

## FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESORT DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Wednesday May 14, 2025

- I. Chairperson Molly Luempert-Coy called the meeting to order at Frenchtown Charter Township Hall 2744 Vivian Rd, Monroe, Michigan 48162, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America at 3:00 p.m.

- II. Roll call.

**Present were:** Molly Luempert-Coy- Chairperson; Donald Rushlow-Secretary; Gary Klemz-Vice Chairperson; Brian Dotson- Treasurer; Chris Collins-Board Member. The Chairperson announced a quorum was present. Also present were Kerry Bondy, Legal Advisor; Brad Shelle, Mannik & Smith Group; Cody Jones, Engineer, Mannik & Smith Group; Larry Smith, Director; Janae Jones, Administrative Assistant; Troy Goodnough, Sheriff; Julie Ellison, Township Treasurer.

There were 5 community residents present.

- III. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Klemz.

Motion carried: 5-0 (voice vote)

- IV. **Minutes:**

**Approval of April 9, 2025 Minutes**

Motion made to accept and place on file the April 9, 2025 minutes as distributed by Mr. Klemz and supported by Mr. Dotson.

Motion carried: 5-0 (voice vote)

- V. **Public Participation:** None.

- VI. **Correspondence:** None.

- VII. **Reports:**

**Director's Report:** Flock Camera Proposal: The traffic camera proposal which was tabled at the April RDA Board meeting was subsequently presented to and approved by the Township Board. The Township has all responsibility for the cameras.

**Lake Erie Level:** The Lake Erie level has reversed its retreat to the long term average this past month, most likely due to the very wet spring experienced. The USACE continues to predict however the level will achieve the long term average late this summer.

**Engineering Report** (verbal): The engineers are continuing to work on the seawall project, and have had several meetings with the sub-committee. Cody Jones, MSG and Director Smith have been meeting with all residents and getting the paperwork in order for submission to EGLE and for the construction easements. Overall, the resident meetings are going very well and they are making good progress. Director Smith said they have met with all residents except for 2. There has only been one resident who has not agreed to the seawall project, and will be discussing this at the next seawall subcommittee meeting and they will determine what their options are as how to move forward with this. They are offering steps down to the lake at residents at their own individual cost, and it has been a very popular option.

### **Monroe County Sheriff Contract Activity Report for 4/1/25-4/30/25**

Sheriff Goodnough is very pleased with the proactive enforcement of the community. He is anticipating an increase in calls as the weather warms up. He has asked the RDA deputy to keep an eye on the hotels in the community, during the weekends the hotels are packed with fishermen coming to the area, and he wants to make sure there is no theft to the fishing equipment that may be in the hotel parking lots, or any other criminal activity.

There is a hot rod show at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and there is expected to be 10,000-12,000 people in town that night for the show. It will be bringing a lot of economic business to the community, so locals may want to avoid going out to dinner that evening.

They are down to only 15 vacancies in the department, and they are working diligently to make sure the RDA contract is filled. He is expecting 17 new deputies to graduate from the police academy over the course of the next year.

Motion was made to accept and place on file the Sheriff Contract Activity Report for 4/1/25-4/30/25 by Mr. Rushlow and supported by Mr. Klemz. Motion carried 5-0 (voice vote).

**VIII. Old Business:**

**Seawall (Verbal Report)**

See Engineering Report for discussion.

**IX. New Business:**

**2024/2025 Snow Removal Reimbursement Memo #06-25**

A spreadsheet showing the total cost for each association for 2024/2025 snow removal expenses, along with proposed amount of reimbursement was presented to the board. The same formula from last year was used to calculate the amount of reimbursement. The calculated reimbursement of \$32,526.59 is below the budgeted amount of \$60,000. The Director recommends the board approve reimbursement to each subdivision for the winter of 2024/2025 snow removal expenses as presented on the spreadsheet in the column headed "24/25 Total Reimbursement" (440 Public Works 946 Snow Removal). The Director also requests that the excess funds in the snow removal budget (440 Public Works 946 Snow Removal) of \$27,473.41 be transferred to the Tree Removal and Trimming Budget (440 Public Works 945 Tree Removal & Trimming).

