

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
June 17, 2026**

2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER Clerk Creech called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

At the request of Supervisor Gray, Clerk Creech would like the Board to appoint Trustee Rick Sovel as Interim Chairperson.

MOTION by Creech, supported by Phillips, to appoint Trustee Rick Sovel as Interim Chairperson for tonight's meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ROLL CALL: Present: Larry Gray, Supervisor
Melissa Creech, Clerk
Molly Phillips, Treasurer
Robert Berkheiser, Trustee
Robert Long, Trustee
Rick Sovel, Trustee
George Weber, Trustee

Also Present: Hans Rentrop, Township Attorney
Jim Dundas, Fire Chief
Katelyn Massey, HR/Finance Director
Jay James, PE/Building Official
Ben Sebrowski, IT Director
Karen Stamper, Deputy Treasurer

ITEM 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Interim Chairperson Sovel opened Public Comments and advised the public that speaking time is limited to three minutes.

Seeing none, Interim Chairperson Sovel closed Public Comments.

ITEM 2: Treasurer Interviews

Interim Chairperson Trustee Sovel advised the board that the one other interview candidate withdrew his application from consideration.

Interim Chairperson Trustee Sovel asked Township Attorney Hans Rentrop to conduct the interview of Katelyn Massey, HR/Finance Director, on behalf of the board of trustees.

Attorney Hans Rentrop asked Director Massey questions regarding her background, prior work experience, education, her preparation and training for the role of Township

ITEM 2: Treasurer Interviews

Treasurer, political affiliation, motivation, management style, her view of the role of the trustees, her decision-making process, running for office, and conflict resolution skills.

Additionally, the trustees asked questions regarding her knowledge of municipal bonds, taxes, debt, the treasurer's role as a fiduciary of public funds, transparency, if there's any changes Director Massey would like to make in the Treasurer's Department, her vision for the Township, and its current and future development.

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Creech, to appoint Katelyn Massey as Treasurer for the Charter Township of Commerce, effective July 1, 2026

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 3: Hayes Creek Pump Station Repair

Building Official Jay James attended the meeting on behalf of Engineer Jason Mayer, Giffels Webster. Building Official James described the ongoing problem of odor complaints associated with the Hayes Creek pump station located at the southwest corner of Commerce and S. Commerce Roads. Several low-cost odor control measures have failed to address the problem. The next recommended step is to upgrade the existing passive carbon filter system to an active system by incorporating a fan system.

Trustee Berkheiser asked if we are sure this will fix it?

Building Official James answered, no, but this is the least expensive next step. It's significantly less expensive than building an entirely new pump station.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Sovel, to approve the purchase of the odor control fan unit in an amount not to exceed \$43,000. Funds to come from the sewer fund.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 4: F&V Contract Amendment

Township Attorney Hans Rentrop said that when the Township entered into its contract with F&V both parties relied on water line and sewer line maps provided by the WRC. Those maps were included as exhibits in the contracts executed by the parties. The sewer line map was correct. The water line map was not correct. The water line map did not include the Village of Wolverine Lake. Commerce Township maintains the water lines and sewer lines for the Village and the Village residents are taxed accordingly. F&V did not include the cost of maintaining and repairing the water lines in the Village in the original contract. The contract amendment before the board includes those portions of the water lines in the Village. The term of the contract amendment does not include the first 2 quarters of 2026.

MOTION by Weber, supported by Phillips, to approve the First Amendment to Charter Township of Commerce Water System Operation Agreement and Maintenance Agreement with F&V Operations and to authorize the appropriate signatures.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 5: Other Matters

Treasurer Phillips-

She would like to thank the board for making the best decision ever and relieving a whole bunch of her angst during her last 6 days here.

Trustee Berkheiser-

He thought it was a really nice showing at the Heart of the Lakes Festival on Saturday. He made some suggestions and sent them over to Emily and if the board has any suggestions, he encourages them to send their suggestions to Emily. Perhaps send a survey to the vendors. It was a nice event.

Supervisor Gray-

He said that he will be completing Director reviews in the next 2 weeks.

Trustee Sovel-

He said there's a property that he would like to purchase and donate to the Township. In addition, he would like to set up an investment fund to pay for the maintenance of the land so that the Township would not be required to pay for maintenance. The Board discussed who currently owns the property and if it would provide any benefit to the Township. Trustee Long suggested reforestation of the parcel. It was agreed that Treasurer Phillips would do a little more research.

Trustee Long-

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other matters to come before the Board.

MOTION by Creech, supported by Phillips, to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce