

December 11, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, December 11, 2024, in the Chocolay Township Fire Hall. Supervisor Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Special Meeting was called to interview candidates for the Township Manager position.

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, Joe Neumann, Lee Gould, Tony Carrick, Linda Poole, Dale Throenle

ALSO PRESENT: Chet Janik, Michigan Leadership Institute

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

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

MOTION CARRIED

INTERVIEW WITH TOWNSHIP MANAGER CANDIDATE #1

Jeff Thornton introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Thornton has extensive experience in local government. He responded to a set of questions from the Board.

Short break between candidates

INTERVIEW WITH TOWNSHIP MANAGER CANDIDATE #2

Jered Ottenwess introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Ottenwess has a B.A and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He is currently employed as a Mortgage Loan Officer. He responded to a set of questions from the Board.

Rhein moved, Zyburt supported that the Township Board adjourn the meeting for a short break before the next interview.

MOTION CARRIED

Rhein moved, Zyburt supported to reconvene the meeting at 6:58 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

ZOOM INTERVIEW WITH TOWNSHIP MANAGER CANDIDATE #3

Daniel Sabolsky introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Sabolsky has an MPA (specializing in Small Local Government and Community Development / Planning) and a B.S. in Biology / Comprehensive Science. Both degrees are from Bowling Green State University. He is currently employed as the City Manager of Cheboygan, MI. He responded to a set of questions from the Board.

A copy of the interview questions are attached to the minutes.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mark Stonerock – None.

Jon LeGalley – None.

Don Rhein – None.

Richard Bohjanen – None.

Ben Zyburt – None.

Max Engle – None.

Dave Lynch – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

Zyburt moved, Rhein supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Max Engle, Clerk

David Lynch, Supervisor

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

OPENING QUESTION

1. While we have had an opportunity to review your resume, our audience has not. Would you very briefly review your background and what causes you to be interest in the manager position?

BOARD RELATIONSHIP

1. Please tell us what is your understanding of the role of the Township Manager?
2. Township government is a unique form of government. The Board of Trustees and other elected officials are co-employers which occasionally leads to conflicts. What type of a relationship would you like to establish with the elected officials?
3. Tell us about a complex work situation in which you were involved and how it was resolved.

MANAGEMENT STYLE

1. Time management and balancing multiple priorities is an important skill to be effective in this role. How do you make decisions about how you spend your time, and what strategies do you use for balancing multiple priorities?

EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIPS

1. Please tell us how you would proceed in developing trust and respect with the Department Heads and Township employees?

BUDGET

1. This vacancy is for a Manager with oversight responsibility for the township budget. Describe in detail your experience with budget development, financial management, and developing grant proposals.

LEADERSHIP

1. What are the three effective leadership qualities you think are the *most* important? How have you demonstrated these qualities in your past or current position?

JOB EFFECTIVENESS

1. Please tell us about one or two of your proudest professional accomplishments. What types of challenges do you most enjoy tackling?
2. If offered the position, could you please provide us an approximate timeline when you could begin your duties with this Township?

WRAP UP

1. We appreciate your interest in the position – thank you for coming. Are there questions that you have for the trustees about the position?