CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Clerk Creech called the Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting to order at 5:30 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 Massey, to appoint Trustee Rick Sovel as Interim Chairperson for tonight's meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ROLL CALL: Present: Larry Gray, Supervisor
Melissa Creech, Clerk
Katelyn Massey, Treasurer
Rick Sovel, Trustee
Bob Berkheiser, Trustee
Robert Long, Trustee (arrived at 5:51 p.m.)
George Weber, Trustee (arrived at 6:11 p.m.)

Also Present: Natalie Hiney, HR/Finance Assistant
Deborah Watson, DDA Director

ITEM 1: Public Comments
Interim Chairperson Trustee Sovel opened Public Comments.
Seeing none, Interim Chairperson Sovel closed Public Comments.

ITEM 2: 2027 Township Budget Discussion
DDA Director Deborah Watson reviewed the DDA's proposed 2027 budget. A discussion followed regarding the attorney's fees, anticipated sale of property, MTT judgements, cash advances, bond debt, and the timeline for the dissolution of the DDA.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 budget for the General Fund – Revenues.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 budget for the Assessing Department.

Trustee Berkheiser asked if it is contractual.

Supervisor Gray said yes.

ITEM 2: 2027 Township Budget Discussion continued
The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Attorney budget.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Board of Review budget.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Supervisor budget. The Board discussed cell phones, security, and the use of MFA.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Streetlights budget.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Governing Body budget.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Clerk budget.

Clerk Creech said she may add a part-time position and she will create a job description and title for the Board's review.

The Board discussed the current FOIA situation where AI is being used to inundate local clerk's offices with elaborate multi-part FOIA requests which excessively burden the clerk's office.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Elections budget. The Board discussed capital outlay for potential new election equipment. Clerk Creech said the State and County have not given a time line for the purchase of new equipment.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Treasurer budget.

Treasurer Massey said the 2027 budget remained mostly the same. She wants to add a staff position to handle the quarterly sewer and water payments once the Township transitions from the WRC.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Township Hall – General Services budget.

Supervisor Gray said that he would like to buy cameras to record the board meetings.

Trustee Berkheiser said he doesn't see a positive and it will stifle discussion.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Township Hall – Building and Grounds budget.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 budgets for Other, Road Improvement, and Historic.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Cemetery budget.

ITEM 2: 2027 Township Budget Discussion continued
Clerk Creech said she is working on the numbers for the columbarium and should have them early next year.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 Improvement and Building budget.

Supervisor Gray announced the meeting scheduled for November 17th at 5:30 is cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Massey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Melissa Creech

Melissa Creech, Clerk
Charter Township of Commerce