

Oakland Township Sentinel

Weekly News

March 22, 2025

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Employment Opportunity: Paint Creek Trailways Commission – Part time Trail Manager – 24 hours per week - \$25-30 per hour

(Copied from township website)

Employment Opportunity: Paint Creek Trailways Commission

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission established a part-time administrative position in the fall of 1991 in response to the increased activity, demand and duties of the Trail that came with increased use. Currently, the Trail Manager works 24 hours per week. Work is assigned to the Trail Manager by the Commission at monthly meetings or under the direction of the Chairperson. The Trail Manager reports to the Trailways Commission Chairperson.

The Trail Manager shall be conversant with modern office technology, with knowledge of MS Office. The Manager will maintain necessary confidentiality, exercise judgment, and perform a variety of duties requiring knowledge of the Trailways Commission's practices, policies and procedures. The Manager will work both in the Trail office in Oakland Twp., MI and on the trail.

To view the full job description and employment application, please click [here](#).

Application materials due by Monday March 31, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

Use this link for a very detailed job description and application instructions -

[Trail-Manager-Job-Description-Application-2025-combined.pdf](#)

Comments on Draft Minutes from last Board of Trustees Meeting on March 11

Meeting Minutes: [Microsoft Word - BOT DRAFT Meeting Minutes March 11 2025 Regular](#)

Meeting packet with background information on each item:

ecode360.com/OA3183/document/753135998.pdf

These minutes do not adequately explain what took place for someone who did not study the packet and attend the meeting or watch the video. I will try to add more explanation, so you don't have to do that, although it is recommended.

From the draft minutes for agenda 1 -

1. Consideration of authorizing PEA Engineers to complete the contract for the design, engineering, and production of bidding documents for the East Snell Road safety path and authorize the expenditure of up to \$110,000.00 in additional funding.

Motion by Casadei, seconded by Elder to authorize PEA Engineers to complete the production of bidding documents for the East Snell Road safety path and authorize the expenditure of up to \$110,000.00 in additional funding.

Public Comment:

David Phillips - 4252 Sheldon Road

Joe Masters 700 E Snell Road

Teresa Mulawa - 580 E. Gunn Road

Andy Zale – 3338 Proctor Lane

Lana Mangiapane - 2310 Dutton Road

Motion withdrawn by Casadei, support withdrawn by Elder.

This agenda item was tabled.

Sentinel added comments.

I would say that the biggest and potentially most controversial item at March 11 meeting was the estimated \$1,500,000 sidewalk east on Snell Road from Rochester Road to the 4435 acre (6.9 square miles) Stony Creek Metropark and through that Park and back across Snell to our fairly new 268 acre Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park.

The Safety Path and Trails Committee proposed approval of \$110,000 to pay for enough detailed engineering to lead to bids for this sidewalk. Some, (including me) have safety concerns about crossing Snell Road twice enroute to Stony Creek Metropark. I prefer a route that goes down Sheldon. See my post about those possibilities. [Stony Creek Metropark Pedestrian and Bike Access – Small Study | Oakland Township Sentinel](#)

Another option is a path from the end of the cemetery sidewalk to Sheldon and turn right on Sheldon and go all the way to Meade, connecting to Rochester Hills safety paths. No decision was made. Not shown in the minutes is that Manager Joe Merucci was asked informally (no motion) by our Board to get clarity on what exactly Stony Creek Metropark is committing to build connecting to the proposed sidewalk. As this is not on the agenda for March 25, perhaps this clarifying is not yet complete. Or maybe SPTC will reconsider at their April 2 meeting?

If you are really interested in this, you should watch the one hour discussion on the video here, starting at agenda 6- [Board of Trustees - March 11, 2025](#)

Additional background information is in these two recent posts in the Sentinel.

[Your Chance to give input on Snell Road Safety Path; Board Should Postpone Deciding | Oakland Township Sentinel](#)

[Stony Creek Metropark Pedestrian and Bike Access – Small Study | Oakland Township Sentinel](#)

Detailed plans are in the March 11 board packet starting on page 23 at this link: ecode360.com/OA3183/document/753135998.pdf

Draft Meeting minutes for agenda 2 and 3 combined

2. Consideration of authorizing the replacement of the cable television fiber optic line that serves the township hall and the replacement of the broadcasting hardware.

