

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 1**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board was called to order by the Supervisor Ken Schwartz at 5:30 p.m. on July 23, 2024, at the Superior Charter Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect, Superior Charter Township, Michigan.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Supervisor Schwartz led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**3. ROLL CALL**

The members present were Supervisor Ken Schwartz, Clerk Lynette Findley, Treasurer Lisa Lewis, Trustee Nancy Caviston, Trustee Bernice Lindke, Trustee Rhonda McGill, and Trustee Bill Secrest.

Absent: Treasurer Lisa Lewis

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Secrest supported by Trustee McGill, to adopt the agenda, amending the order of business to the following:

**A. PRIORITY WASTE – UPDATE/ INTERNAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**B. BANK OF ANN ARBOR – FRED LUCAS, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY, UPDATE**

**C. TERMINATE MORRIS' CONTRACT AND ASK NEW CONTRACTORS TO APPLY**

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**A. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Ramona Parker Hayden, Stamford Rd., discussed Morris Concrete's contract termination, potential financial obligations, unsatisfactory work, the bid process for new contractors, and recommended using complete names and affiliations in official documents.
- Debby Covington, Savannah Ct., invited everyone to a candidate forum she's hosting this Thursday from 6 to 8 PM at Christian Love Fellowship Church in Ypsilanti. The event will be moderated by a nonresident, and many candidates have agreed to attend. She provided cards with details and hopes for a good turnout.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 2**

- Keith Reed, Oakbrook, expressed concerns about neglected sidewalks on Barrington, Wiltshire, and Berkshire. Reed requested cleanup of poorly trimmed shrubbery at the Oakbrook sign.
- Sonia Kaufman, Great Hawk Cir., raised concerns about trash pickup delays in Matthaei Farms, stating that some residents have waited up to four weeks. She highlighted the potential health risks and urged action to resolve the issue.
- Irma Golden, Township Deputy Supervisor, responding to an earlier comment, raised concerns about ADA compliance at Barrington and Wiltshire, communication failures regarding trash pickup, and unresolved damage by Morris Concrete, emphasizing that the Township should prioritize residents.
- Dolores Argo, Arlington Dr., shared her dissatisfaction with sidewalk repairs performed by Morris Concrete, which she felt were poorly done. After receiving no resolution from Mr. Morris, she took legal action but struggled to serve him due to an incorrect address. She requested help in obtaining Mr. Morris's correct address to address the ongoing issue.
- Glenn Thomas, Barrington Dr., updated the Board on his issues with Priority Waste, mentioning delayed customer service, double billing, and slow callbacks.
- Steph, Zoom, condemned Morris Concrete for ruining her sidewalks and requested reimbursement. She also mentioned a neighbor's bad experience and urged the Board to choose better contractors.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PRIORITY WASTE – UPDATE/ INTERNAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- Sam Caramagno, Priority Waste, updated the Board on Matthaei Farms and Glenn Thomas's billing issues, assuring both would be addressed. He mentioned ongoing problems, including overwhelmed call centers due to the acquisition of seventy-three communities from GFL. Missed areas in Matthaei Farms were being collected, and a supervisor was deployed to oversee collections.
- Clerk Findley acknowledged Mr. Caramagno's efforts but emphasized that residents deserve timely service. She expressed concern about putting up information that would increase costs to the office and suggested Priority Waste send a letter to residents explaining that online accounts would not be accessible until October to reduce calls. She highlighted how she and Allison Olenyik, Building Assistant, were personally managing a high volume of calls, even while she was on vacation.
- Mr. Caramagno agreed to discuss the suggestion with his team.
- Trustee McGill shared residents' communication issues and stressed the need for better information dissemination from Priority Waste, particularly regarding billing discrepancies. She emphasized the importance of early communication before October, similar to Canton.
- Mr. Caramagno explained that Canton has a different billing system and is rolling out a new program with Priority Waste.
- Trustee Lindke suggested considering a township billing system instead of individual residents in the future and questioned why it couldn't be implemented now. She also

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 3**

highlighted the outdated township ordinance regarding trash storage and the need for better assignment and tracking of resident complaints.

