MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES JUNE 2, 2025

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the boardroom of the Ira Township Hall on June 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: James Endres Jr., Thomas Eder, Thomas Lauer, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Also present: Christine Anderson, Township Attorney

MINUTES:

T. Lauer moved to approve the minutes of the 5/5/25 regular meeting, as amended, to correct the spelling of Imagine Lawn Care, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

T. Lauer moved to approve the Agenda, as amended to add Clerical Union Wage Review, supported by S. Ruhlman.
All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan SEMCO Energy Acknowledged and filed

OLD BUSINESS:

Township Camera Systems

S. Ruhlman moved to amend the prior motion for the Fire Department quote, and revise the amount approved for the contracts with Michigan Security Systems LLC, to a total amount of \$24,454.00, which is an increase of \$800.00, for Camera and Security Systems for the Fire Department, Township Hall, DPW Building, Water Building and Pump House, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Water's Edge Dock and Hoist RE: Water Works Park Kayak Launch T. Lauer moved to accept the request of the Parks & Recreation Director and approve a payment to Water's Edge Dock and Hoist, in the amount of \$27,512.58, which represents a 50% deposit for the Water Works Park Kayak Launch, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Michigan Township Association (MTA) Annual Dues

J. Endres Jr. moved to allocate \$6,612.00 for the 2025-26 Michigan Township Association Dues, supported by S. Ruhlman. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Zoning Ordinance Amendment RE: Hobby Farms

T. Lauer moved to authorize the Township Planner to proceed with review and amendment of the Township's Zoning Ordinance RE: Hobby Farms, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Clay Police - May 2025 Additional Charges

T. Eder moved to approve the additional monthly charge of \$1,445.00 for the month of May 2025 from the Clay Township Police Department, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Extension of Agreement for Police Services with Clay Township Police Department

T. Lauer moved to authorize the Supervisor to negotiate and execute on behalf of the Township a one-year extension, from 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026, by amendment of the current Agreement for Police Services between the Township of Ira and the Township of Clay, as presented, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

C.L.E.M.I.S. Records Management

S. Ruhlman moved to authorize a one-time allocation of \$40,000.00 to Clay Township Police Department, to assist with the cost to contract with C.L.E.M.I.S. (Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information Systems), for its services for Police Department Records Management, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

24-Hour Police Protection Ballot Question

S. Ruhlman moved to proceed with placing 24-Hour Police Protection Ballot Question on the November 4, 2025 General Election, supported by $T.\ Eder.$

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Privacy Policy and Terms of Service Contract RE: Website

T. Lauer moved to approve the invoice from Monster-Mobile Marketing, in the amount of \$219.00, for a \$100.00 set-up fee and \$119.00 annual maintenance fee, for website policies and terms management, after clarification of the costs, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

2025 Local Millage Distribution Request

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the 2025 Request for Local Millage Distribution to the St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission and authorize the Supervisor to sign the application on behalf of the Township, supported by T. Eder. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

St. Clair County Road Commission Agreement RE: Arnold Road Ditching T. Lauer moved to approve the Agreement with the St. Clair County Road Commission for Arnold Road Ditching, as presented, on the southside of Arnold Road starting approximately 1,000 feet East of 9071 Arnold for approximately 2,120 feet, in the amount of \$16,646.00, and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Breakroom Furniture for Fire Department

T. Eder moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the quote from Amazon, in the amount of \$189.00, for breakroom furniture, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

New Front Tires for Squad-1 Firetruck

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the quote from Gordie's Auto & Tire, in the amount of \$702.86, for two (2) new front tires for Squad-1 Firetruck, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Chain Saw and Backpack Blower for Fire Department

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the quote from Zimmer's Sales and Service, in the amount of \$798.98, for a new Chain Saw and Case and Backpack Blower, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Bay-Rama Parade

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief to authorize use of one (1) staffed Fire Apparatus to participate in the annual Bay-Rama Parade to be held on June 22, 2025, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Firefighter Resignation

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the resignation letter from Sean Frontiera effective May 23, 2025, supported by T. Eder. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION

MOTION CARRIED

Part-time Firefighter

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and appoint Joseph Romanelli to an open part-time position, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Paid-On-Call Firefighter

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and appoint Mathew Hobson to a paid-on-call firefighter position, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Fire Hydrant Purchase

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and approve a quote from Core & Main, in the amount of \$6,749.94, to purchase two (2) new Fire Hydrants, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Lift Station Pump Controls

J. Endres Jr. moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and approve a quote from Kennedy Industries, in the amount of \$4,000.00, for onsite removal and installation of new Pump Controller at the Church Road lift station, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Sewer Pump Church Road Station

T. Eder moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and approve a quote from Kennedy Industries, in the amount of \$10,641.00, for a new Sewer Pump for the Church Road lift station, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

New Computers

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Financial Clerk and approve a quote from Hi-Tech, in the amount of \$4,657.00, for new computers and additional memory, supported by T. Eder.