Motion by Elder, seconded by Langlois to approve budget amendment #25-08 to transfer \$36,000 into account 101-901-980.747 EQUIPMENTPURCHASE – WEBCAST/CABLE from restricted Fund balance and to approve Comcast to install the fiber line and the hardware needed in the amount not to exceed \$36,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of approving budget amendment #25-08.

This agenda item was approved in combination with agenda item #2.

Sentinel added comments.

As I understand the reason for this, the cable feeds televised meetings video to however it arrives at your TV and has failed. No cable replacement - no televised meetings

The following memo from the meeting packet explains both 2 and 3 in detail:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph Merucci – Township Manager

FROM: Daniel Hosie, Accounting and Finance Administrator

DATE: March 3, 2025

RE: Comcast Broadcaster and Fiber upgrade quote

As you are aware, we have been working with Chris Weagel (CMNTV) and Comcast since mid-2024 on a quote to upgrade our Broadcasting hardware at Township Hall. Several residents have raised concerns that watching meetings on Television is not acceptable due to bad audio and video quality. Chris Weagel has confirmed that our Broadcasting hardware is out of date and cannot handle the bandwidth that our video equipment produces also the connection is insufficient. Chris has been working on upgrading all the communities that utilize CMNTV. The videos online are high-quality, but when watching live on TV the videos are inferior quality.

Background:

We currently receive Cable franchise fee revenue from Comcast and Direct TV which is not restricted in the amount of about \$300k a year. We also receive a PEG fee from Comcast and Direct TV, (Public, Educational, Government) which is restricted and may only be used on expenses related to broadcasting. The restricted account is how we pay for CMNTV's services and capital expenses for our broadcast room and Board Room. The current balance in our restricted account is \$101,310.74, we typically add about \$30k each year to this fund in PEG fees, and we spent about \$20-30k a year on broadcasting fees with CMNTV. Over the years the restricted balance has averaged around \$100k.

Estimate:

Cost estimate to install the fiber line	\$32,581.49
Cost estimate for the hardware	\$2,910.00
Total estimate to upgrade Oakland Township's Broadcasting ability -	\$35,491.49

Recommended Motion:

A motion to approve budget amendment #25-08 to transfer \$36,000 into account 101-901-980.747 EQUIPPURCHASE – WEBCAST/CABLE from restricted Fund balance and to approve Comcast to install the fiber line and the hardware needed in the amount not to exceed \$36,000.00

4. Consideration of participating in the Oakland County Road Commission 2025 Gravel Haul Program.

Motion by Mabry, seconded by Elder to approve Oakland Township Participation in the 2025 Gravel Haul Program with the anticipated spending in the amount not to exceed \$336,000.

Motion amended to increase the amount not to exceed \$340,000.

Public Comment:

Lana Mangiapane 2310 Dutton Rd

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of participating in the 2025 Tri-Party Program.

Motion Langlois, seconded by Campbell to participate in the 2025 Tri-Party Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sentinel comments:

Both of these are for roads. There is supposedly a “plan” for adding gravel to roads in rotation. When I tried FOIA a year ago, there was no plan, at least not in writing. Board members discussed this as though there was and in fact requested that information on adherence to the plan.

See FOIA response on next page.

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670

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March 22, 2024

Robert Yager

Re: FOIA Request #2417 Granted

Dear Robert,

Recently, on the 13th day of March, 2024 you submitted a FOIA request for the following public record(s):

"Copy of a 5 year road plan mentioned recently by Supervisor Robin Buxar."

As the FOIA Coordinator for the Township of Oakland, I have searched for the records and determined no such document exists.

