



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MADISON

Ryan Rank
Supervisor
Janet Moden
Clerk
Harold Gregg
Treasurer

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TRUSTEES

Howard Bales
Ralph Benschoter
Chad Rodgers
Norman Schutte

Madison Township Board Meeting Held in Person and Electronically (Zoom) Minutes of August 11, 2026

7:00 p.m. Board Meeting called to order, with a silent prayer, and pledge to the flag said by all.

ROLL CALL:

Present in person: Rank, Moden, Gregg, Benschoter, Bales. Absent Rodgers and Schutte.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor Rank asked the board to move the Budget presentation to the end of this meeting.

Due to a large number of residents and interested parties at this meeting, Supervisor Rank addressed the issue of wells being dug on railroad property at the very beginning of the meeting under communications. He walked everyone through the timeline of when he was made aware of the issue, and explained what action has already been taken by the township and the communications that he has already had with the Lenawee County Health Department and the State of Michigan EGLE. He encouraged any residents that want to be kept aware of the ongoing communications and/or get copies of the current communications with officials, to please sign up their emails on the list provided.

The discussion entailed the requested information that the township is asking for from EGLE and the Health Dept. which includes 1) the adverse impact on the aquifer that the current township wells are located in, as well as local individual wells of homeowners in the area, 2) What is the dispute process, 3) Ask Blissfield, Palmyra and Riga what input they have had with the ZFS railroad about providing water to their communities. It was suggested that residents need to contact their representatives at the Federal level regarding their concerns, as railroads are regulated at the Federal level and not the State. The State only regulates well permits through EGLE. Any further communication on this matter will be shared with residents going forward that want to provide the township with their email address.



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INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS: None

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: It was suggested that the township get our local legislative representatives and senators down here to listen to the issues with the wells. Also, can the township get some information on what aquifer the City of Adrian draws from?

3-MINUTE DEPT. HEAD UPDATES:

Fire: Chief Wilson stated that things were pretty status quo. Engine #3 (our oldest engine) needs lots of work, such as mechanical refurbishment, rebuild the pumps, all of which is built into our budget. Pump testing has been completed for the year.

Police: Chief Gentner stated that the Police Dept parking lot has been finished, and it was discovered that the catch basin had been crushed in the past causing the flooding issues in the past. Currently getting quotes on gutters for the building. Been busy with cases.

Water/Sewer: Watterson stated the new water meters have been delivered, and the new electrical is being installed at the new water treatment plant.

Inspection: Building Official, Rincon absent

Legal: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter, to approve the consent agenda and previous month's board meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Rank: Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes; Benschoter, Yes; Bales. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Bill Late Fees:

Supervisor Rank stated that the current Late Fee charged on water/sewer bills is \$3.60 and has been for a very long time. Since that amount does not seem to be a deterrent for people to pay their bills on time, it is time to change the amount to \$10.00 effective on the next billing cycle. This was stated as a motion, supported by Gregg. Motion carried 5-0.



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ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:

Bales: Stated that sending water to the Ethanol plant is a joke, it cost over \$10 million to get water over there, doesn't make sense.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Resident Bill Gira – stated the speed sign at the end of the runway is not working. Police Chief stated that is only set to come on if your car is speeding.

Supervisor Rank gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the General Fund and budget, since he wants to be entirely transparent, that was not an issue between the Treasurer and himself regarding the budget and the use of township monies. Gregg stated that this year we have approximately 8% in delinquent taxes not collected. Resident Dale Thielen asked if we had ever had to borrowed money from Peter to pay Paul in the past. It was discussed that the timing of when the township receives State revenue and the amount changes every year, so we budget with our best guess. Resident Thielen asked why we don't do more zoning enforcement, and the answer was we don't have unlimited funds to follow up on the legal and court costs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT/RECESS: Motion by Benschoter, seconded by Gregg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Typed and Submitted by:

Janet Moden, Township Clerk