

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at the Otsego Township Hall, 400 North 16th Street, Otsego, Michigan.

Members Present: Supervisor Winn, Clerk Colin, Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander, Trustees Bumgart, Burns, Moll, Gudith.

Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Winn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Winn with support by Lunarde-Alexander to move the Hazelwood Bids action item to New Business after the DWCR Grant- Hazelwood.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Moll, Bumgart, Burns, Winn.

No – None.

Absent- None.

Motion carried.

A motion by Lunarde-Alexander with support by Colin was made to approve the consent agenda consisting of the July 10, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes, journal entries, budget adjustments, bills in the amount of \$102,645.64.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Moll, Bumgart, Burns, Winn.

No – None.

Absent- None.

Motion carried.

Open Forum:

County Commissioner Gale Dugan was present and gave the board updates from the meetings over the last month at the county level. He noted that the new school resource officer is Phillip Arnsman.

City of Otsego Fire Chief Weber was present and gave an update to the board on how things have been going at the fire department over the past month. He also mentioned that the fire department may look at expanding their hiring “net” to people that can respond to the station within 4 to 5 minutes.

Old Business:

M89 Bike Path: No action was taken. Supervisor Winn is looking into an option for the state to pay for the repaving, but has been having a difficult time getting ahold of anyone.

Full Time Position: No action was taken. Supervisor Winn is hoping to have something to the board around January 2024.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2023**

Fire Agreement Addendum: The agreement has been returned to the city from the township's lawyers. The board can take action once the city presents it.

A motion was made by Winn with support by Burns to table the fire agreement addendum until we receive it back from the City of Otsego.

Aye: 7.

Nay: 0.

Motion Carried.

New Business:

DWCR Grant - Hazelwood: A grant opportunity was presented to the township to cover approximately \$133,000.00 of the Hazelwood project with a 20% match from the Township. The application was submitted but they are still working on drawing up the Grant Agreement.

A motion was made by Burns with support by Moll to authorize Supervisor Winn to execute the grant agreement documents.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Moll, Bumgart, Burns, Winn.

No – None.

Absent- None.

Motion carried.

Hazelwood Construction Bids: The construction bids for the Hazelwood water project came in with the lowest being \$680,880.00 from USA Earthworks, LLC. Lounsbury Excavating, Inc. submitted a bid of \$724,975.00, Milbocker & Sons, Inc. submitted a bid of \$766,385.00 and B & L Excavating Corp. submitted a bid of \$823,338.00. The Township applied for the C2R2 grant in 2020 for this project and was awarded the grant in the amount of \$563,027, which included \$86,620 for engineering and \$476,407 for construction. Mike Schwartz from Prein & Newhof was present and estimated that total (construction and engineering) the grant falls short by \$250,000. Allegan County did not agree to give any of their ARPA funds to the Township for water projects as the township did not meet their requirement of having at least 90% broadband availability. EGLE was able to find the DWCR grant to assist the township with some of the overage.

A motion was made by Moll with support by Lunarde-Alexander to accept the bid from USA Earthworks, LLC. In the amount of \$680,880.00.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Burns, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Bumgart, Moll.

No – None.

Absent – None.

Abstain – Winn.

Motion carried.

Poverty Exemption: Assessor Lydia Paille produced a new Poverty Exemption Resolution for the board to review.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2023**

A motion was made by Winn with support by Moll to adopt the poverty resolution as presented.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Moll, Bumgart, Burns, Winn.

No – None.

Absent- None.

Motion carried.

AT&T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension: AT&T has a current permit with Otsego Township/Allegan County that is set to expire on December 31, 2023. AT&T has submitted a permit extension that would extend the term of the current permit to December 31, 2028.

A motion was made by Moll with support by Winn to approve the extension.

Aye: 7.

Nay: 0.

Motion Carried.

Michigan Gas Ordinance: Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation has to periodically update their franchise agreement ordinances. This ordinance has gone back and forth for about a year between the township attorneys and Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation to satisfy both parties. Members of the board felt that there needed to be more information on what had changed from the prior ordinance to the current ordinance.

A motion was made by Winn with support by Lunarde-Alexander to table the ordinance until the next meeting so that the board could get their questions answered.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Burns, Lunarde-Alexander, Bumgart, Winn.

No – Moll, Colin.

Absent – None.

Motion carried.

Ballot Wording for Additional Trash Millage: A resolution to adopt millage ballot language was presented to the board. Bulk trash rates have significantly increased for one pickup to twice the amount that the current millage brings in annually. Due to these very high prices, the board needs to look at other options for bulk trash services and/or decide the best way to handle this service moving forward.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Otsego Township wishes to continue to provide solid waste disposal service to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the electors in Otsego Township authorized a special millage of .25 mills to finance this service; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 voter authorized special millage for solid waste disposal services is no longer sufficient to cover the costs of such services from the service provider; and

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2023**

WHEREAS, additional special millage is necessary for the continuation of the solid waste disposal services to be provided.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Township Board of Otsego Township approves the following millage ballot question language and directs the Clerk to submit it to be placed on the November 7, 2023 election ballot:

Otsego Township Solid Waste Disposal Millage Increase

Shall Otsego Township impose an increase of up to .50 mills (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for 5 years, 2023 through 2027 inclusive, for solid waste disposal purposes, raising an estimated \$113,000.00 in the first year the millage is levied? This millage proposal is in addition to the millage renewal for solid waste disposal purposes approved by the voters in 2022.

The foregoing resolution offered by Township Board Member Burns and supported by Board Member Winn at a meeting on August 14, 2023.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye": Gudith, Moll, Burns, Colin, Bumgart, Winn; "Nay": None; "Absent": None. The Township Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

I, Jen Colin, acting Clerk of Otsego Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of said Township at the regular meeting held on August 14, 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as herein before set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

A motion was made by Burns with support by Winn to approve the resolution to adopt millage ballot language.

Roll Call: Yes – Gudith, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Moll, Bumgart, Burns, Winn.

No – None.

Absent- None.

Motion carried.

Early Voting: Clerk Colin presented options to the board for what the 9 days of early voting for state and federal elections could look like for Otsego Township. Allegan County Clerk Genetski has told all of the clerks that the county will not be conducting the 9 days of early voting. The other two options are for the municipalities to conduct the early voting themselves or by agreement of 2 or more municipalities in the same county. Clerk Colin has several meetings in the next couple of weeks to gather more information on what both of those options will look like. The state is also putting together grants for early voting, but we are unsure of what that will look like at this time.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2023**

Communications and Reports:

Supervisor Winn informed the board and the public that he was very impressed with the organization and efforts of the Assessing department. Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander agreed and expressed appreciation.

Supervisor Winn also gave a reminder about the Special ARPA meeting on Monday August 21, 2023.

Open Forum: Non-Agenda Items:

Robert Fales of 975 19th St. Otsego was present and expressed frustration with the process of getting rid of the trailers that people are living in next door to him. Supervisor Winn said he will call PCI and see if he can get some movement on that situation.

With no further business before the Board, a motion by Winn with support by Moll was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55p.m.

Aye-7, Nay – 0, Absent-0.

Motion carried.

Jen Colin, Clerk

Bryan Winn, Supervisor

I, the undersigned Jen Colin, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Township of Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 14th day of August 2023.

Jen Colin, Clerk
Otsego Township