

December 9, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, in the Chocolay Township Fire Hall. Supervisor Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TOWNSHIP BOARD.

PRESENT: David Lynch (Supervisor), Max Engle (Clerk), Ben Zyburt (Treasurer), Richard Bohjanen, Don Rhein, Jon LeGalley, Mark Stonerock (Trustees)

STAFF PRESENT: William De Groot, Suzanne Sundell

OTHER STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mason Mitchell, Lisa Perry, Dale Throenle, Joe Neumann, Attorney Roger Zappa

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Rhein moved, Engle supported to approve the agenda as modified (addition of Unfinished Business, Item B. Selected interview questions.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Special Meeting of December 2, 2024.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – November 2024.
- C. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – November 7, 2024 (Check #'s 27221 – 27231, in the amount of \$4,930.20), November 19, 2024 (Check #'s 27232 – 27266, in the amount of \$594,687.94), and November 27, 2024 (Check #'s 27267 – 27278, in the amount of \$8,547.12).
- D. Approve Bills Payable, Tax Check Register Reports – November 19, 2024 (Check #'s 5106 – 5108, in the amount of \$35,420.13).
- E. Approve Bills Payable – Regular Payroll of November 7, 2024 (Check #'s DD4637 – DD4677 and Check #'s 11628 – 11644, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$58,215.07), PTO Payout of L. Cronick on November 7, 2024 (Check #11636 in the amount of \$688.19), and Regular Payroll of November 21, 2024 (Check #'s DD4678 – DD4724 and Check #'s 11637 – 11644, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$56,871.54).

Zyburt moved, Rhein supported to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT - NONE

CLERK’S REPORT - NONE

TREASURER’S REPORT - NONE

PUBLIC HEARING – NONE.

PRESENTATIONS – PAST BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATION

Supervisor Lynch presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Judy White for her dedicated service to the Township for the past 12 years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – FY 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL FEE SCHEDULE

Zybert moved, Rhein supported to approve the 2025 Fee Schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT RESOLUTION

**GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

Zybert moved, Bohjanen supported, that

**Whereas**, the Township Supervisor has submitted a complete itemized budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, to the Township Board for its consideration; and

**Whereas**, notice of the public hearing on the budget was published in the Mining Journal, a newspaper of general circulation within the Township, on October 23, 2024; and

**Whereas**, a public hearing was held on the proposed budget on November 11, 2024 at Chocolay Township Fire Hall, and a copy of the proposed budget was on file and available for public inspection during regular office hours at the office of the Township Clerk for a period of not less than one week prior to the public hearing:

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved:**

1. The Township Board adopts the budget as revised and according to designated accounts for the next fiscal year, to wit, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$2,095,415.00 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$460,232.00 in the Road Fund, in the amount of \$1,300.00 in the Drug Law Enforcement Fund, in the amount of \$272,547.00 in the Library Millage Fund, in the amount of \$1,643,676.00 in the Capital Improvements Fund, and in the amount of \$637,552.00 for the Sewer Fund.

2. The Township Board does hereby appropriate the sum of \$2,935,766.00 for the general operating expenses (\$2,402,268.00) and capital improvements (\$533,498.00) of the Township to be used for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.
3. The Township Board does hereby appropriate the sum of \$860,222.00 to defray the expense of the operation and debt retirement of the Sanitary Sewer System for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.
4. The Township Board does hereby appropriate the sum of \$460,232.00 for the repairing of the Township Roads to be used for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.
5. The Township Board does hereby appropriate the sum of \$1,300.00 for the Drug Law Enforcement Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.
6. The Township Board does hereby appropriate the sum of \$272,547.00 for contractual services with the Peter White Public Library for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.
7. The Township Board does hereby levy 3.4893 mills for general operations; extra voted is 0.9730 mills for library, 1.6194 mills for roads.
8. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in so far as they conflict with any provisions of this resolution are rescinded.
9. The budget adoption and appropriation resolution shall now and hereafter also be known as the General Appropriations Act conforming to Public Act No. 621 of 1978, the Michigan Uniform Budgeting Act.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:** Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zyburt, Engle, Lynch

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**RESOLUTION APPROVED**

**RESOLUTION FOR OFFICER' SALARIES**

**SUPERVISOR'S SALARY**

Rhein moved, supported by Zyburt, that the salary for the office of Supervisor shall be set in the amount of \$13,702.99 for the Fiscal Year 2025, which begins January 1, 2025 and ends December 31, 2025.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:** Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zyburt, Engle, Lynch

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TREASURER'S SALARY**

Rhein moved, supported by Stonerock, that the salary for the office of Treasurer shall be set in the amount of \$13,702.99 for the Fiscal Year 2025, which begins January 1, 2025 and ends December 31, 2025.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:** Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Engle, Lynch

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Zyburt

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CLERK'S SALARY**

Rhein moved, supported by Zyburt, that the salary for the office of Clerk shall be set in the amount of \$13,702.99 for the Fiscal Year 2025, which begins January 1, 2025 and ends December 31, 2025.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:** Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zyburt, Lynch

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Engle

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TRUSTEE'S PER DIEM**

Zyburt moved, supported by Rhein, that the per diem for the office of Trustee shall be set in the amount of \$82.35 per meeting for the Fiscal Year 2025, which begins January 1, 2025 and ends December 31, 2025.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**AYES:** Stonerock, LeGalley, Zyburt, Engle, Lynch

**NAYS:** Rhein

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Bohjanen

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC ACT 152 RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1**

**December 9, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 80% / 20%, EMPLOYER / EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE COST OPTION AS SET FORTH IN 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT**

**Bohjanen moved, Rhein supported that:**

**WHEREAS**, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

**WHEREAS**, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirement of the Act;

**WHEREAS**, the three options are as follow:

1. Section 3 – “Hard Caps” Option – limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined by the Act;
2. Section 4 – “80% / 20%” Option – limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
3. Section 8 – “Exemption” Option – a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Board has decided to adopt the 80% / 20% option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Township Board of the Charter Township of Chocolay elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the 80% / 20% option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Upon a Roll Call Vote, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Stonerock, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zyburt, Engle, Lynch

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: LeGalley (abstained as employee)

Supervisor Lynch took a moment to introduce the new Board members (Mark Stonerock and Jon LeGalley) to our Attorney, Roger Zappa.

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR TOWNSHIP MANAGER APPLICANTS**

Supervisor Lynch reviewed the interview questions that had been chosen to ask applicants for the interviews to be conducted on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The questions will be added to the packet for those nights.

**CONSIDER REZONING APPLICATION – 52-02-112-051-00 (1900 M-28 EAST) – ALGER DELTA CEA**

Zybert moved, Engle supported to approve the rezoning of Parcel 52-02-112-051-00, known as 1900 M-28 East from Residential 1 (R-1) to Commercial (C) based on a public hearing conducted by the Township Planning Commission, Planning Commission’s recommendation of approval and finding of facts, and the consultation from the Marquette County Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Stonerock, LeGalley, Bohjanen, Zybert, Engle, Lynch

NAYS: Rhein

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER FY 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO START YEAR END CLOSURE

**Capital Fund Budget Amendments  
CF #10**

Meeting: December Board Meeting

Date: December 9, 2024

Zybert moved, Rhein supported that:

Whereas, a budget was adopted by the Chocolay Township Board to govern the anticipated Capital Fund expenditures of the Township on December 11, 2023 for fiscal year 2024; and

Whereas, as a result of unanticipated changes in revenues and / or expenditures, it is necessary to modify the aforesaid budget,

Now Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the FY2024 budget be modified as follows:

|                     | PREVIOUS      | CHANGE (+ / -) | AMENDED       |  |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| REVENUE/EXPENDITURE |               |                |               |  |
| 401.670             | \$ -          | \$ 15,000.00   | \$ 15,000.00  | New contract pmt - Cell Tower                |
| 401.756.972         | \$ -          | \$ 16,500.00   | \$ 16,500.00  | Rent - Cell Tower                            |
| 401.756.972         | \$ 16,500.00  | \$ 15,000.00   | \$ 31,500.00  | New contract pmt - Cell Tower                |
| 401.540             | \$ 71,500.00  | \$ 1,500.00    | \$ 73,000.00  | Walmart Grant - Fire Dept                    |
| 401.340.977         |               | \$ 1,500.00    | \$ 1,500.00   | Walmart Grant - Fire Dept                    |
| 401.540             | \$ 73,000.00  | \$ 10,000.00   | \$ 83,000.00  | Election grant - 2025 Security System        |
| 401.258.977         |               | \$ 10,000.00   | \$ 10,000.00  | Election grant - 2025 Security System        |
| 401.543             | \$ 148,216.48 | \$ 4,283.52    | \$ 152,500.00 | State Grant - GG 24*2399 Final               |
| 401.340.977         | \$ 114,089.60 | \$ 4,283.52    | \$ 118,373.12 | State Grant - GG 24*2399, Activate FD Radios |

