

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, December 5, 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 Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; and Fire Chief, Brandon Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 21, 2022, Workshop and Regular Minutes, were approved as submitted, motion Commissioner Moore, second by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED.

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

Charles Housel, 379 W. Orleans – he asked various questions regarding the Emergency Response Vehicle. He inquired if the Township would be paying half. City Manager Mitchell indicated that the Township will be asked to approve the purchase for their share.

#### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

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

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He commented that the Hometown Christmas event on Saturday was wonderful and gave compliments to the City Commission for approving the event. He also stated that the County has many openings on County Boards and Commissions, if anyone is interested. He answered questions of the audience.

#### **II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

#### **III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

#### **IV. ORDINANCES:**

#### **V. REQUESTS:**

##### **A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A USED MEDICAL RESPONSE VEHICLE**

City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the current condition of the 2011 Crown Vic former police car that is being used by the Fire Department as a first responder vehicle. City Manager Mitchell stated that Fire Chief Weber has found a 2018 police car that would cost the department approximately \$25,000. Chief Weber answered various questions of the Commission. City Manager Mitchell stated that this cost would be split with Otsego Township, if approved. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the Fire Department to purchase a used Medical Response Vehicle with the Township, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR CONTRACT NO. 22-5522, WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RESURFACING OF DIX/WASHINGTON STREET**

City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the proposed project and anticipated dates of construction (June-August 2023). He explained that the contract needs to be executed to begin the process. He commented that the project will require a twenty-percent match from the City of approximately \$170,000. He answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to enter into an agreement for Contract #22-5522, with the Michigan Department of Transportation for resurfacing of Dix/Washington Street, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-24 – A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – 2022 ELECTION INSPECTORS**

At this time, Clerk Cronen read the resolution and presented the election inspectors in attendance a certificate of appreciation. The Commission thanked the election inspectors for their service.

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

**CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-24**

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – 2022 ELECTION WORKERS**

***JAMIE JAMESON – August & November  
MONICA NAGEL - August & November  
MARYLN LANGEANCE - August & November  
PAM LAHUIS – August & November  
JACKIE STINEBACK - November  
HEATHER MITCHELL – August & November  
JUDI ROBERTS – November  
LURA HOLDEN – August & November  
MELANIE PORTER – November  
CINDY HUNT – November  
LYNETTA NOWAK - November***

WHEREAS, the multiple elections held each year in the City of Otsego would not be possible without the help of our dedicated Election Inspectors who go above and beyond their civic duties by offering their time and hard work to ensure Election Day is fair and

unbiased; and

WHEREAS, each election requires a different number of Election Inspectors, with only seven inspectors working the smallest election and nearly eleven Election Inspectors working the largest; and

WHEREAS, for every election to ensure that elections are fair, unbiased, and comply with the ever-changing election laws, many hours are dedicated to training, so that all our Election Inspectors are certified, knowledgeable, efficient, and as helpful as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 alone, Otsego's diligent and energetic Election Inspectors worked many, many hours, some in excess of 17 hours a day. In the 2022, elections held in August, and November, our Election Inspectors faithfully assisted the citizens of Otsego in casting 2,345 ballots; and

WHEREAS, our Election Inspectors selflessly offer their time, effort, spirit; and come from diverse generations, and experiences; and

WHEREAS, our Election Inspectors rose to the occasion, with the uncertainties and threats to the election process, providing the voters with a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, all of the hard work and hours our Election Inspectors dedicate to make Election Day run as smoothly as possible are greatly appreciated by the City of Otsego, the City Clerk, and its voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Otsego City Commission extends our gratitude to our Election Inspectors for their passion and their many hours of dedicated service to the voters of the City of Otsego.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Chuck Moore, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith,  
Wayne Rayburn

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED. |

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-25 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO RELATING TO PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 – THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

City Manager Mitchell explained that this resolution is a yearly request required by the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, with no changes.

Commissioner Krueger offered the following Resolution and moved for its adoption, supported by Commissioner Rayburn.

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO RELATING TO PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 – THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act or Public Act 152 of 2011, (PA 152) mandated certain cost-sharing obligations for public employee health insurance premiums and costs for medical benefit plan coverage years beginning after January 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, if the City of Otsego (City) fails to comply with the mandates of PA 152, then the state treasurer is required to reduce by 10% each City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) payment received under 2011 PA 63; and

WHEREAS, the City has modified its Health Insurance Plans in an effort to meet the hard cap requirements of PA 152; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2012, the City and its employees moved to a “high deductible health insurance plan,” and all City employees contribute twenty percent of their health care premiums, effective July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Act permits the “governing body” of “a local unit of government (which includes a city) to exempt itself from the requirements of this act for the next succeeding year.”

WHEREAS, even though the City strives to meet the requirements of PA 152, to avoid any possibility of a 10% reduction of City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) payments, the City of Otsego does, by a vote of 2/3 of its members, exempt itself from the provisions of PA 152 for one year beginning January 1, 2023, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City exempt itself from the requirements of PA 152 for one year beginning January 1, 2023, and pursuant to the Act no exemption beyond December 31, 2023, is intended or implied by this resolution, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) provisions of Public Act 63 of 2011, the City of Otsego, did produce a plan for

implementing new compensation standards for, among other things, health insurance premium cost sharing by May 1, 2012, as required by Public Act 63.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Chuck Moore, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith,  
Wayne Rayburn

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

C. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-26 - A RESOLUTION  
REGARDING SCHEDULING THE 2023 MEETINGS OF CITY OF OTSEGO  
CITY COMMISSION

City Manager Mitchell explained that it is a legal requirement for the City to post their meeting schedule for 2023. He stated that this schedule will also be published in the Union Enterprise.

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

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-26

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHEDULING THE  
2023 MEETINGS OF CITY OF OTSEGO CITY COMMISSION**

**Whereas**, pursuant to Section 5(2) of Act 266 of 1976, the Open Meetings Act, the Otsego City Commission must establish and post notice of its regularly scheduled meetings; and

**Whereas**, Regular City Commission meetings are held at 7:00 PM local time, on the first and third Monday nights in the City of Otsego Chambers located at 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078, unless otherwise stated; and

**Whereas**, a regular meeting may be re-scheduled or a special meeting scheduled upon eighteen (18) hours posted notice; and

**Whereas**, questions regarding meetings should be directed to the City Clerk at 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078, 269-692-3391;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

That the City of Otsego Commission Regular Meetings for 2023, are scheduled for the following dates:

January	3 and	16
February	6 and	20
March	6 and	20
April	3 and	17
May	1 and	15
June	5 and	19
July	3 and	17
August	7 and	21
September	5 and	18
October	2 and	16
November	6 and	20
December	4 and	18

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Chuck Moore, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith,  
Wayne Rayburn

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

D. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-27 - A RESOLUTION TO  
NAME OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CONTRACT NO. 22-5522, WITH  
THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

City Manager Mitchell stated that the resolution is authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to sign Contract No. 22-5522, with the Michigan Department of Transportation, which is a requirement to execute the contract.

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

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-27

A RESOLUTION TO NAME OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CONTRACT  
NO. 22-5522, WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Be it resolved that Contract No. 22-5522 , Control Section- STUL 03000, Job Number 209368CON, Washington and Dix Street;

By and between the MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
and the CITY OF OTSEGO, OTSEGO MICHIGAN, 49078; is hereby accepted.

The following Official(s) is/are authorized to sign the said contract:

Aaron Mitchell, City Manager  
Angela M. Cronen, City Clerk

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Chuck Moore, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith,  
Wayne Rayburn

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

#### **VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

#### **IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- He welcomed the election inspectors and the Boy Scouts to the meeting.
- Hometown Christmas – he commented that it was a great, fun day. He appreciated the changes and the future of Hometown Christmas is looking good. He thanked all of the volunteers.
- Staffing issues at the Fire Department – call numbers are high, possible sit-times will need to be discussed in the near future.
- Commissioner Krueger asked if there could be another joint City Commission/Township Board Meeting in the future.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

#### **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he praised the Election Inspectors. He said the elections were fair and commented that he appreciated their service.

Michael Clark, 707 Barton – he stated that his Boy Scout Troop was in attendance for their Citizenship Badge. He commented that he has never thought twice about how elections are executed by the Election Staff. He commended Clerk Cronen.

Karen Breedveld, 1101 Barton – she asked if the City was going to live stream the Commission Meetings. City Manager Mitchell stated that the City is still looking into the legalities and costs. He stated that it has not yet been decided.

Charles Housel, 379 W. Orleans – he asked how many fire trucks are needed and when will they

be replaced. City Manager Mitchell stated that one truck is being looked at right now to be replaced and two others will need replacing in the future. City Manager Mitchell commented that they will be purchased one at a time, hopefully in five-year intervals. Mr. Housel asked if the Township has given any input on their part of the funding. City Manager Mitchell stated that they are talking to the Township and this would be a joint venture.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked who is the TOP Group. City Manager Mitchell stated that he does not know who is in the TOP Group. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the agreement with the Otsego Public School Foundation, and the DDA. He stated that he doesn't have a problem with Gus Macker, but does have a problem with the Otsego Public School Foundation holding funds for the TOP Group. City Manager Mitchell stated that the City is still expecting a third-party entity to take over Gus Macker, and if not, the funds come back to the City. Mr. Breedveld expressed that the City Commission doesn't care. Mayor Withee stated that this conversation is over and done.

David Fouch, 359 W. Franklin – he commented that he has a problem with the TOP Group, and asked if the City can place money in a 501C3, and why didn't they just hold on to the money as public funds for a public service. He complimented and thanked the City for having the resolutions available for the public.

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

Commissioner Rayburn – he commented that he was glad everyone attended the meeting, but would like to see more at the meetings. He stated that he doesn't know a lot about the TOP Group, but will research it to better understand it.

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the audience, Boy Scouts and election inspectors for attending the meeting. He thanked all of the volunteers at the Fire Department and the election inspectors for all they do. He wished everyone a great evening.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked Mr. Clark and the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting. She thanked the Hometown Christmas volunteers and the Department of Public Works, as it was an absolutely beautiful event. She thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. She expressed her appreciation and thanked each and every election inspector. She thanked former Otsego Township Clerk, Cindy Hunt, for being a City of Otsego Election Inspector. She commented that Clerk Cronen is one of the best election officials in Michigan.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. He thanked the Hometown Christmas volunteers. He commented that it is wonderful when the community comes together to be one. He thanked the election inspectors and commented that he trusts the elections. He thanked the Boy Scouts for attending. He stated that he will review the Gus Macker Agreement.

Mayor Withee – she thanked all of the Hometown Christmas volunteers and everyone who participated in it. She commented that there was not a Hometown Christmas event in 2020, so it was exciting to have everything back. She stated that she can't wait to begin planning for the next event. She commented that the election inspectors are rock-stars who always do their job in a cheerful, happy manner. She thanked the audience for attending.



**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED – 8:00 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk