



Saugatuck Township Board
Special Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2023, at 11:00 am

Meeting held In-Person at Saugatuck-Douglas History Center
130 W. Center St Douglas, MI

1. Call to Order:

Supervisor Bigford called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

2. Roll Call:

Present: Trustee Marcy, Treasurer Helmrich, Clerk Israels, Trustee Aldrich, Supervisor Bigford
Also present: Manager DeFranco, Township Attorney Staub, Township Attorney Curcio,
Township Legal Representation Semonin
Absent: None

3. Approval of Agenda:

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

Discussion: None

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. Public Comment:

1. Holly Engel, identified herself as a Township resident, a Township representative on the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, area business owner, and member of the SDCA. Engel noted that the SDCA was suing the TWP related to a permit issued to the Northshore development to construct a marina, and that a recent circuit court decision has remanded the question of whether the SDCA has standing on the matter back to the Township's ZBA to consider evidence that was not available at the time the ZBA made decisions on standing in 2017 and 2018. Engel looked forward to making a case on standing and sharing evidence to support that position. Engel requested that the Township terminate permits issued to the Northshore development.

Public Comment Closed.

5. Closed Session

At 11:10am a **Motion** was made by Aldrich that the Board of Trustees of Saugatuck Township assemble in closed session to consult with its general and litigation counsel regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with litigation filed in Allegan County Circuit Court entitled:

Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance v. Saugatuck Township and Saugatuck Township Zoning Board of Appeals et al Case Nos. 17-58936-AA and 18-59598-AA

since discussing the trial and/or settlement strategy in open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of Saugatuck Township. Supported by Helmrich. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Marcy, Israels, Bigford, Helmrich, Aldrich.

At 12:08pm a **Motion** was made by Israels to come out of closed session. Supported by Marcy. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Aldrich, Bigford, Helmrich, Marcy, Israels.

At 12:08pm a recess was called by Bigford. At 12:25pm Bigford called the meeting to resume.

6. Pension Grant Program

DeFranco and Helmrich introduced the Protecting MI Pension Grant Program and noted that the Township was eligible to receive funds.

A **Motion** was made by Marcy to adopt Resolution 2023-10, a resolution to authorize a claim for the Protecting MI Pension Grant. Supported by Israels. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Helmrich, Aldrich, Bigford, Israels, Marcy.

7. Draft Budget Review (Discussion)

DeFranco gave annual Budget presentation and reviewed the draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Both documents are on file. Recess called by Bigford at 2:13pm. Meeting called to resume by Bigford at 2:20pm.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm. Next regular meeting 6:00pm Wednesday, June 14th 2023.



Motions

1. A **Motion** was made by Marcy to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Aldrich. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
2. At 11:10am a **Motion** was made by Aldrich that the Board of Trustees of Saugatuck Township assemble in closed session to consult with its general and litigation counsel regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with litigation filed in Allegan County Circuit Court entitled:

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since discussing the trial and/or settlement strategy in open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of Saugatuck Township. Supported by Helmrich. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Marcy, Israels, Bigford, Helmrich, Aldrich.

3. At 12:08pm a **Motion** was made by Israels to come out of closed session. Supported by Marcy. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Aldrich, Bigford, Helmrich, Marcy, Israels.
4. A **Motion** was made by Marcy to adopt Resolution 2023-10, a resolution to authorize a claim for the Protecting MI Pension Grant. Supported by Israels. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yes: Helmrich, Aldrich, Bigford, Israels, Marcy.

Respectfully,

Daniel DeFranco, Township Manager

I Rebecca Israels, Township Clerk, certify that these minutes were approved on July 12, 2023 by the Township Board.

Township Clerk

Date