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zybert, Engle, Lynch

NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 MOTION CARRIED

## General Fund Budget Amendments GF #4 Presidential Primary Reimbursement

Meeting: December Board Meeting

Date: December 9, 2024

Bohjanen moved, Rhein supported that:

Whereas, a budget was adopted by the Chocolay Township Board to govern the anticipated General Fund expenditures of the Township on December 11, 2023 for fiscal year 2024; and

Whereas, as a result of unanticipated changes in revenues and / or expenditures, it is necessary to modify the aforesaid budget,

Now Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the FY2024 budget be modified as follows:

|             | Previous      | Change (+/-) | Amended       |   |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| REVENUE     |               |              |               |   |
| 101.576     | \$ -          | \$ 21,126.80 | \$ 21,126.80  | Election Reimbursement - Presidential Primary |
| EXPENDITURE |               |              |               |   |
| 101.190.710 | \$ 42,000.00  | \$ 6,139.75  | \$ 48,139.75  | Precinct Employee Compensation                |
| 101.305.702 | \$ 423,462.00 | \$ 510.72    | \$ 423,972.72 | Police Reimbursement                          |
| 101.756.702 | \$ 127,488.00 | \$ 343.44    | \$ 127,831.44 | DPW Reimbursement                             |
| 101.190.713 | \$ 3,300.00   | \$ 6,492.72  | \$ 9,792.72   | Election Staff Overtime                       |
| 101.190.729 | \$ 8,000.00   | \$ 5,254.37  | \$ 13,254.37  | Election Postage                              |
| 101.190.956 | \$ 900.00     | \$ 358.13    | \$ 1,258.13   | Miscellaneous Expenses                        |
| 101.190.752 | \$ 7,035.00   | \$ 1,317.68  | \$ 8,352.68   | Supply Expenses                               |
| 101.190.957 | \$ 1,200.00   | \$ 709.99    | \$ 1,909.99   | Other Expenses                                |

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: Stonerock, LeGalley, Rhein, Bohjanen, Zyburt, Engle, Lynch

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

CONSIDER OFFICE CLOSURE DECEMBER 23, 2024

Rhein moved, Zyburt supported to approve the closure of the Township Offices on December 23, 2024. Residents will have access to the drop box for payments.

MOTION CARRIED

#### CONSIDER 2025 TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE DATES

Rhein moved, Zyburt supported to approve the proposed Township Office Closure dates in recognition of major holidays within the calendar year of 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

#### CONSIDER 2025 BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEETING DATES

Zyburt moved, Rhein supported to approve the proposed Township Board Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

#### CONSIDER 2025 BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Rhein moved, Zyburt supported to approve the appointments presented by Supervisor Lynch and listed on the "Boards, Committees, Commission – 2025" worksheet within this packet.

MOTION CARRIED

#### DISCUSS MANAGER POSITION TRANSITION PLAN

Township Manager De Groot discussed the possibility of a possible contract for the transition period. He has drafted a contract for the Board to consider. De Groot has discussed this with legal and will not be taking his full rate. De Groot is offering \$25 per hour, limited to 10 hours per week. This can be part of a future discussion that may take place on Thursday after all the interviews have been conducted.

#### MANAGER UPDATE OF WORK PLAN AND CORPORATE STATUS

Manager De Groot stated that the 2025 budget has been put together and approved. He recommends that when the new manager is seated, there will be a need to look into the next 4 years. This is De Groot's last budget – in the last 4 years many of the strategic items have been achieved – duplication of services so if one went down there was a backup, strengthening our emergency response with our neighboring partners, internal conversations on how to make things more transparent and easier to understand, depth of leadership training with our employees. Discussed the various accomplishments within the departments – Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department and Administration and Finance.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS



Mark Stonerock – None

Jon LeGalley – None

Don Rhein –None

Richard Bohjanen – felt this was the smoothest budget reconciliation he has sat through.

Ben Zyburt – thanked Bill for putting together the transition contract. He appreciates everything that Bill has done over the past year and wishes him all the best in his new endeavors.

Max Engle – None

David Lynch – Ditto on Ben’s comments – Bill has been a valuable asset to this community and will be missed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

Zyburt moved, Engle supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

#### INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Regular Meeting of November 25, 2024, Draft.
- B. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority; Special Meeting of November 21, 2024, Draft.
- C. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting of September 19, 2024.
- D. Minutes – US 41 Corridor Advisory Group; Regular Meeting of November 12, 2024.

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Max Engle, Clerk

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David Lynch, Supervisor