



MEMORANDUM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

TO: City Council

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager

SUBJECT: Passage of Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Resolution

The Tri-Community Wildlife Committee approved a resolution at its April 2, 2025, meeting recommending controlled hunts as a strategy to address the increasing deer population. The resolution outlines a structured approach to wildlife management, including coordination with state officials, a permitting system, and public education efforts.

The committee is now requesting that the Douglas City Council formally approve this resolution. Council approval would allow the committee to move forward with implementation planning in collaboration with neighboring communities.

Sample Motion: *Motion to adopt resolution 10-2025, approving the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee's resolution recommending controlled hunts to manage the growing deer population.*



TO: Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager/Liaison to the Committee

DATE: April 2nd, 2025

SUBJECT: Request for Passage of Resolution on Controlled Deer Hunt
Recommendations

As the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee continues to evaluate responsible strategies for managing the local deer population, the next step is to formalize our recommendations in a resolution for consideration by the governing bodies of Douglas, Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township.

At our next meeting, the committee will be asked to approve a resolution outlining our recommended next steps for controlled deer hunts. Once passed, this resolution will be sent to the City Councils of Douglas and Saugatuck and the Saugatuck Township Board for review and potential adoption.

This resolution will serve as an official statement of our findings and recommendations, helping guide policy decisions on deer management within the Tri-Community area. Your support in reviewing and passing this resolution is critical to ensuring a well-coordinated and effective approach moving forward.

The resolution has been approved by the attorney's in each community.

Sample Motion: Approve a resolution, outlining recommended next steps for implementing controlled deer hunts as a management tool in the City of Douglas, City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township

RESOLUTION NO.10-2025

TCWC RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CITY COUNCIL; CITY OF SAUGATUCK CITY COUNCIL; AND SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee (TCWC) consists of representatives from the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township; and

WHEREAS, based on observations and community surveys, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has determined that there is a substantial overpopulation of deer within all three communities; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee recommends that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township issue permits and facilitate controlled deer hunts using “Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators” (sharpshooters) authorized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); and

WHEREAS, such hunts should take place with the permission of private landowners, including Homeowner Associations (HOAs), within their jurisdictions, with all associated costs and liabilities borne by the landowner(s) and/or HOA until the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee determines that the deer population has been brought under control; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee further recommends that each municipality facilitate and direct controlled deer hunts on publicly owned lands within their jurisdiction, subject to budgetary constraints, using Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (sharpshooters) authorized by the MDNR until the Committee determines the deer population is under control; and

WHEREAS, to further manage the deer population, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee recommends that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township revise their existing ordinances to permit the discharge of archery equipment without a special permit, thereby allowing bow hunting of deer during the fall hunting season in accordance with all applicable State of Michigan hunting regulations; and

WHEREAS, while these controlled hunts may provide temporary relief for landowners facing immediate issues, they are not a long-term solution to the deer overpopulation problem; and

WHEREAS, to monitor the effectiveness of population control measures, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has authorized an annual deer population census each March using drone technology to establish a baseline for future assessments; and

WHEREAS, through extensive research, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has determined that neither deer contraception nor relocation programs are currently viable due to cost and logistical constraints.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township formally recognize the recommendations of the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee and commit to working collaboratively to implement appropriate measures to manage the deer population, including but not limited to controlled hunts, ordinance revisions, and continued monitoring efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each municipality will endeavor to take the necessary steps to enact policies, allocate resources where feasible, and engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure the success of deer population management efforts in the best interest of public safety, ecological balance, and community well-being.

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED this [XX] day of [Month], 2025.

Cathy North, Mayor
City of the Village of Douglas

Date

Laura Kasper, City Clerk
City of the Village of Douglas

Date