

2024 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Annual Joint Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes

A regular Annual Joint meeting of the Charter Township of Union Board of Trustees was held on April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Jameson Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Smith moved **Brown** supported to appoint Trustee Bills as Recording Secretary for the Annual Joint meeting in the absence of Clerk Cody. **Vote: Ayes: 12 Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

Roll Call

Present: Board of Trustees: Supervisor Mielke, Trustee Bills, Trustee Brown, Trustee Smith, Trustee Thering; **EDA:** Kequom, Bacon; **Planning Commission:** Squattrito, LaBelle; **ZBA:** Presnell, Loose, Rogers

Excused: Board of Trustees: Clerk Cody, Treasurer Rice; **EDA:** Chowdhary (arrived at 6:19 p.m.), Coyne; **Planning Commission:** Lapp (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), Gross, Shingles, Olver **ZBA:** Clark (arrived at 6:57 p.m.)

Absent: EDA: Barz, Figg, Sweet, Zalud; **Planning Commission:** Buckley, McDonald

Approval of Agenda

Smith moved **Brown** supported to approve the agenda as presented. **Vote: Ayes: 12 Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

Presentation

A. Discussion to promote alignment within the community in accordance with Governance Policy 3.5

1. Board of Trustees Introduction

Supervisor Mielke introduced Policy Governance 3.5 to promote alignment between various Boards and Commissions. The Annual Meeting is strategically scheduled in April to hear from the various boards and their priorities before budget season. Mielke gave a synopsis of the projects that came before the Board of Trustees in 2023.

***6:19 p.m. Chowdhary arrived.**

2. Planning Commission Annual Report

Chair Squattrito highlighted the Planning Commission's 2023 Annual Report. The Commissioners have reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and currently are reviewing the Township Master Plan. Looking ahead, the Planning Commission would like to review the Sidewalk and Pathways Ordinance and possibly reinstating the Sidewalk and Pathways Committee.

***6:37 p.m. Commissioner Lapp arrived.**

3. Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Report

Chair Presnell, provided an update on the activities of the ZBA. It was reported that in 2023, the ZBA deliberated on three (3) variances. Additionally, it was noted that the board has received fewer requests, a trend that is likely attributed to the updates made to the Zoning Ordinance. Notably, there have been no meetings thus far in 2024. Challenges the board face are retaining the training materials due to the lack of meetings.

4. Economic Development Authority Annual Report

Chair Kequom provided an overview of the 2023 activities of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) East and West. The EDA has been actively engaged in various seasonal tasks including holiday banners, sidewalk snow removal, and routine landscaping. The chair noted that there are no significant projects on the horizon, however, the EDA remains open to opportunities. Information regarding projects can be accessed through the Township's website which is a great resource. The Chair stated that the EDA is looking into funding the underground irrigation system along East Pickard Road and stressed that beautifying this corridor is essential for the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: RESTRICTED TO 5 MINUTES REGARDING ANY ISSUE

Open: 6:55 p.m.

No comments were given

Closed: 6:55 p.m.

FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

***6:57 p.m. Brian Clark arrived**

Chair Presnell – inquired if the Township has had discussions on how to fill in the gaps regarding the Isabella County workforce cuts.

Trustee Smith – Replied to Chair Presnell's comment giving updates from the Isabella County Commissioners April 16th Work Session meeting.

Mielke – Replied to Chair Presnell question that the Township has not had any formal discussions in a public setting.

Manager Stuhldreher – Commented that the township is following the developments of the County.

ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved Smith supported to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Vote: Ayes: 15 Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

APPROVED BY:



Lisa Cody, Clerk



Bryan Mielke, Supervisor

(Recorded by Tera Green)