

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Chuck Moore, and Brent Milhiem. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; Finance Director, Matthew Storbeck; and Fire Chief, Brandon Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The October 17, 2022, Regular Minutes, were approved as submitted, motion Commissioner Krueger, second by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED.

Moved to grant the request from the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce to place cards at the Pavilion by the Riverfront, from November 27, 2022, until January 2, 2023, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

An audience member who did not state their name and address, asked when the public can make comments during the meeting. Mayor Withee explained the procedures.

David Fouch, commented that he would discourage the Commission on voting on appointments until after the election that takes place tomorrow.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked if the City Manager could walk him through the Gus Macker and Art Thing transfer of funds. Mr. Breedveld asked if it was tax payer's money. City Manager Mitchell explained that the Otsego Public School Foundation is taking over both events. He also explained that the amount being transferred to the Otsego Public School Foundation is only revenues from the event, not any funds from the City, as the City was made whole.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE**

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He answered questions of the audience.

#### **B. PRESENTATION BY SIEGFRIED & CRANDALL OF THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT**

Mr. Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried & Crandall was in attendance to review the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit.

He stated that he enjoys the long-term relationship that Siegfried and Crandall have with the City. Mr. Veldhuizen complimented the quality of the financial people that are on staff. He stated that Finance Director Storbeck does an excellent job, and has even learned a few things from him. Mr. Veldhuizen stated that the City had received an unmodified opinion. He summarized and reviewed the highlights of the audit with the Commission. He also indicated that the City has a thirty-two percent fund balance which is a good percentage, as a typical healthy fund balance is between 25% and 50%. He answered questions of the Commission. The Commission thanked Mr. Veldhuizen and Finance Director Storbeck.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

**IV. ORDINANCES:**

**V. REQUESTS:**

- A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE OTSEGO/PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD THE ANNUAL HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS EVENT, CLOSING M-89 FROM FRANKLIN TO NORTH STREET FROM 5:00 P.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M.; USE OF VARIOUS CITY STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PARKING LOTS; RIVERFRONT WALK, AND USE OF THE PAVILION - FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M. FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND OTHER EVENTS AT VARIOUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON DECEMBER 3, 2022

Jenny Boerman of the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce was in attendance to review the events and answer questions. Commissioner Milhiem asked if the fire pits would be attended. Ms. Boerman stated that volunteers will be manning the fire pits. Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce to hold their Annual Hometown Christmas event, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE OTSEGO/PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PLACE CHRISTMAS CARDS ALONG THE RIVERFRONT BY THE PAVILION FROM NOVEMBER 27, 2022 TO JANUARY 3, 2023, AS PRESENTED.

Jenny Boerman of the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce gave an overview of where the cards would be placed. She answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Smith moved to grant the request from the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce to place Christmas Cards along the Riverfront by the Pavilion from November 27, 2022, to January 3, 2023, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

- A. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE OTSEGO-PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE AND ACTIVITIES ON DECEMBER 3, 2022, AS PRESENTED

Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a License Agreement with the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce for the Hometown Christmas Parade and Activities on December 3, 2022, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH OTSEGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION FOR THE GUS MACKER AND ART THING

City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the agreement and the financials. He explained that the Otsego Public Schools Foundation will take over the revenues that were raised from Gus Macker and the Art Thing. He also explained that if these events are not going to be held by the

Otsego Public Schools Foundation or a designated 501C3, the funds would come back to the City of Otsego. City Manager Mitchell answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Smith moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Otsego Public Schools Foundation for the Gus Macker and Art Thing, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-22 - A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CLOSE STATE HIGHWAY M-89 ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

Commissioner Krueger offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem.

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-22

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TO CLOSE STATE HIGHWAY M-89 ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Otsego hereinafter referred to as the "GOVERNMENTAL BODY" from time to time makes application to the Michigan Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT" for permits, hereinafter referred to as "PERMIT", to construct, operate, use and/or maintain utility or other facilities, or to conduct other activities, on, over, and under state trunkline right of way at various locations within and adjacent to its corporate limits.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the DEPARTMENT granting such PERMIT the GOVERNMENTAL BODY agrees that:

1. It will faithfully fulfill all permit requirements and will indemnify, save harmless, represent and defend the State of Michigan, Michigan Transportation commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officer, agents, and employees thereof and those governmental bodies performing permit activities for the DEPARTMENT and all officers, agents, and employees thereof, pursuant to a maintenance contract from any and all claims of every kind for injuries to, or death of any and all persons and, for loss of, or damage to property, and environmental damage or degradation, and from attorney's fees and related costs arising out of, under, or by reason of the presence of the GOVERNMENTAL BODY'S facilities and/or its installation, construction, operation, maintenance, or other activities which are being performed under the terms of the PERMIT on, over, and/or under the State trunkline right of way, except claims resulting from the sole negligence or willful acts or omissions of said DEPARTMENT, its officers, agents, employees, and contracting governmental bodies and officers, agents, and employees thereof, performing permit activities.
2. The DEPARTMENT shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities by vendors and contractors of the COMPANY, or their subcontractors or any other person not a party to

the PERMIT without its specific prior written consent and notwithstanding the issuance of the PERMIT.

3. It will, by its own volition and/or request by the DEPARTMENT, promptly restore and/or correct physical or operating damages to any State trunkline right of way resulting or arising out of the installation, construction, operation, and/or maintenance of the GOVERNMENTAL BODY'S facilities pursuant to a PERMIT issued by the DEPARTMENT.
4. The incorporation by the DEPARTMENT of this Resolution as part of a PERMIT does not preclude the DEPARTMENT requiring additional performance security or insurance when deemed necessary by the DEPARTMENT.
5. This Resolution shall continue in force from the date hereof until cancelled by the GOVERNMENTAL BODY or the DEPARTMENT with no less than thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party. It will not be cancelled or otherwise terminated by the GOVERNMENTAL BODY with regard to any PERMIT which has already been issued or activity which has already been undertaken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager or City Clerk of the City of Otsego are hereby authorized to make application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for the necessary permit to work within state trunkline rights of way on behalf of the GOVERNMENTAL BODY.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Brent Milhiem.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-23 - A RESOLUTION OF RECOMMENDATION TO THE ALLEGAN COUNTY 911 POLICY AND PROCEDURE BOARD TO RECONSIDER THEIR PRE-ALERT TRIAL PERIOD**

Fire Chief Weber explained Priority 3 Calls and how they are taking a toll on the Fire Department. He gave an overview of the history of the current procedures for Priority 3 Calls, and why the Fire Department would like to have the Allegan County 911 Policy and Procedures Board reconsider the pre-alert trail period.

Commissioner Krueger offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-23

**A RESOLUTION OF RECOMMENDATION  
TO THE ALLEGAN COUNTY 911 POLICY AND PROCEDURE BOARD  
TO RECONSIDER THEIR PRE-ALERT TRIAL PERIOD**

WHEREAS, the Allegan County 911 Policy and Procedure Board approved a trial period of implementing pre-alerts for medical emergencies across Fire Departments in Allegan County at the recommendation of the Allegan County Fire Chief's Association (ACFCA) on August 1st, 2022, and

WHEREAS the procedure was begun to send pre-alerts for all Priority 1, 2 and 3 medicals calls, regardless of the level of EMS services provided by individual local fire departments, and

WHEREAS, the Otsego Fire Department (OFD) currently and historically have only run Priority 1 and 2 medicals and not 3s, and

WHEREAS, the effect of the pre-alert trial program through Allegan County dispatch has confused and frustrated OFD firefighters with excessive and needless alerts, leading to on-call firefighters turning off pagers, and

WHEREAS, the ACFCA's has passed a recommendation to the 911 Policy and Procedure Board requesting to continue the pre-alert trial program is damaging to the OFD's response times and availability of firefighters to respond to emergencies, and will only worsen with the upcoming vehicle slide offs in the winter months, and

THEREFORE, the City of Otsego City Commission requests for the 911 Policy and Procedure Board to reconsider the pre-alert program and terminate it immediately in hopes of retaining firefighter's engagement to their pagers and calls.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Brent Milhiem.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF BRENT MILHIEM  
TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 2024; AND  
THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JASON ENNIS AND RIC SAUCEDO TO THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION, TERMS ENDING NOVEMBER 2025**

Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Brent Milhiem to the Planning Commission – term ending November 2024; and the re-appointment of Jason Ennis and Ric Saucedo – terms ending November 2025, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED. Abstain – Commissioner Milhiem.

## **IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- Leaf Pickup Update
- Announced City Hall will be closed tomorrow for the Election. He encouraged everyone to vote.
- MDOT Signs – for the Girl's Cross-Country Team who won State. He also congratulated the Boy's Cross-County who finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the State.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that Finance Director Storbeck always has a squeaky-clean audit and has done this for over a quarter century. He commented that it will be hard to find a replacement for him that will be a fraction as good as he is. He reminded everyone to vote tomorrow.

Charles Housel, 379 W. Orleans – he asked why the Christmas Cards are not on Allegan Street. Jenny Boerman of the Chamber answered his questions.

Lori Beason, 709 Barton – she asked if the cards would be under the Pavilion. The cards will be along the Riverfront by the Pavilion.

Sandy Foster, 695 River Road – she mentioned that the Art Thing proceeds also included the Artisan Market proceeds.

John Pickron, 1104 Barton – he asked how people will know that the Christmas Cards are by the Riverfront. Jenny Boerman answered Mr. Pickron's questions.

David Fouch, 359 W. Franklin – he asked when the next Commission Meeting would be. City Manager Mitchell stated that the Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

Charles Housel, 379 W. Orleans – he asked if the bids had gone out for the fire truck. Fire Chief Weber indicated they had not. Fire Chief Weber explained the process in detail. City Manager Mitchell commented that this will be discussed further after the new City Commission is elected.

Karin Breedveld, 1101 Barton – she thanked the supporters of Nick Breedveld, Robert Schurman, and Vince Pagano. She commented that they ran a clean campaign and did not disrespect anyone, were not bullies, and ran a good campaign with no regrets.

### **COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the audience for attending. He commented that a lot was covered in the meeting from fire trucks to the audit. He thanked Finance Director Storbeck. He reminded everyone to please remember to vote tomorrow. He commented that he appreciated the support of the current Commissioners.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the audience for attending. She thanked Mr. Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried & Crandall. She stated that the audit shows how awesome Finance Director Storbeck is. She thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his presentation and for being a huge supporter of the City. She congratulated the Girl’s Cross-Country Team for their State Championship. She thanked Clerk Cronen for her work on the election and commented that she is a great clerk, and is appreciated.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. He commended Finance Director Storbeck for a job well done on the audit. He commented that he likes that there are greater questions and comments from the audience.

Commissioner Milhiem – he stated that this is his fourth year on the Commission and that it has been an honor to serve the citizens of the City of Otsego. He commented that the City has been fiscally responsible. He commented that the leadership of the Department Heads in the City of Otsego is excellent. He stated that each of the Department Heads function with everyone in the City in mind. He commented that he appreciates the leadership of City Manager Mitchell, DPW Supervisor Bosch, Waste Water Treatment Superintendent Keyzer, Finance Director Storbeck, Clerk Cronen, Police Chief Misner, and Fire Chief Weber. He congratulated the Girls Cross-Country Team for winning the State Championship. He commented that the team was amazing, very disciplined, and they put in a lot of effort and pride. He congratulated Taylor Mitchell for contributing to the championship win. He stated that he liked the ideas of having signs to direct people to the Christmas Cards along the Riverfront. He thanked everyone for attending and stated that he appreciated hearing the audience’s voices and input. He reminded everyone that if you haven’t voted already, to please go out and vote tomorrow. He thanked his fellow Commissioner’s for the last four years. He commented that he has learned a lot about how government works. He stated that “it was a pleasure working with each and every one of you – and good luck on the ballot.”

Mayor Withee – she thanked the audience for attending. She encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow. She thanked the Arts Council and the Gus Macker Committee for their support, and all of their time and effort that was put into the events. She commented that she hoped everyone has a lovely evening.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED – 8:10 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk