

GRAYLING CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

JANUARY 18, 2023

Members Present: Lacey Stephan III, Diane Giska, Cindy Olson, Shannon Sorenson, JoAnn Michal, Joe Smock.

Members Absent: Jeri Selthoffer

Others Present: Chief VanDeCastele, Caleb Casey, Bob Dixon, Kim Halstead, Jim Knight, Marcia Koppa, Dan Bonamie, Monty Bolis, Patty Lara and others not signed in.

Supervisor called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Correspondence and Reports: Fire Chief VanDeCastele reviewed his report with the board. He stated they have five potential new hires and that Public Safety have been showing up to trainings.  
Bob Dixon Building official reported things have slowed down. Kirtland housing unit B has had rough and insulation inspections and is ready for drywall, unit A has rough framing.  
Kim Halstead not much to report  
Patty Lara Compactor manager reported it has started to slow down and they need to hire as they are down to four employees.
2. Motion by Olson support by Smock to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022. Six ayes, one absent, motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report. Reviewed and placed on file.
4. Discuss County Demo Grant. If any board members know of properties that need to be demolished let Supervisor Stephan know.
5. Citizens who wish to speak.  
Monty Bolis spoke in regards to the opposition of the Camp Grayling expansion and asked our Board to adopt a resolution.  
Dan Bonamie, Beaver Creek Supervisor also spoke against the expansion. He also asked our board to adopt a resolution including the Airspace.
6. Discuss Resolution of no support for the Camp Grayling Expansion. Motion by Michal support by Olson to adopt Resolution 23-02 Camp Grayling Lease and Airspace Expansion. Attachment "A".  
Roll call vote: Olson, aye; Selthoffer, absent; Stephan, aye; Michal, aye; Smock, abstain (conflict); Sorenson, aye; Giska, aye. Five ayes, one absent, one abstain, motion carried.
7. Discuss Township attorney representing City of Grayling. Not an issue.
8. Discuss 2023-24 Budget. Need to update park and make it handicap accessible, Sparks Grant available for this, compactor starting wage increase.
9. Discuss sending letters to residents on private roads supporting DTE extending transmission lines from Grayling to Chase Bridge Rd along M-72. Will keep on the agenda and possibly place a notice on our website.
10. Discuss Army Airfield and Camp Grayling PFOA contamination. Supervisor Stephan updated board.

11. Discuss alternate start date for Board of Review resolution. Motion by Smock support by Sorenson to adopt Resolution #23-01 Alternate Starting Dates For Board Of Review. Attachment "B". Six ayes, one absent, motion carried.
12. Unfinished business; none. New business; none. Trustee comments; none.
13. Authorize payment of monthly bills Motion by Smock support by Michal to approve payment of January claims on vouchers 2167,2168, 2181-2209 and Liquor inspection fees of \$175.00 for a total of \$79,637.54. Six ayes, one absent, motion carried.
14. Adjourn. Motion by Michal support by Smock to adjourn. Six ayes, one absent, motion carried.



Diane Giska, C.M.C.

Grayling Charter Township Clerk



# GRAYLING CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Resolution 23-02

### Camp Grayling Lease and Air Space Expansion

Charter Township of Grayling, Crawford County, State of Michigan

Grayling Township supports our military, veterans and their families. We are proud of the fact training at Camp Grayling will prepare our military to protect our country and our soldiers to be able to survive modern warfare deployments around the world. Current expansion request does not involve any Township land.

Whereas, The stated purpose is for electronic warfare training, and general notion that it requires separation between training units. However no detailed information has been received to justify how much spacing, how many troops, and that current leased land is inadequate to meet the required training. We are told geofencing can block transmissions, so spacing is not required from private property or outdoorsman, so as to not affect private electronics.

