

Oakland Township Sentinel

Weekly Report – March 15, 2026

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Meetings in the Past Week

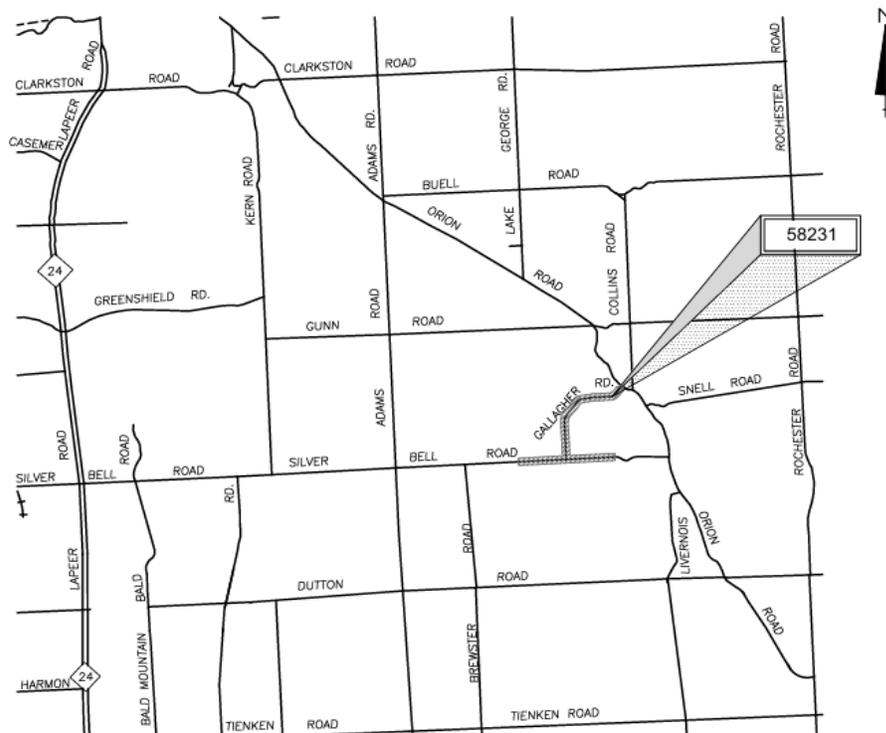
Gallagher and Silverbell Roads

Paving Project Status – RCOC

“Scoping Study Report”

Report on Board of Trustees Special Meeting – Held
2 – 4 PM, 3/10/26 –

Below is the “scoping study” map of roads proposed to be paved.
Made by Hubbell, Roth, Clarke engineers



Summary of key facts:

What?

- Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Engineer, John O'Brien reviewed current "scoping study" for Paving all of Gallagher and some of Silverbell (to Great Fosters).
- 2 Hour Meeting Video - [Special Board of Trustees - March 10, 2026](#)
- No traffic circle is planned. The report says - "*The intersection of Silverbell/Gallagher is proposed to be a tee intersection with a center left turn lane along Silverbell Road.*"
- Oakland Township Board must decide by May to accept or not.
- The excellent RCOC "scoping study" hand-out given to our Board (but not the public) prior to this meeting is now available on the Township website. See instructions on pages 15-18 in "Other Information" below to access (and hone your skills with our township website) or simply use this link: [2026-03-9-Oakland-Twp-Board-Packet-1.pdf](#)
- Our Township Board will schedule another public meeting on this subject with RCOC present in the next couple of weeks. I'll alert you.

Where?

- All of Gallagher (4200 feet, 0.80 miles)
- Silverbell from end of pavement near Abbey Drive east to Great Fosters (3400 feet, 0.64 miles)

When?

- Paving in 2028-2029

Why?

- **RCOC suggestion to Township;**
 - **high traffic volume (above 500 cars per day) tears up gravel roads, making maintenance impractical.**
- **Board resolution 22-20, passed 7-0 on 11/15/22. See access instructions below**

How?

- **RCOC manages project**
- **Engineering firm Hubbell, Roth, Clarke is heavily involved**
- **Construction is contracted out by RCOC**

Impact?

