**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

The Charter Township of Brownstown regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the Township Hall, 21313 Telegraph Road, on Monday, February 2, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Berecz at 6:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL BY CLERK BRINKER:**
**PRESENT:** Supervisor Berecz, Clerk Brinker, Treasurer Eberth, and Trustees: Chapman, Allen, Killian, and Jones. Also in attendance were Township Manager Peters; Police Chief Watson; Fire Chief Raumen; IT Support Specialist Neighbors; Director of Economic and Community Services Kibby; Building Official Brandau; DDA Director Trussell; Township Attorney Foley; and DPW Director Danosky.

**MINUTE ACCEPTANCE:**
Motion of Jones, supported by Killian, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2026, as presented with one correction to Treasurer's item 3C-2, strike "to come from Eberth's paycheck" from the record of minutes and have it read "$21.00 shortage to come from the overage/shortage account." All voting aye.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**
Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to approve the agenda of February 2, 2026, as submitted. All voting aye.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**
Public Forum was held at 6:02 p.m. There was no public comment.

**RESOULUTION 2025-24 ANNUAL WAGE RESOLUTION FOR 2026 MINUTE CORRECTION – NEW MOTION REQUIRED:**
Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to re-approve the Annual Wage Resolution 2025-24 noting the amounts were incorrectly stated in the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2025. The Commission member pay is ~~$20.00~~ $40.00 per meeting; ~~$25.00~~ $50.00 per meeting for the Chairperson. All voting aye.

**APPROVE A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH EMPANTHIA PROFESSIONALS, LLC FOR CONSULTING SERVICES RELATED TO THE BS&A BUILDING MODULE MINUTE CORRECTION – NEW MOTION REQUIRED:**
Motion of Chapman, supported by Brinker, to re-approve the three-year contract with Empanthia Professionals, LLC for consulting services related to the BS&A building module noting that the contract's effective date was incorrectly stated in the memo from December 15, 2025, which was included in the minutes. The effective date is ~~December 16, 2025,~~ January 1, 2026, for a term of three years. All voting aye.

**RESOLUTION 2026-04 AMENDMENT OF THE INSPECTION AND SERVICE FEE SCHEDULES FOR BUILDING AND ZONING FEES, ELECTRICAL FEES, MECHANICAL FEES, AND PLUMBING FEES:**

Motion of Killian, supported by Jones, to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04 an amendment of the inspection and service fee schedules for building and zoning fees, electrical fees, mechanical fees, and plumbing fees. These fee penalties are intended to discourage contractors from starting work without obtaining the appropriate permits, neglecting to schedule required inspections, and re-opening expired permits. Permits are not transferable, and the first $95.00 of any permit is non-refundable. A one-time, six-month extension with a written request and the payment of $100.00 is available for the permits as well. The department has added the following fees listed in the chart below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Failure to Schedule/Complete Required Inspection | $100.00 Fee (penalty) |
| Re-Open Expired Permit | $100.00 Fee (penalty) |
| Failure to Secure Permit – 1st Offense | $200.00 Fee (penalty) |
| Failure to Secure Permit – 2nd Offense | $400.00 Fee (penalty) |
| Failure to Secure Permit – 3rd Offense | $600.00 Fee (penalty) |

Additionally, the following inspection and service fee schedule for plumbing will be added to the fees as well and they are listed in the chart below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sump Pump Inspection | $75.00 Fee |
| Additional Inspection for shower pans not installed for the rough inspection | $75.00 Fee |

Roll call vote: Jones, aye; Chapman, aye; Brinker, aye; Killian, aye; Allen, aye; Eberth, aye; and Berecz, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2026-05 TO ADOPT A POLICY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BROWNSTOWN TOWNSHIP NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION (NPDES) PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ILLICIT DISCHARGE PROGRAM (IDEP):**

Motion of Allen, supported by Chapman, to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-05 a policy for compliance with the Brownstown Township National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit Requirements for the Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP). This policy shall prohibit non-storm water discharges, including illicit discharges, illicit connections, and direct dumping/disposal into the Township's Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4). Exclusions from this policy are flows from firefighting activities and other flows that are not considered to be a significant contributor to violations of water quality as outlined in the resolution. Roll call vote: Brinker, aye; Allen, aye; Jones, aye; Chapman, aye; Eberth, aye; Killian, aye; and Berecz, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2026-06 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE AFFF PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION WITH STAG LIUZZA, LLC AND MAVACY PLLC:**

Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-06 authorizing the execution of the legal services agreement related to the Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) product liability litigation with STAG LIUZZA, LLC, and MAVACY PLLC. The Township is committed to delivering clean drinking water to its residents and identifying parties responsible for increasing the costs of water treatment and system maintenance. This includes taking reasonable steps to avoid passing on these costs to its consumers. Roll call vote: Killian, aye; Eberth, aye; Chapman, aye; Brinker, aye; Allen, aye; Jones, aye; and Berecz, aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR AFFF PFAS LITIGATION WITH STAG LIUZZA, LLC AND MAVACY PLLC:**

Motion of Chapman, supported by Allen, to approve a contract for legal services for Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) litigation with Stag Luizza, LLC, and Mavacy PLLC. The Township authorizes the attorneys to undertake negotiations, file suit, file settlement claims, or institute legal proceedings on the Township's behalf in the AFFF Product Liability Multi-District Litigation. The Township shall only pay attorney fees (one-third of gross amount recovered) contingent upon recovery and shall only reimburse litigation costs or expenses in the event of recovery by settlement or judgement. Additionally, the Township has the right to terminate the representation upon written notice. Roll call vote: Eberth, aye; Chapman, aye; Brinker, aye; Allen, aye; Jones, aye; Killian, aye; and Berecz, aye. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION'S (MTA) PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE:**

Motion of Killian, supported by Chapman, to approve and adopt The Michigan Township Association (MTA) Principles of Governance as presented. All voting aye.

**SEMCOG ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026 - $5,209.00:**

Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to approve to pay the annual SEMCOG membership dues for 2026 in the amount of $5,209.00. All voting aye.

**SUPERVISOR:**

**HUMAN RESOURCES: APPROVAL OF PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR DDA PROJECT COORDINATOR MADISON HUBBARD:**

Motion of Jones, supported by Brinker, to approve the personal service contract for DDA Project Coordinator Madison Hubbard with a salary of $46,125.00. Previously, Hubbard served in this role on a term limited employment contract and will now extend to a three-year employment contract ending December 16, 2028. The contract was approved by the DDA Board prior to it being presented to the Board. The effective date for this contract was December 16, 2025, and the funds are available in the DDA approved 2026 budget. Additionally, backpay to December 16, 2025, is approved for Hubbard at the updated rate of pay. All voting aye.

**HUMAN RESOURCES: AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE MOLLIE LOZON AS A FULL-TIME OFFICE SPECIALIST IN THE TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT:**

Motion of Killian, supported by Chapman, to approve to hire Mollie Lozon as a Full-Time Office Specialist in the Treasurer's Department at a rate of $18.58 per hour plus benefits. This position is being backfilled from a vacancy due to a transfer, and funds are available in the Treasury Department's approved 2026 budget. The tentative start date will be February 9, 2026, and is contingent upon the passing of all screenings. All voting aye.

**HUMAN RESOURCES: AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE TWO FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER/MEDICS JASON WORLEY AND KYLE HENSLEY:**

Motion of Allen, supported by Chapman, to approve to hire two full-time firefighter/medics, Jason Worley and Kyle Hensley. These positions will be effective February 9, 2026, and backfills vacancies due to retirement. Both candidates come with previous experience as either a Firefighter, a Medic, or both. Firefighter/Medic Worley will be paid a rate of $19.56 per hour with benefits per the IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Firefighter/Medic Hensley will be paid at a rate of $20.85 per hour plus benefits per the IAFF CBA. Funds are available in the Fire Department's approved 2026 budget. All voting aye.

**FIRE: REQUEST TO AWARD CONTRACT TO AF CUSTOM CONCRETE FOR APPARATUS BAY CONCRETE FLOOR REPAIRS - $8,835.00:**
Motion of Chapman, supported by Allen, to approve the request to award the contract for concrete repair work for the apparatus bay floor at Fire Station 3 to AF Custom Concrete. The scope of the of work includes labor, equipment, removal and disposal of existing concrete, complete installation, and a one-year warranty. The cost for this project is $8,835.00 and the funds will be coming from the Fire – Building/Grounds Improvement Capital Account number 252.336.975.100. All voting aye.

**CLERK:**
**BOARD INFORMATION:**
Motion of Jones, supported by Chapman, to accept the Clerk's report which consists of one set of disbursements for the meeting of February 2, 2026. All voting aye.