Whereas, No baseline wildlife/ecosystem study has been performed. Crawford County has 37 species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Shannon Lott, now the DNR director, said the DNR doesn't have the staff or resources to conduct a study in the expansion area. Military will do its own study. Grayling Township residents have created/started and maintained multiple leading international conservation groups such as Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited to name a few. Grayling Township cannot ignore the fact that **every** conservation group within our boundaries is apposed to the Camp Grayling expansion request. Generations of Grayling Township residents have restored the AuSable river to one of the top blue ribbon trout fishing water sheds in the world. After generations of township residents' conservation efforts Grayling Township Cannot support expansion without nonpartisan environmental impact study showing **absolutely** no impact to the AuSable river watershed and the surrounding ecosystem.

Whereas, Increased impact from overweight military grade vehicles use of Grayling Township secondary roads will leave taxpayers to pay for the repairs. Military and DNR control +-78% of Crawford County leaving 22% to cover costs of maintaining secondary roads. Crawford County residents will be and have been burdened with costs to repair and replace roads in residential areas not designed for overweight military vehicles and private contractors.

Whereas, Crawford County is a world class destination for four season outdoor recreation and home to 2 blue ribbon trout streams. Proposed expansion is like taking a state park and closing it for military exercise. Use of state land for tourism is Crawford County's largest revenue source. Expansion will impact the use of state lands furthering the economic impact on our residents.

Whereas, Military police, forest fire firefighting, and ambulance service is practically nonexistence on main camp and airfield for most of the year. Crawford County and Grayling Townships emergency services budgets will be expected to cover the expense for these services of not only our residents but the leased lands added influx of military personnel and private industry contractors use. Decreased property values from the expansion will lower revenue for emergency services in Grayling Township and surrounding communities.

Whereas, Historically, current short term leased lands have not met the standards established in the previous lease agreements. After years of renewals short term leased lands have concertina wire, unexploded ordinance, debris buried,

chemical contamination, erosion from deforestation and forest roads widened to accommodate oversized military vehicles. Existing leased lands have had to be fenced off for safety for both the public and military personnel. Without appropriate regional government, environmental groups, and private citizens being involved with the review process to hold DNR accountable for enforcement of lease agreement passed environmental mistakes will continue.

Camp Grayling expansion is a risk we feel is unacceptable for the waters, wildlife and access people from around the world cherish. Furthermore, using DNR staff paid by sportsman license fees and timber sales to review the proposal, which will not benefit and may actually harm fish, wildlife and the natural resource assets of the residents of the State of Michigan, will diminish the intended use of these fees. None of the land requested for the camp expansion is in Grayling Township, but all of our conservation groups and a super majority of our neighboring townships and residents have submitted letters and resolutions opposing the expansion. With a majority of neighboring townships passing resolutions of opposition, all conservation groups in opposition, and majority of our citizens opposing the expansion, Grayling Township cannot support the expansion at this time.

Board members in favor of resolution:

Board members opposed to resolution:



*Lacey Stephan III*  
*Township Supervisor*



*Diane Giska*  
*Township clerk*

RESOLUTION # 23-01

ALTERNATIVE STARTING DATE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW

Charter Township of Grayling  
Crawford County

WHEREAS, Public Act 194 of 2003, effective November 10, 2003, allows the Township Board by resolution to select an alternative starting date in March when the Board of Review shall initially meet; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.30 provides the alternative starting date shall be the Tuesday or Wednesday following the second Monday of March; and

WHEREAS, the Grayling Charter Township Board deems that it is in the best interest of the township to select an alternative starting date for the Board of Review for March 2023 such that the Assessor will be available to assist the Board of Review on that date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grayling Charter Township Board approves the selection of Wednesday, March 15, 2023 as the starting date for the 2023 Grayling Charter Township Board of Review.

Motion was Offered by: Joe Smock  
Second by: Shannon Sorenson

Roll Call Vote:	Stephan	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____
	Giska	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____
	Olson	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____
	Smock	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____
	Sorenson	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____
	Seithoffer	<input type="radio"/> Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	<u>ABSENT</u>
	Michal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N	_____

I, Diane Giska, Duly elected Grayling Charter Township Clerk, certify the foregoing was adopted by the Grayling Charter Township Board at a Meeting held on 1/18/2023 at which time there was a quorum present, a roll-call was taken and passed. The resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.

Diane Giska

Diane Giska  
Diane Giska Township Clerk