- **Tree canopy will mostly disappear due to grading slopes to the SSL lines in engineering drawings**
- **Design speeds – Silverbell - 50 MPH; Gallagher – 40 MPH. Speed limits to be determined by Michigan State Police**
- **50 year old problem of getting stuck at bottom of Silverbell “valley” by Great Fosters hopefully goes away. (But quality of RCOC maintenance of hill in winter (plowing, salt) remains to be seen.)**
- **Eliminate mud and potholes**
- **Some relocation of roads (see drawings)**
 - **Straighten Gallagher somewhat – in order to increase speed limit**
 - **Move Silverbell about 10 feet north between existing pavement (near Abbey Drive) and Gallagher to avoid creating steep drives on south side**
- **Some of recent \$624,000 safety path must be moved back due to above road relocations - paid for in this project.**

- **Seven small areas need easements on private property, either by agreement of owner or RCOC invoking powers of eminent domain. These are shown on drawings.**
- **Red barn or historic homes are worked around. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) approves final design.**

Cost?

Total about \$13,000,000 (\$8,000,000 per mile for 1.64 miles)

- **Federal fuel taxes - \$8,000,000 (getting some of your fuel tax money back)**
- **RCOC - \$2,500,000**
- **Oakland Township - \$2,500,000 (From General Fund, CVT on your tax statement, about \$125 per Township resident)**

About 20 members of the public were there. Some expressed opinions or had questions.

Residents of Great Fosters who spoke, were in favor of paving Silverbell to alleviate serious traffic snarls and road closings that happen in bad winter weather. One said he was unable to sell this home due to the traffic issues. Another said he was prevented from going to his home by police for hours due to a traffic snarl and numerous stuck cars and tow-trucks working. Another said road rage by trucks wanting to go faster than residents is an issue.

Some residents of Silverbell who spoke were against paving because of losing the rural feel of the gravel road and tree canopy. Most of the tree canopy on both roads would be cut down to allow storm drain work and grading to Federal standards (a requirement when taking Federal money.) Apparently, a steep bank along the road is considered a crash hazard.

No Gallagher Road residents spoke,

Our Board has to decide by May. Apparently, if they don't agree to this project; they have another road in mind (which one?) to suggest to RCOC. The whole "Road Planning System" for Oakland Township, as I would call it, is a giant

mystery to me, that I hope to investigate, understand and report on. I'll start at 3/16/26 – 3 PM Trustees Office Hours.

After the above meeting came this -

Board Closed Session, 3/10/2026

After the Gallagher / Silverbell meeting the Board had sandwiches brought in for dinner and then had a special closed session meeting at 6 PM. See next page.

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670
Telephone: (248) 651-4440
Fax: (248) 651-1510
www.oaklandtwpmi.gov



BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Tuesday, March 10, 2026

6:00 PM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES - CLOSED SESSION

- I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call
- II. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda
- III. Consideration of moving into closed session regarding collective bargaining to discuss our attorney's legal opinion regarding strategy in connection with the pending IAFF negotiations to establish a successor collective bargaining agreement, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1) (c) and (e), regarding the reimbursement of unpaid contractor charges pursuant to MCL 15.268 (h), and confidential legal opinion regarding pending litigation pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) and (h).
- IV. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda
- V. Adjournment

Then came the regular meeting -

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting 7 PM, Tuesday, 3/10/26

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670
Telephone: (248) 651-4440
Fax: (248) 651-1510
www.oaklandtwpmi.gov



BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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 not on the Agenda**
- V. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 1. Approval of Bills
 - a. March 10, 2026, invoices in the amount of \$178,572.23. 2
 - 2. Payroll via ACH
 - 3. February 27, 2026, in the amount of \$147,966.74. 25
 - 4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 24, 2026 - Special Meeting 26
 - b. February 24, 2026 - Regular Meeting 28
- VI. **Pending Business**
 - 1. Consideration of appointing Mr. Bob Hellow to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire September 1, 2026. 31
 - 2. Consideration of the three-year service agreement with Enertron LLC for telephone and Voice Over-Internet Protocol (VOIP) service. 32
 - 3. Consideration of approving the 2026 Road Graveling Program. 40
 - 4. Consideration of receiving and filing the FY 2025 year-ending final report. 41
 - 5. Consideration of Resolution No. 25-02, a resolution opposing the preemption of local zoning regulations through the adoption of the Housing Readiness Package. 52
- VII. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- VIII. **Township Manager's Report**
- IX. **Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees**
- X. **Adjournment**

Here is a link to the meeting packet materials for these above agenda items
[753234634.pdf](#)

Summary of Pending Business Items Decisions

VI-1 – Mr. Hellow was approved for ZBA by 7/0 vote.