**TREASURER:**
**DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026: $1,952,320.39:**
Motion of Brinker, supported by Killian, to approve disbursements as follows: General Fund Disbursements in the amount of $137,399.73; Fire Protection in the amount of $11,686.87; Police Fund in the amount of $19,121.92; Greenbelt in the amount of $48.13; Garbage and Rubbish in the amount of $16,953.23; Capital Projects in the amount of $18,873.62; Downtown Development in the amount of $134,995.31; Police Improvement in the amount of $19,361.89; Fire Improvement in the amount of $6,965.58; Road Improvement in the amount of $200.00; State Forfeiture in the amount of $29,443.91; Sewer Fund in the amount of $94,839.58; Water Fund in the amount of $14,453.10; and Retiree Insurance in the amount of $291.33; bringing the subtotal of disbursements to $504,634.20. There were also four additional payroll transfers listed on the report: one dated January 16, 2026, in the amount of $630,260.48 for Regular Payroll; one dated for January 16, 2026, in the amount of $105,211.62 for Police/Fire Sick Buy Outs; one dated for February 2026 in the amount of $53,804.46 for Retiree Insurance; and one dated January 30, 2026, in the amount of $658,409.63 for Regular Payroll bringing the total of disbursements to $1,952,320.39. Roll call vote: Allen, aye; Jones, aye; Killian, aye; Brinker, aye; Eberth, aye; Chapman, aye; and Berecz, aye. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**
**BOARD INFORMATION:**
Motion of Allen, supported by Chapman, to accept the Community Services report, which consists of a memo regarding the Joint Work Session with Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for Training; Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) meeting minutes from October 16, 2025; and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) meeting minutes from November 20, 2025. All voting aye.

**RECREATION:**
**REQUEST PERMISSION TO SEND LOCKWOOD WARMING CABINET TO AUCTION:**
Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to approve to send a Lockwood Warming Cabinet to auction as the original unit could not hold the temperature. The Parks and Recreation Department has found a comparable warming cabinet to replace the old unit. Funds from the auction will go to Parks and Recreation – Gain/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets account number 101.000.693.000. All voting aye.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**
**APPROVE WADE TRIM TO BEGIN SEWER INVESTIGATION IN THE SOUTH SECTION - $325,100.00:**
Motion of Jones, supported by Chapman, to approve Wade Trim to begin investigating the south end sewer system. The goal is to find any weaknesses within the system and establish a plan for

improvements in 2027. The investigation includes the capacity of our system; determining if there is a need to increase the size of the lift stations; and monitoring the flow. The total estimated cost of $325,100.00 is included in the approved 2026 budget and will come from Lift Station Improvements account number 590.536.973.004. All voting aye.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER UPDATE:**

Township Manager Peters provided a brief update on several ongoing projects that may be of interest to Brownstown residents:

- The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) recently notified the Township about a proposed increase of 6.5% on the water. Before the increase can be approved, GLWA must hold a public hearing, where residents can voice their concerns. Updates will be provided as they become available.
- During the quarterly meeting with the State's Consensus Revenue Group, a review of the sales tax data was done to project what the constitutional sharing revenues from the state will be. It was determined that the constitutional revenue was down slightly, which impacts on the Township's constitutional portion of our revenue sharing. Initially the impact to the Township was 2%; however, it was later determined that the revenue sharing is only 1%, which equates to a $40,000.00 loss.
- Township Manager Peters has been working with the contracted design company to create an initial concept for the renovation of Township Hall. This concept involves looking into the Township's daily operations; meeting space needs; storage needs; safety for the staff and residents; and the square footage of the existing building to develop a more concrete design. Peters will be meeting with each department to get a sense of everyone's needs to add to the development of this initial concept, which will eventually be brought to the Board. Updates for this project will be provided as they become available.

**CONSIDERATION FOR A CLOSED SESSION:**

Motion of Chapman, supported by Eberth, to move to closed session at 6:23 p.m. to consult with Township legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with litigation in the matter of Valiquette, et al v Charter Township of Brownstown, Wayne County Circuit Court, Case No. 24-004449-NZ, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(e). Roll call vote: Eberth, aye; Killian, aye; Brinker, aye; Chapman, aye; Jones, aye; Allen, aye; and Berecz aye. Motion carried.

Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to reconvene from closed session at 6:45 p.m. All voting aye.

Motion of Eberth, supported by Chapman, to proceed as discussed in closed session to have Township Manager Peters or any other Township Official sign any documentation necessary to effectuate what was discussed pursuant to the matter of Valiquette et al v Charter Township of Brownstown, Wayne County Circuit Court, Case No. 24-004449-NZ. All voting aye.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion of Chapman, supported by Jones, to adjourn the regular Township board meeting at 6:47 p.m. All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Brinker

Maureen Brinker, Clerk
Charter Township of Brownstown
MB/akt