

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 3, 2025**

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the boardroom of the Ira Township Hall on March 3, 2025 at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Board member absent: Thomas Eder

MINUTES:

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the minutes of the 2/3/25 regular meeting and 2/6/25 and 2/10/25 special meetings, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

St. Clair County MTA Annual Meeting

SEMCO Energy Gas Company MPDV Hearing

Acknowledged and filed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT: Opportunity for the public to comment on the Township's desire to submit applications to both the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program and Recreation Passport Grant Program in the amount of \$150,000 (grant funds) combined with a local match of \$150,000 for the purpose of creating accessible recreational improvements (nature trail, play features) at 8855 Short Cut Road, Parcel Identification No. 74-23-640-0050-001.

Moved by J. Endres Jr., and supported by S. Ruhlman, to open the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Cindy Babisz, the Township's Parks and Recreation Director, outlined the requirements for a DNR Grant application and a recap of the proposed applications to be submitted.

The following comments were read into the record:

Laura Prater: The park is a wonderful asset to me, my family, the township, and its residents. Watching it grow and expand brings me joy as a lifelong Ira Township resident and fills me with hope for the future residents and families who will be able to enjoy all the amenities at our parks. I can already picture families enjoying endless outdoor fun! I'm especially excited that these developments will connect Ira Park with the Bridge to Bay Trail and the Blueways of SCC.

Sheri Faust of Friends of the St. Clair River: This is a great public property parcel that been looked at to line up with a future Bridge to Bay Trail route connection.

Stephanie Beaver: Hi, I am a resident and Live at 7199 Meldrum Rd. My family and I love the park and have lived here since 2013. We have always wished there was a splash pad at the park for hot summer days. Please consider this with the upcoming grant. I feel the families around here would enjoy it as well ❤️

Katie Covert: I am writing this email in support of the new park for Ira township. My family and I have been members of the community for over 12 years and have raised our two children here and have benefited immensely from the existing park and all the events it offers. Outdoor recreation is an invaluable offering to small communities and would be greatly utilized by our family and many others. I ask that you please strongly consider adding this to our growing township.

Comments from the floor:

Amber Trombley commented that she is a life-long resident on Swan Creek Road and is excited that this will expand the park for a lot more families with more outdoor activities and park area.

Jean Corbat commented that she is very excited that the Township was able to purchase this additional 99-acre parcel for park development and looks forward to working with Community Foundation, the DNR and other grant opportunities to develop the Township parks.

Stella Ruhlman commented that as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission she cannot wait to see the parks improved.

Jim Endres, Jr., thanked the St. Clair County Community Foundation for its help to write the applications for the grants.

Cindy Babisz thanked the Ira Township DPS and Fire Department for working together with the Parks and Recreation Department for the benefit of Township residents and for clearing paths to the new property for development.

No further comments from the public, the Public Hearing closed at 7:14 p.m. on the motion of J. Endres Jr., supported by S. Ruhlman. All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS:

Adam Janusch and North Pointe Storage Ira LLC Site Plan (PC #24-454) Parcel 74-23-420-0014-000

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve Phase 1 only of the Site Plan dated 1-22-2025 for Parcel 74-23-420-0014-000, as presented, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: T. Eder

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Marine City Holdings, LLC/M.L. Chartier Excavating Inc., Site Plan (PC #24-455) 9783 Marine City Highway

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Site Plan dated 1-29-2025, as presented, for the Recycling Facility at 9783 Marine City Highway, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: T. Eder

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Clay Police - February 2025 Additional Charges

T. Lauer moved to approve the additional monthly charge of \$340.00 for the month of February 2025 from the Clay Township Police Department, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

RES 25-03-01 to Approve and Adopt the Current Parks and Recreation Maintenance Policy Plan for Ira Township

S. Ruhlman moved to adopt Resolution 25-03-01 and Adopt the Current Parks and Recreation Maintenance Policy Plan for Ira Township, supported by T. Lauer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: T. Eder

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RES 25-03-02 to Approve and Authorize Submission of Grant Applications
T. Lauer moved to adopt Resolution 25-03-02 and approve and authorize submission of Grant Applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Program and Recreation Passport Program for the purpose of creating accessible recreational improvements to the Township Park located at 8855 Short Cut Road, Parcel Identification No. 74-23-640-0050-001, and authorize the Supervisor to sign all required documents on behalf of the Township, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: T. Eder

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Request for Sewer Relief RE 7021 Church Road

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and grant relief to the property owner at 7021 Church Road by providing a credit, in the amount of \$23.43, for the sewer portion of the utility charges for the billing period of July 29, 2024 through January 8, 2025, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Property Reapportionment (Line Adjustment) Application (Phelan) (6961 Ottawa) and Trowbridge (6974 Ottawa)

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Assessor and approve the Application for Property Line Adjustment for 6961 Ottawa and 6074 Ottawa, as presented, which application has been reviewed by St. Clair County, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance #143 Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment RE 74-23-600-0043-000; 10135 Dixie Highway

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and adopt Ordinance #143 to rezone Parcel ID No. 74-23-600-0043-000 from B-2 (General Business) to RU (Residential Urban) and revise the Zoning Map to reflect the rezoning, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent: T. Eder

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

St. Clair County Road Commission Agreement RE Roundabout

T. Lauer moved to approve the Agreement with the St. Clair County Road Commission to relocate utilities for the Roundabout at 26 Mile Road and Palms Road, in the amount of \$42,350.00, to be billed next fiscal year, and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Letter of Retirement

T. Lauer moved to accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Anna Pfromm, a 31-year employee of the Township, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable Clerk Position

T. Lauer moved to approve hiring Stephenie Thomas for the Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable Clerk position, at a rate of pay of \$19.00 per hour plus benefits for the union position, beginning March 17, 2025, supported by J. Corbat.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fire Chief Position

S. Ruhlman moved to approve hiring Michael Wolschon as Fire Chief for the Township and to authorize the Supervisor to negotiate a contract, salary and benefits for the position, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes.

Opposing: None

MOTION CARRIED

Water Works Park Survey

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the Agreement with Project Control Engineering, LLC, in the amount of \$4,980.00 to be paid as a General Fund expense, for a boundary survey and topographical survey of Water Works Park and authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township, supported by T. Lauer.
All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Request for Sewer Relief RE 9517 Dixie Highway

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and grant relief to the property owner at 9517 Dixie Highway by providing a credit, in the amount of \$312.40, for the sewer portion of the utility charges for the billing period of September 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, supported by T. Lauer.
All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

FEBRURY 2025 REPORTS:

Police Run Report
Building Department Permits and Year-To-Date
Code Enforcement Report (No Report)
DPS Supervisor:

- Working on winter maintenance of summer equipment;
- Update on DPS Garage remodel;
- Anticipate delivery of Vactor in July;
- Anticipate delivery of new truck in May;

Parks & Recreation Director Reports:

- Met with Dakota Cobb for fitness program;
- Met with Dillon Connor of Waters Edge at Water Works Park RE Kayak Launch;
- Saws All has been rescheduled to March 15th and 16th;

Fire Department: (reported by Acting Fire Chief K. Littlejohn and Captain D. Stringer)

- Reports provided for total calls in 2024 and calls for January and February 2025;
- Department members attended a great training on Anchor Bay with US Coast Guard using helicopter, rescue basket and tethers;

Supervisor:

- Al Ornelas has returned to do Code Enforcement;
- Will be one of the guest speakers at the upcoming Anchor Bay Chamber Luncheon;
- Agreement with the City of Algonac to lease sewer capacity is completed;
- Attended the EDA Luncheon in Port Huron - a great event;
- I have been vocal in support of the St. Clair County Economic Development Alliance;
- Busy month in the office and thank you to everyone;

Treasurer:

- Bank balances and interest income provided;
- Water / Sewer Adjustments for January and February 2025;

DISBURSEMENTS:

S. Ruhlman moved to pay the following disbursements, totaling \$514,050.77, supported by T. Lauer.
All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Reg	
Fund 101 General Government	\$73,388.36
Fund 206 Fire Fund	\$13,423.47
Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund	\$423,841.20
ACH	
Fund 101 General Government	\$648.65
Fund 206 Fire Fund	\$1,723.86
Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund	\$1,025.23
Total for All Funds	\$514,050.77

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, J. Endres Jr. moved, with the support of T. Lauer, to close the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Corbat, Clerk