

**Saugatuck Township
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.
Saugatuck Township Hall
Meeting held in person**

Call to Order: Treasurer called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Treasurer Helmrich, Trustee Aldrich, Trustee Marcy

Absent: Clerk Osman, Supervisor Bigford

Also Present: Township Manager Daniel DeFranco

Approval of Agenda:

A **Motion** was made by Aldrich to approve the agenda as amended. Supported by Marcy.

Discussion: DeFranco requested that Discussion Item 2, *Lakeshore Drive Funding Commitment*, be moved to item 1 under “Discussion Items,” and that *Lead Service Line Payment Application 1* be added as item 5 under “Discussion Items.”

Voice Vote: 3-0.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment:

1. Steve Ringleberg, Supervisor of Laketown Township, introduced himself, let the Board know that he will be acting as interim Manager for Laketown as they complete their Manager search, and that he is looking forward to strengthening relationships between Saugatuck and Laketown townships.

Action Items:

1. Coastal Management Grant Submission, Res. 2025-01

DeFranco reviewed a recreation and access improvement project at River Bluff Park that would include the construction of a new fishing pier, over-the-marsh boardwalk, and improved accessibility at trail entrance. The Township would be seeking funding for these improvements from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustees of the Kalamazoo River and from the Coastal Management Program. Funds sought from the Coastal Management program are \$250,000 with a required 1:1 local match. Funds supporting feasibility and engineering work on this project have been provided by the Trustees of the Kalamazoo River. DeFranco noted that adoption of a resolution authorizing application is a grant program requirement. Helmrich asked if the matching funds would come from the Parks and Trails Millage. DeFranco said that the Township would request matching funds from the Trustees of the Kalamazoo River, although funding has not been committed at this time.

A **Motion** was made by Marcy to approve Resolution 2025-01, a resolution to apply for a Michigan Coastal Management Program Grant. Supported by Aldrich. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Yeas: Marcy, Aldrich, Helmrich

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Osman, Bigford

Discussion Items:

1. Lakeshore Drive Funding Commitment, Resolution 2025-02

Manager presented on a resolution expressing Township support for the Allegan County Road Commission's grant application to the RAISE program and committing \$250,000 in local match for the Reconnecting Lakeshore Drive Project.

2. January 2025 Budget Amendment

Manager reviewed January 2025 Budget Amendment with Board.

3. Maple Street Improvements w/ City of Saugatuck

Manager discussed upcoming improvements to Maple Street being planned by the City of Saugatuck and the need for discussions regarding a cost share arrangement. Board discussed possible cost share arrangement.

4. Roundabout Incident

Manager reviewed incident report from recent accident at Blue Star/Old Allegan roundabout. Accident report noted that the driver was distracted. Board discussed potential impact of installation of sculpture at the roundabout. Aldrich noted that she is not in favor of the sculpture installation. Helmrich and Marcy said they were in support of the sculpture installation and believe that the sculpture and uplighting will bring increased visibility to the roundabout.

5. Lead Service Line Payment Application No. 1

Manager reviewed payment application from Plummer's Environmental for water service line material verification. Portion of payment is reimbursable through EGLE grant.

Public Comment:

1. Elliot Sturm, expressed support for installation of sculpture at Blue Star roundabout. Believes height and bright color of sculpture will act as a marker for drivers who may be unaware that they are approaching a roundabout.
2. Donna Leonard, 2429 Lakeshore Drive, concerned with the proposed design of road to reconnect Lakeshore Drive. Asked about the cost to homeowners.

Adjournment: Treasurer Helmrich adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

MOTIONS

1. A **Motion** was made by Aldrich to approve the agenda as amended. Supported by Marcy. Discussion: DeFranco requested that Discussion Item 2, *Lakeshore Drive Funding Commitment*, be moved to item 1 under “Discussion Items,” and that *Lead Service Line Payment Application 1* be added as item 5 under “Discussion Items.”
Voice Vote: 3-0.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
2. A **Motion** was made by Marcy to approve Resolution 2025-01, a resolution to apply for a Michigan Coastal Management Program Grant. Supported by Aldrich. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.
Yea: Marcy, Aldrich, Helmrich
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: Osman, Bigford

Respectfully,


Daniel DeFranco, Township Manager

I, Cindy Osman, Township Clerk, certify that these minutes were approved on January 8, 2025 by the Township Board.


Cindy Osman, Township Clerk

2/13/25
Date