MOTION CARRIED All voting yes. Opposing: None

Budget Revision 24/25 #6

		6/2	
	Budget Revision 24/25 #6	meeting	
	General Fund		
Revenues			
101-000-476	Building Permits	25,000	
101-000-584	Grants - Parks & Recreation	28,000	new grant
101-000-646	Miscellaneous Charges	8,000	
Expenditures			
Executive Activities			
101-173-900	Printing/Publishing	1,000	
Building			
101-265-920	Electric	500	
Police			
101-301-818.102	Contractual Services - Liquor Inspection	3,167	increase in fees received

Building Department

101-371-754 Office Supplies 500

Parks & Recreation

101-751-756 Supplies - Tools & Hardware 200

 101-751-974.002
 Capital Outlay - ARPA
 13,000
 ARPA expenses

 101-751-974.001
 Capital Outlay - Grant
 28,000
 new grant

Net effect on budget will be a \$ 14,633.00 Increase to the Revenues

Fire Fund

Revenues

206-000-646 Miscellaneous Charges 700

Expenditures

206-000-818 Contractual Services 7,000 new program

Net effect on budget will be a \$ 6,300.00 Increase to the Expenditures

Water/Sewer Fund

Revenues		
Sewer		
592-536-646	Miscellaneous Charges	700
Water		
592-537-646	Miscellaneous Charges	2,500
592-537-676	Reimbursements	1,600
Expenditures		
Sewer		
592-536-756	Supplies - Tools & Hardware	1,000
592-536-922	Water/Sewer Billing	1,500
592-536-930	Land & Building Repairs	1,000
592-536-960	Bank & Other Miscellaneous Charges	500

Net effect on budget will be a \$ 800.00 Increase to the Revenues

S. Ruhlman moved to approve Budget Revision 24/25 #6 for the General Fund, Fire Fund and Water/Sewer Fund, supported by T. Eder.
All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

MAY 2025 REPORTS:

Police Run Report

Building Department Permits and Year-To-Date

Code Enforcement Report

DPS Superintendent (Reported by Supervisor)

- Working on Request for Proposal for new Man-Lift;
- Working with Jerry Martin on sealcoating the parking lots;

Parks & Recreation Director Reports

- Received letter RE All Trails Fund grant and working with St. Clair County Community Foundation on this opportunity;
- Donny Van Houte has scheduled a Disc Challenge Tournament for June $22^{\rm nd}$; he also has new ideas for the back field;
- DPS moving Port-A-John by Pickleball Court;
- Out of town for next meeting;

Fire Chief Reports:

- 57 calls in May 2025 reported by incident type;
- Bio-Med will be at the Township for physicals this weekend;
- Emergency Network is up and running;
- MFR status applied for;
- Provided a request from the Fire Fighters Association for a Blessing Box on the grounds;
- Obtaining quotes for roof as well as to update kitchen and bathroom at the Fire Hall;

Supervisor:

- Attended SEMCOG workshop here at the Township; David Struck presented information to the Board;
- Attended St. Clair County MTA luncheon at Casco Township;
- Pre-con meeting was held on Zobl Court Water and Sewer Replacement project; project to begin in July;
- Pre-con meeting was also held on the Palms Road paving project;
- The Round-a-About to be constructed at 26 Mile and Palms roads is expected to start in mid-October;
- Attended the Memorial Service it was a wonderful service, very impressive and really enjoyed the flag ceremony.

Clerk:

- Thank you to Cindy Babisz and Tom Eder for all their work with the Replace Grief with Awe Ceremony held on May $24^{\rm th}$;
- Preliminary Audit to being June 16, 17, and 18^{th} ;
- St. Clair County Clerks' Association meeting is scheduled for June 12th; Clerk and Deputy Clerk plan to attend;
- Township Budget meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Treasurer:

- Bank balances and interest income provided;
- Water / Sewer Adjustments

Trust and Agency

- Memorial Day ceremony was very nice;

Trustee Eder:

- Thank you, Cindy, for all your work in putting together The Replace Grief with Awe Ceremony;

Trustee Ruhlman:

- Update on discussions with Dave LaDuke; expect broadband installation to be done in September 2025;

DISBURSEMENTS:

All voting yes.

S. Ruhlman moved to pay the following disbursements, totaling \$360,896.08, supported by T. Eder.

MOTION CARRIED

\$11,367.54

Reg		
Fund 101	General Government	\$123,983.8
Fund 206	Fire Fund	\$17,996.0
Fund 592	Water / Sewer Fund	\$115,469.3
ACH		
Fund 101	General Government	\$508.1
Fund 206	Fire Fund	\$1,954.4
- 4114 - 0	Water / Sewer Fund	\$406.

Opposing: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLOSED SESSION:

At 8:16 p.m. J. Endres Jr. moved, with support from T. Eder, that a Closed Session be called for the purpose of:

- A. Consulting with legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation being M. L. Chartier, Inc., a Michigan corporation and M. Todd Enterprises, L.L.C., a Michigan limited liability company v Ira Township, St. Clair County Circuit Court Case No. 2024-001292-CE, pursuant to MCL 15.268(e).
- B. Consider the purchase of real property up to the time an option to purchase that real property is obtained, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (d)

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Eder, Thomas Lauer, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Nays: None MOTION CARRIED

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

At 8:37 p.m. T. Eder moved that the Board return to Open Session, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Litigation Settlement

J. Endres Jr. moved to approve the Consent Judgment, as presented, in the case of M. L. Chartier, Inc., a Michigan corporation and M. Todd Enterprises, L.L.C., a Michigan limited liability company v Ira Township, St. Clair County Circuit Court Case No. 2024-001292-CE, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Eder, Thomas Lauer, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Nays: None MOTION CARRIED

Potential Property Purchase

S. Ruhlman moved to approve a potential property purchase, as presented, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, and authorize the Supervisor to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Township, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Clerical Union Wage Review

T. Lauer moved to authorize the Supervisor to contact the Union Representative at Local 324 for clerical staff wage review, as presented, and negotiate a Letter of Understanding, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss T. Lauer moved, with the support of T. Eder, to close the meeting at 8:44~p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Corbat, Clerk