

Township of Arcadia Special Board Meeting
July 31, 2024
Arcadia Township Hall
3422 Lake Street, Arcadia, Michigan 49613
Township Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call. Present:** Paul Brown, Supervisor; Laurie Mason, Trustee; Tracy Catlin, Clerk; Brad Berkshire, Treasurer; Jojo (Josiah) Chacon-Lontin, Trustee.
3. **Motion** by Trustee Mason to approve the agenda, 2nd by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.
4. **Approve Air Conditioner for Museum – Funded by Donation.** A generous anonymous donor has contributed \$6000 for the purpose of an air conditioner for the Arcadia Museum. An additional \$700 was offered by the Arcadia Lions. We have a quote for \$6400 for this item. **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to approve the expenditure of donated funds for an air conditioner for the Arcadia Museum, 2nd by Trustee Mason. Trustee Chacon-Lontin aye; Clerk Catlin aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye; Supervisor Brown aye. AIF, passed.
5. **Discuss and Decide on Bond Proposal for Land Acquisition for November Ballot.** Supervisor Brown explained the initial steps involved in the township purchasing two parcels totaling 8.3 acres on Lake Street between Lake Street and Lake Arcadia for use by the public. He reviewed issues raised by an attorney who has special expertise in the issuance of bonds for this purpose and who has worked with several local communities on similar projects. The attorney's fee would be payable only upon passage of the bond proposal. Because the proposal language must be completed early next week so that it can appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot, this special meeting was arranged. Placing the bond proposal on the ballot would not obligate the township to proceed with the project; it would merely meet the requirement of seeking public approval to go ahead. Supervisor Brown and Treasurer Berkshire clarified some of the finer points involving what a mill would entail in terms of additional property taxes, how this amount might be affected by market conditions or donations, and the difference between a 10-year and a 15-year levy. They have spoken with the owners, who indicate that they would like to sell to the township. There is no agreement on the price, but placement of the bond proposal on the ballot would be a show of good faith by the community that we are interested in seriously exploring it further. The public had several comments and questions. Overall, the public expressed its approval of this action. The participation of so many community members was a fine example of democracy in action. **Motion by Supervisor Brown to approve Resolution Submitting Land Acquisition Bond Proposal for a maximum amount of \$1,000,000 at a 15-year millage rate of 1.12 mills, 2nd by Trustee Mason.** Trustee Chacon-Lontin aye; Clerk Catlin aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye; Supervisor Brown aye. AIF, passed.
6. **Public Comment on Agenda Item.** As above.
7. **Adjourn. Motion to adjourn** by Treasurer Berkshire, 2nd by Trustee Mason. All in favor, passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.