- Mr. Caramagno agreed to take the Township billing suggestion back to his team and provide direct contact numbers to the Board for better communication with Priority Waste.
- Clerk Findley reiterated the importance of staying informed and in control of the communication process. She stressed that Mr. Caramagno should keep her updated on all developments so she could effectively manage the flow of information to the Board and residents, underlining her central role in the process.
- Trustee McGill requested a weekly update from Priority Waste until issues were resolved.
- Clerk Findley again emphasized her involvement, stating that Mr. Caramagno should send her the necessary information promptly, ensuring that she remains the primary point of contact for any updates or issues.
- Mr. Caramagno mentioned a portal that tracks missed pickups and resolutions and promised to ensure the Township had access to it. He acknowledged the challenge of handling increased call volume and gave assurance that staffing and training were ongoing to improve the situation. He promised to relay the Board's concerns to his team the next morning.
- The Board thanked Mr. Caramagno for his efforts, with no further questions asked.

**B. BANK OF ANN ARBOR – FRED LUCAS, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY, UPDATE**

- Supervisor Schwartz asked about the item related to the Bank of Ann Arbor, unsure of why it was on the agenda.
- Trustee McGill explained she wanted Fred Lucas (Township Attorney) to provide an update because there was confusion about who was responsible for the issue, and she wanted to understand the implications for the Township.
- Fred Lucas stated that he had just received the documents and was not aware of them prior. He clarified that the documents likely related to a bond or letter of credit required by the building department, but he wasn't involved in this specific issue.
- Clerk Findley mentioned that she received the documents by accident.
- Supervisor Schwartz shared that after contacting the bank, it was clarified that the documents were related to a replacement bond that the Township receives annually from the Bank of Ann Arbor for Infinity.
- Trustee Lindke asked for clarification on whether this bond was specifically for Infinity Homes, LLC.
- Supervisor Schwartz confirmed it was, explaining that it's a routine replacement letter of credit received every year.
- Trustee Lindke asked what it means for the Township and if they can make claims on it.
- Fred Lucas clarified that the bond is project-specific, and the Township could make a claim if Infinity failed to perform under the bond's terms.
- Trustee Lindke asked if this bond was related to a separate \$100,000.00 issue.
- Supervisor Schwartz speculated that it might be related to the final asphalt course on new roads but wasn't certain.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 4**

- Trustee Lindke insisted on confirming the details and suggested that the building department should have this information.
- Fred Lucas agreed that the building department should have the details as they would have managed the bond through OHM.
- Clerk Findley questioned why this information was only coming to light now.
- Supervisor Schwartz explained that it's a routine letter of credit that the Township receives annually, and they could make claims related to the work it backs.
- Trustee McGill pointed out that on July 18th, Supervisor Schwartz had said he didn't know why the letter was received and suggested checking with Fred, which led to the current discussion. She emphasized the importance of clear communication to avoid such confusion.
- Fred Lucas suggested that the level of detail required from the building department should be clarified to ensure they provide the necessary information moving forward.
- Trustee McGill clarified that she wasn't asking for extensive details, just clarification on what the bond pertained to.
- Fred Lucas reiterated that this bond is unrelated to the \$100,000 lawsuit and was likely highlighted due to ongoing litigation with Infinity.
- Trustee McGill expressed frustration that if this had been explained on July 18th, the current discussion wouldn't have been necessary.
- Fred Lucas responded that had he been aware of the issue earlier, he could have provided clarity sooner.
- Supervisor Schwartz noted that these matters were historically managed administratively, but if the Board wants more detailed reports, they can request them from the building department and the planner.
- Trustee McGill reiterated that she wasn't asking to change the process but sought clarification on the specific bond.
- Clerk Findley noted that the same claim number from last year brought this issue to their attention by accident but suggested moving forward for sake of time.

