



# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MADISON

Gary Griewahn  
*Supervisor*  
Janet Moden  
*Clerk*  
Harold Gregg  
*Treasurer*

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517-263-9313 Fax: 517-263-4569

## TRUSTEES

Howard Bales  
Matt Carpenter  
Ralph Benschoter  
Chad Rodgers

Madison Township Board Meeting  
Held in Person and Electronically (Zoom)  
Minutes of December 12, 2023

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: Griewahn, Gregg, Moden, Rodgers, Benschoter, Carpenter, and Bales.

### APPROVAL OF BOARD MTG MINUTES 11/14/23:

Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter to dispense reading and approve the monthly Board meeting minutes as written for 11/14/2023. Motion was carried 7-0.

### APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MTG MINUTES 12/1/23:

Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter to dispense reading and approve the Special Board meeting minutes as written for 12/1/2023. Motion was carried 7-0.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** None

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### 3-MINUTE DEPT. HEAD UPDATES:

**Fire:** EMT classes have been completed. New classes will be starting after the first of the year.

**Police:** Chief Shadbolt stated that Brian Burke is back to work from his medical leave. VC3net, which supplies their spyware, malware and ransomware stated they needed a better firewall. They had a student last week to job shadow an officer, and still working on complaints.

**Water/Sewer:** Reported by Watterson that the well is now drilled and will be pump tested tomorrow for volume, while that is being done, all three wells will be shut down and water will



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come from the tower. After the volume has been decided and successful, we can then start bidding out the work to finish the project.

**Inspection:** Rincon reported that both townships, Adrian and Madison have been busy. Adrian Twp Solar Farm is not operating yet due to open issues regarding the height of trees. Caliper Collision has not passed their inspections yet, due to do it yet this week. Two solar companies are interested in land in Madison Twp. no permits have been issued, just answering questions at this point. Received Eng. Drawings on the Anderson property on 223 for storage facilities.

**Legal:** None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Gregg, supported by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes, Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, No. Motion carried 6-1.

### **Planning Commission Minutes 11-20-23:**

Benschoter read the minutes of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes, supported by Carpenter. Approved 7-0

The meeting revolved around the conditional use application for Anderson on U.S. 223 zoned C-2 and he is asking to build storage units on the property with the approval of a conditional use permit.

### **OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Township Legal Attorney:**

Bales raised a question on why we had two attorneys, and why were we sending the same information to two different attorney's and paying double. Why aren't we just using Castleberry/Lucas, and not Fahay, Schultz, Burzych and Rhodes, which is the law firm that Lizzie Mills works for, who helped negotiate our Fire and Police union contracts.

Clerk Moden responded to Bales, that at the January 2023 board meeting the board approved the use of both legal firms at that time and were identified as township law firms, and the intent was to use Fahay for all thing employment related, as that is their specialty. The issues that Bales was referring to in his question were employment related. Trustee Rodgers stated that he, as Personnel Chair, had contacted Castleberry on his own to ask him to provide a possible employment policy regarding recordings. Once Moden was made aware of such policy, she asked Fahey (Mills) to look at it to see if there were any issues that would interfere with our existing union contracts or any other labor laws as it may be something that would go into our employee handbook at some point. Bales stated that was a waste of money for the taxpayers by the use of two law firms, and he is not for it. After much discussion Benschoter made a motion



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supported by Rodgers, that Castleberry/Lucas law firm is our only township law firm and that if they are not able to adequately provide topic specific legal advice, such as in the case of contract negotiations, tax tribunal or bond solicitation, that they would recommend that the township reach out to other law firms for best representation on the issue.

Roll Call Vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, No; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes; Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 6-1.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Adrian Twp. Building Official Contract:**

A late conversation with Rob Hoskins, Clerk of Adrian Twp. revealed that Adrian Twp still has questions about the contract, so this item was tabled until the January 2024 board meeting.

#### **David Gentner – Police Chief Employment Contract:**

Discussion agreed that it should be sent thru the Personnel Committee, the same as other employment contracts, and then sent to the board for recommendation to approve or deny. Tabled.

#### **Assessing Contract – Lacelle Properties LLC:**

Discussion as to whether this contract needs to go the Personnel Committee, but that was explained that Amanda is not an employee, but an independent contractor, as are many others that we hire to service the township. A motion by Carpenter to accept and approve the contract with Lacelle Properties LLC as written, supported by Rodgers. Roll Call Vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes; Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **2024 Budget Adjustments:**

Due to the fact that the new Fire Dept Echo unit will not arrive until 2024, this adjustment needs to be made to the 2024 budget Capital Outlay fund for \$75,000 acct. 101-336-971-000.

Motion by Gregg, supported by Benschoter to make the \$75,000 adjustment to the 2024 Budget under Capital Outlay. Roll Call Vote: Griewahn, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes; Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 7-0.



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## **ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:**

**Carpenter:** He desires that the board set up a time in January for a public meeting in which we discuss the issues for taxes, millages, and services, and how we as a township move forward to finance the township costs.

**Bales:** Questioned about who was doing the ordinance enforcement, Gentner stated that the SRO is expected to work on ordinances in the summer months while not working at the Sand Creek Schools, currently Dave Rincon is doing the majority of ordinance violations that are not police related as was designated many years ago by board members.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Resident Dave Rincon stated that as a resident he would like to see the board talk with the department heads about spending of monies before they make statements that are off course with what really happens, in a public forum.

Resident Dale Thielan questions Burke on conditional use and if the planning committee can make adjustments if needed, if there is a transfer of ownership once a conditional use is approved. Burke stated that if a transfer of ownership is done and the buyer is going to use the property for the same purpose that the new owner should come in and apply for a conditional use under their name. If they would not, then the courts would settle the issue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:** Motion by Rodgers, seconded by Benschoter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-Yes; 0-No. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Typed and Submitted by:

Janet Moden  
Township Clerk