Motion was made to transfer \$27,473.41 from the snow removal budget to the tree removal budget, and to approve the reimbursement of \$32,526.59 to the associations for snow removal by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Rushlow. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. Collins-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes; Ms. Luempert-Coy-yes).

**Bid to install replacement steps at 3737 Nelson Dr. Memo #07-25**

A bid was presented to the board to install replacement steps at 3737 Nelson Dr. The original steps were installed during the seawall project. They washed away soon after installation in a storm. Replacement was delayed until the water level receded, to allow for a more robust installation. Director Smith recommends approval of this bid for \$6,395.00 from 440 Public Works 931 Construction, allowing installation when lake levels permit. Brad Shelle, MSG, said he received communication from the homeowner to see if there were any alternatives to the concrete steps. He is going to start talking to the contractors to see about the possibility of aluminum steps being installed. Director Smith said he feels the RDA is obligated to replace the steps, as the problem was identified soon after the original installation. Mr. Dotson suggested instead of tabling this request, that the board move forward with authorizing the replacement steps not to exceed the amount of \$6,395.00.

Motion was made to approve the replacement steps at 3737 Nelson Dr. not to exceed the amount of \$6,395.00 from 440 Public Works 931 Construction by Mr. Collins and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion Carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ms. Luempert-Coy, yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes; Mr. Dotson-yes; Mr. Klemz-yes; Mr. Collins-yes).

**Approval of April Financial Report, Balance Sheet, Income & Expense Report, and Investment Reports**

Motion made to accept the April Financial Report, Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report and place on file by Mr. Klemz and supported by Mr. Dotson. Motion carried: 5-0 roll call vote (Mr. Dotson- yes; Mr. Klemz- yes; Ms. Luempert-Coy- yes; Mr. Collins- yes; Mr. Rushlow-yes).

**X. Other Items from Board Members:**

Mr. Dotson asked if there has been more communication on why the DTE bill was higher after changing to the LED lights last year. Director Smith and Ms. Luempert-Coy said they are working with DTE in getting more information on this.

Ms. Bondy gave follow up on the berm damage reimbursement from the accident in 2024, noting the county prosecutor's office advised that a restitution hearing had been scheduled. It is hopeful that the RDA will be receiving their reimbursement soon.

Mr. Collins wanted to let the community members know to contact the township blight inspectors if they are having any issues of grass not being cut or any other blight issues.

Ms. Luempert-Coy, also vice chair of River Raisin Battlefield Park, invited all to attend the upcoming Grand Opening of the new education center June 21-22 with a Rally On The River and ribbon cutting. They are expecting a high turnout.

**XI. Public Participation:**

Mr. Geal of Detroit Beach said the meeting with the HOA presidents was very successful and well attended. He thinks the new ideas within the Blight Department were well received.

Pat Syzmanski of Brest Bay Grove asked about adding handicap accessibility to their beach area. A few years back one of their residents added some railroad tie steps on a berm to get to the beach. He is asking if the RDA can assist with this. Mr. Collins said he does not believe the railroad ties would pass any ordinances in the township. It was decided that engineering and legal will begin looking into who owns the berms he is referencing, is it RDA property or association property, or if there are any easements on this.

Mr. Syzmanski also wanted to note that there has not been any mowing on the backside of the berms in their association. The Township board members said they will follow up with the DPW on this.


Mr. Syzmanski asked if there was ever any consideration to move the meetings to the evenings as opposed to the current standing 3:00 pm meeting time. Mr. Collins said this was also brought up for the Township board meetings, so they made changes to their meeting times and have not gotten any additional turn out from community members.

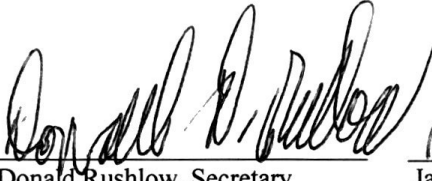
**XII. Adjournment:**


Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Collins supported by Mr. Klemz.

Motion carried: 5-0 (voice vote)

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

  
Molly Luempert-Coy, Chairman

  
Donald Rushlow, Secretary

  
Janae Jones, Admin. Assistant