6. Consideration of the appointments to the Township Election Commission.

Motion by Mabry, seconded by Elder that the Election Commission of Oakland Township consists of the Township Clerk, Trustee Elder and Supervisor Buxar until the end of their terms.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sentinel comments:

Michigan election law can be found here: [MCL - Act 116 of 1954 - Michigan Legislature](#). The "Red Book", "Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Township Officials, Boards, Commissions", which all serious followers of township government should be able to access, says succinctly on page 117 of the 2010 edition – "The township election commission is in Charge of all township elections."

8. Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2025.

Motion Langlois, seconded Campbell to approve the Board of Trustees Special meeting minutes dated January 9, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Elder, Giannangeli, Langlois, Campbell, Mabry, Casadei

Nays: Buxar

Motion carried 6/1.

Sentinel comments:

Supervisor Buxar voted against approval of these minutes, copy below, why?

Board of Trustees Special Meeting
January 9, 2025
DRAFT

The Special Board of Trustees meeting was held on January 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Oakland Township, MI 48306.

Present: Supervisor Buxar
Clerk Mabry
Treasurer Giannangeli
Trustee Campbell
Trustee Casadei
Trustee Langlois

Absent: Supervisor Buxar
Trustee Elder

Proposed bidders for the Paint Creek Cider Mill concessionaire space reviewed some aspects of their proposals and answered questions from attendees.

Public comment and questions were allowed throughout the meeting.

The meeting lasted approximately one hour.

The next Regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Oakland Township Hall 1st Floor Boardroom, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, 48306.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Mabry, Clerk
Board of Trustees

Approved,

Robin Buxar, Supervisor
Board of Trustees

Meetings Coming Up Soon

Library Board Special Meeting, March 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Oakland Township Library Board will hold a special meeting on Monday March 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road

Oakland Township Library Board

Monday March 24, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road

SPECIAL MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. Special Meeting on February 20, 2025
6. Approval of Expenditures
 - a. Quill Corporation: \$187.94
Invoice Date: 2/12/2025; Statement No. 04-2896127
7. Communications
8. Reports
 - a. Negotiations Committee
 - b. Outreach Committee
 - c. Finance Committee
 - d. RHPLB Liaison
 - e. OTBOT Liaison
9. Old Business
 - a. Update: Addendum to extend services to December 31, 2025 - signed
 - b. M 25-04: Motion to Approve in Principle to the Language in Library Services Agreement Dated January 1, 2026 (the "long-term" agreement)
 - c. M 25-05: Motion to Direct Anne Seurycnck of Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC to Develop Ballot Language for a Millage Increase Proposal
10. New Business
 - a. 2025 Community Outlook Breakfast comments
11. Member Comments
12. Adjourn

Board of Trustees, Tuesday March 25, 7 PM, Township Hall

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670
Telephone: (248) 651-4440
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:00 PM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call**
- II. **Announcements and Proclamations**
- III. **Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**
- IV. **Public Comment for items on the Agenda**
- V. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 1. Approval of Bills
 - a. March 25, 2025, invoices in the amount of \$448,404.39. 2
 - 2. DTE ACH payment in the amount of \$8,410.76. 20
 - 3. Payroll via ACH
 - a. March 14, 2025, in the amount of \$145,561.32. 21
 - 4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 11, 2025 - Regular Meeting 22
- VI. **Pending Business**
 - 1. Consideration of Resolution #25-05, a resolution supporting the submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the Blue Heron Environmental Area Trails and Trailhead Development. 27
 - 2. Consideration of purchasing a maintenance tractor. 46
 - 3. Consideration of the annual purchase of five (5) complete sets of fire department turnout gear. 59
 - 4. Consideration of approving the Administrative Compliance Agreement with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), regarding the Twin Lakes Subdivision Water System. 60
 - 5. Consideration of approving the revised Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) policy. 73
 - 6. Consideration of entering into a new agreement for township legal services, effective April 1, 2025. 80
- VII. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- VIII. **Township Manager's Report**
- IX. **Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees**
- X. **Adjournment**

See the meeting packet for background information on each item at pages shown to the right of the agenda item. Link to packet [753138574.pdf](#)

Safety Paths and Trails, April 2, 2025

No agenda on website yet. May be discussing proposed Snell Road sidewalk.

The End

Editor: Bob Yager, yagera@comcast.net