



# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MADISON

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

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## TRUSTEES

Howard Bales  
Matt Carpenter  
Ralph Benschoter  
Chad Rodgers

Madison Township Board Meeting  
Held in Person and Electronically (Zoom)  
Minutes of April 9, 2024

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, Moden, Rodgers, Benschoter, Carpenter, and Bales. Absent Gregg.

### APPROVAL OF BOARD MTG MINUTES 3/12/24:

Motion by Bales, supported by Benschoter to dispense reading and approve the monthly Board meeting minutes as written for 3/12/2024. Motion was carried 6-0.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Motion by Bales, supported by Carpenter to add to New Business the subject of Ordinances. Motion carried 6-0.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** Spring Clean Up day is this Saturday, April 13 from 8:00 am to Noon.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** None.

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

### 3-MINUTE DEPT. HEAD UPDATES:

**Fire:** Chief Wilson reported that Mark Swinehart is off on Worker's Comp due to an ankle injury stepping off the ambulance. He reported that Jake Munger had resigned his position as full-time firefighter/paramedic to take a position with a different fire department. The fire department has already filled his full-time position with Leah Harvey, a Madison Twp resident with years of experience as a Paramedic, who came from Auburn Hills Fire Dept. Otherwise things are status quo.

**Police:** Chief Gentner stated that their numbers were up for the month. He stated that Josh Ritchey had resigned to take a different position outside of the township. He has posted the position, but currently has not received any applications for the position of Police Officer.



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**Water/Sewer:** Watterson reported that Water Hydrant flushing would be happening between April 29 and May 27 of 2024. He reported that the Water Project costs have been updated from our engineering firm, so due to that he has met with the finance committee to relate these “cost opinions” to them. He was questioned by Carpenter why the sewage usage was so high this last month, which Watterson explained that the rain and the issues with the Baldwin Hwy Lift station meter are the most likely reasons.

**Inspection:** Building Official, Rincon stated that building department activities have picked up, especially the phone calls, otherwise everything is pretty standard.

**Legal:** Castleberry announced no update on Walmart.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Rodgers, supported by Benschoter to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Griewahn, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 6-0.

**ZBA Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes 3-26-24:** It was reported to the board that the variance requested by the Lenawee County Airport was approved. Information only.

### **Planning Commission Minutes 03/28/24:**

Benschoter read the minutes of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes, supported by Rodgers. Approved 6-0

A motion to accept the recommendation of the planning committee for a conditional use permit to Cornerstone Church for a Daycare as proposed was made by Rodgers and supported by Bales. Approved 6-0.

**Finance Committee Meeting 4/4/24:** The minutes of the financial committee meeting were read, and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Carpenter, supported by Bales. No recommendations were made at this time.

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

**Updated Water Project Cost:** Tim Watterson informed the board of the new water project cost projection from the Engineering firm. They are encouraging the Township to re-evaluate the projected costs and approve a different, higher percentage of bond from 3.5 to 4.5 million dollars and to include in the new language that the money can be used for water and sewer projects. It would still be for 30 years.

Resident John McKeon asked what the life expectancy on the tanks should be, Watterson stated that 30 years would most likely be the answer. Resident Norm Schutte asked if the system could be expanded for future water quality and connecting the system loops. Watterson stated that all of that is needs that will need to be addressed if the demand continues to grow.



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Motion by Carpenter, supported by Bales that the township re-submits the bond process for 4.5 million dollars for 30 years, and to find out from the Bond Attorney if the language can be changed to address the Water and Sewer issues under the same bond. Approved 6-0

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Budget Adjustment to Maintenance and Repairs:**

A motion by Carpenter, supported by Benschoter to adjust the Maintenance and Repair for the Roads budget for \$8500. since Palmyra Township has said that they will pay half of the Treat Road repairs. . Roll call vote: Griewahn, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Cemetery Mowing 2-year Contract Bids:**

Clerk Moden presented the bids for the following years of 2024 thru 2026. Six letters were sent out for bids, on three were received back, Hooks Landscaping, Bundy Landscaping and Mr. Ford. The bids were reviewed by the Clerk and the Treasurer, and the best price was presented by Hooks Landscaping, as long as they were amenable to changing the language in their proposal to from “mowing weekly” to “mowing as needed.” They have had the cemeteries for the last two years and there have been no issues with their workmanship.

Roll call vote: Griewahn, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; Benschoter, Yes, Carpenter, Yes; and Bales, Yes. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Ordinances:**

Trustee Bales raised a question regarding the difference between an ordinance complaint and an ordinance inspection due to a violation. It was discussed that the township has the discretion to cite for a violation. Attorney Castleberry explained that the policy that we have now is fine where it requires people to sign their complaints, but that does not negate the townships right to initial an inspection for a violation that presents itself to the township for any reason. At that point, the various Department Heads stated that they had been told by the board that they were not allowed to initiate any inspections, and only if there was a complaint, and they were only allowed to do so in their specific assigned ordinance subject matter areas. This was backed up by resident Ryan Rank, retired Madison Fire Chief present in the meeting. He in fact read the email that he received back in 2019 to that fact. He stated that it was a meeting the Department Heads had with Gary Griewahn, Supervisor, and Terry Etter, Clerk at that time. After more discussion about the process, there was a motion by Rodgers, supported by Benschoter, that the board rescind the 2019 action taken requiring township Dept. Head to not take action on an ordinance violation. Motion approved 6-0.



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This motion does not affect the policy that states that citizens' complaints need to be documented and signed before investigative action is taken by the Township.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:**

**Griewahn:** Expressed appreciation to Mike Slusarski, of Slusarski Excavating and Paving Inc. for the use of his property for the Spring Clean Up.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Resident Dale Thielen spoke that he feels that the Township website is not showing when meetings are scheduled under the calendar section, that there was no information regarding the Spring Clean up posted on the website, the meeting minutes were not easy to find. Feels that it is embarrassing and wants to know how much we pay and who is responsible.

Resident Michelle Johnson also spoke about the website and the posting of meeting dates and the publishing of meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:** Motion by Rodgers, seconded by Benschoter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-Yes; 0-No. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Typed and Submitted by:

Janet Moden  
Township Clerk