**C. TERMINATE MORRIS' CONTRACT AND ASK NEW CONTRACTORS TO APPLY**

- Trustee Lindke reviewed the sidewalk ordinance and inspection policy, noting that the Township was out of compliance because the supervisor is supposed to appoint a director for sidewalks. She questioned why this had not been done.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated that the ordinance was outdated and not consistent with current operations, indicating that it may not be necessary to follow it strictly.
- Trustee Lindke emphasized that the ordinance was still a law and asked who the current director of sidewalks was.
- Supervisor Schwartz admitted that there was no appointed director.
- Trustee Lindke pointed out that the ordinance clearly states the director shall be appointed by the supervisor, emphasizing that it is a requirement.
- Supervisor Schwartz acknowledged this but mentioned the lack of funds to appoint a director.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 5**

- Trustee Lindke suggested that the Board could allocate the necessary funds and suggested appointing Irma Golden, Deputy Supervisor, to the position.
- Supervisor Schwartz rejected the proposal.
- Trustee Lindke insisted that one person should be in charge, stating that sidewalks were not being properly managed.
- Supervisor Schwartz agreed that management was lacking but noted the financial constraints.
- Trustee Lindke criticized the handling of the situation, pointing out that residents have been raising issues with sidewalks that are not being addressed.
- Fred Lucas explained that the supervisor has the authority to appoint a director but only if the Board allocates funds for the position. He also stated the need to overhaul the Township's ordinances as many are outdated and not being followed.
- Trustee Lindke expressed frustration with the lack of action on sidewalk issues and suggested putting a pause on the sidewalk program until the situation is resolved.
- Clerk Findley mentioned past overbilling issues (regarding sidewalks) and other concerns that put township employees in difficult positions.
- Fred Lucas suggested that an independent third party should review the quality of sidewalk work to determine if complaints are valid, which would provide an unbiased assessment.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated that this has not been done due to a lack of qualified personnel to perform such inspections.
- Trustee McGill expressed concern about the number of resident complaints and suggested that the Board should better structure the sidewalk program, possibly by hiring someone to manage it properly.
- Supervisor Schwartz asked how many valid complaints there actually were, stating that the number might not be as high as it seems.
- Trustee McGill insisted that the complaints were credible and emphasized that the Township needs to address them, regardless of whether they are discussed on platforms like "Nextdoor."
- Supervisor Schwartz defended the quality of Morris Concrete's work, stating that the majority of it has been good, though he acknowledged some issues.
- Trustee McGill reiterated that the residents' complaints need to be addressed, and that the Township should not rely solely on one contractor.
- Fred Lucas reiterated the need for an independent review of the work done by contractors to ensure it meets the required standards.
- Trustee Lindke agreed, stating that this would benefit both the residents and the contractor.
- Daryll Morris, Morris Concrete, responded to the Board, stating that he was willing to address any issues brought to his attention, but emphasized that many of the complaints were new to him and that his company was committed to doing quality work.
- Supervisor Schwartz supported Mr. Morris, stating that he had personally inspected some of the work and found it to be of good quality.
- Clerk Findley criticized the political nature of the discussions and expressed concern about the integrity of the complaints being raised.
- Trustee McGill argued that the focus should be on addressing residents' concerns, not on political issues, and suggested expanding the list of contractors available to residents.
- Mr. Morris explained the challenges his company faced, including financial strain from the

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 23, 2024  
APPROVED MINUTES  
PAGE 6**

harsh winter and delays in getting work done due to overwhelming demand. He emphasized his commitment to fixing any issues but noted the difficulties in managing such a large workload.

- Trustee McGill suggested providing Mr. Morris with a list of addresses where complaints had been raised so that he could address them directly.
- Supervisor Schwartz agreed that this would be a good step forward.
- Trustee McGill emphasized the importance of resolving any material issues with the sidewalk work and ensuring that residents are satisfied with the results.
- Mr. Morris committed to making necessary repairs and explained the logistical challenges his team faces, stating that they are doing their best to address all issues in a timely manner.
- Clerk Findley reminded Mr. Morris about a bill he had agreed to pay, handing it to him at the meeting.
- Supervisor Schwartz noted that the statutory obligation for public comment had been fulfilled and moved to conclude the meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee Secrest supported by Trustee McGill, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor