To approve the payment of the bills presented. **Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, Soper, all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED**  
Brad Muma of Performance Engineering discussed the rate increase that might be appropriate to build a reserve to prevent being underfunded in case of an emergency replacement. The Board discussed it had been over 7 years since there was an increase. It was decided to watch the inflation rate and stay close to that for an increase to ensure our funds for repair and replacement will stay with current costs.

**MOTION/S: Amos/Jensen** to approve sewer rate increase of 5% to the repair and maintenance fund line item.

**Roll Call Vote:** Amos, Husband, Hults, Soper, Jensen all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Brad brought up the North Bayshore private sewer discussion. Cost figures were given regarding whether gravity or pressure will be used. The Township will stay in contact and notice a Public Meeting when needed regarding the North Bayshore private sewer. The adjacent neighbors will be mandated to hook up once the sewer is installed.

**CLOSED SESSION: 10:40 am.**

**MOTION/S: Jensen/ Amos:** Motion to recess to a closed session 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 Section 12(1)(g) and 13(n) of the Freedom of Information Act. **Vote** all yes, 0 no. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**REOPEN MEETING: 11:20 am.**

**MOTION/S:** Jensen/Amos: motion to reopen meeting. **Roll Call Vote:** Hults, Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED**

**MOTION/S:** Jensen/Soper Motion to move forward with Council's recommendation. **Roll Call Vote:** Soper Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

10. **Update on internet and firewall:** Jensen mentioned the new IT company will begin before March 1, 2025

11. **Update on new street light:** Husband was contacted concerning a dark unlit bus stop on Cairn Highway and Hemlock. Consumer's Energy has a cost of \$100 for installation.

**MOTION/S:** Husband/Soper Motion to approve \$100 for new street light over Cairn Highway and Oakwood.

**Roll Call Vote:** Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12. **Hertha update:** Hults gave update on lease.

13. **Attorney's Report: T. Morgan:** Update on consulting agreement and ESTA. Share use agreement is being worked on.

14. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:**

- MTA Annual Conference April 1-3.
- Open Meeting Budget workshop today at 3:00pm.
- Beth Guntzviller, Village Council Member, updated the Board with current events taking place.

**Adjourned: 11:30 am**

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Debbie Husband, Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333

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