VI-2 - Dan Hosie, Accounting and Finance Administrator (reports to Manager Joe Merucci) proposes we go with a 3-year contract, instead of monthly for VOIP and save \$4,500. He says in his letter to the Board on page 32 of the packet. **“Current month to month cost over 36 months would be \$62,264.88 whereas the three-year contract would come to \$57,764.88 a \$4,500 savings.”** This was approved 7/0.

VI-3 -The 2026 road graveling program was approved for \$292,388. See page 40 of packet. Vote was 7/0

VI-4 - See our 2025 financial results with explanations by Dan Hosie on pages 41-51. This gets reviewed / checked by our auditors and they will issue a report in a couple of months. Mr. Hosie’s report was accepted by 7/0 vote.

VI-5 - The Board’s proposed resolution opposing the **“Housing Readiness Package”** on page 52 was approved 7/0. This legislation demands allowing 500 square foot homes and trailers on 1500 square lots (30 x 50 for example) if served by public sewer and water. There is a summary on the township website here:

[Legislation to Circumvent Local Government on Zoning Decisions – Oakland, Charter Township \(Oakland, MI\)](#)

Trustee Casadei (former Planning Commission member) said (after minute 26 on the video) that if this legislative package had been in effect, our latest approved housing project - Stony Creek Crossings could have been 7,548 lots versus the current 143.

The Board then took a 3-minute recess and went back into closed session to finish the business started at 6 PM

Parks and Recreation Commission, Wednesday, 3/11/26

I'll cover this meeting when the draft minutes come out next week.

Agenda: [Microsoft Word - 3.11.26 PRC 7pm Regular Meeting Notice & Agenda](#)

Meetings in Coming Week

(3/16-3/20/2026)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18	19	20	21
	7:00 pm: Zoning Board Meeting	7:00 pm: Historic District Commission Meeting			

Zoning Board of Appeals, Tuesday, 3/17/2026, 7 PM

Agenda Items

- Approval of 7/15/26 minutes
- Election of officers

Link to agenda / meeting packet: [753233959.pdf](#)

Link to Zoning Board of Appeals webpage:

[Zoning Board of Appeals – Oakland, Charter Township \(Oakland, MI\)](#)

Historic District Commission Meeting

March 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM

*Oakland Township Main Hall Conference Room
4393 Collins Road, Oakland Twp, Michigan 48306*

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda March 18, 2026
4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: February 18, 2026
5. Approval of Special Joint November 12, 2025 PRC / HDC minutes
6. Welcome Public Comments
7. Oakland Twp Heritage Site
 - a. Garling Barn Project – Next steps
8. Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District
 - a. Maintenance
 - b. America 250MI
 - c. Programs
9. Local Historic Preservation
10. HDC Commissioner Interest
11. Preservation Planners Report
12. HDC March 2026 Invoices – for Approval
13. HDC Commissioner Comments
14. Adjournment

Link to Meeting Packet: [753236925.pdf](#)

Other Information

How do we Plan for Roads?

How did the Gallagher / Silverbell project get started? The earliest public record, to my knowledge is this from minutes of our Board of Trustees , November 15, 2022

5. Resolution 22-20 to Financially Commit to the Paving of Silver Bell Road

MOTION by Buxar, supported by Mabry to approve Resolution No. 22-20 to financially commit to the paving of a section of Silverbell Road and Gallagher Road and authorize the Clerk to sign with the removal of the redundant statement of “50% of preliminary engineering costs in the second “Be It Further Resolved” paragraph.

The Board heard public comment from:

- Teresa Mulawa - resident
- John Markel - resident

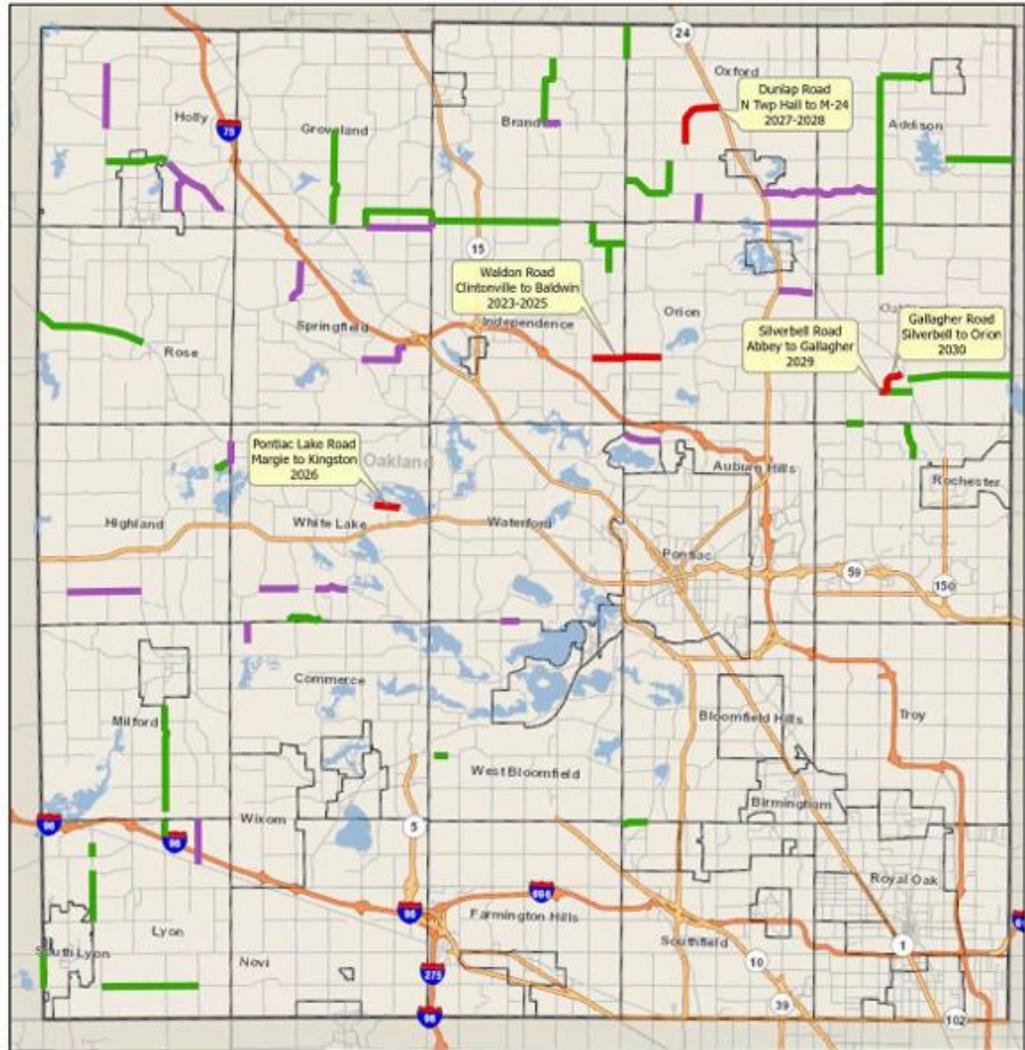
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abbate, Buxar, Giannangeli, Elder, Mabry, Mangiapane, Zale
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion carried 7/0.

Link to resolution: [700095171.pdf](#)

But where did the decision to put this resolution on the agenda originate?

Then these roads show up in RCOC updated December 2022 plan [Gravel-Road-Paving-Plan](#) which contains this drawing.



Gravel Road Paving Plan

- Planned Paving Projects
- Paving Requests, Non-Federal Aid Eligible
- Paving Requests, Federal-Aid Eligible



Updated December 2022

About three years later, at the 10/14/25 Board Meeting, a three-member subcommittee (Casadei, Giannangeli, Langlois) was formed by 6/0 vote (Mabry absent),” to review road improvements” They met with RCOC recently. Prior to that, I am not clear on exactly how the Township interacted with RCOC

Links to Some Useful RCOC Information on Gravel Roads and General Information

- [Gravel Roads | Road Commission for Oakland County](#)
- Gravel Road Brochure - [brochure 2025 for color printer brochure 2017 for color printer.qxd](#)
- [What Is the Road Commission? | Road Commission for Oakland County](#)
- How Speed limits are set: [2025 update.pub](#)
- “Michigan’s Road Funding Crisis” - [Microsoft Word - HANDOUT - 2023.doc](#)

Opinions

Thorough and Professional Safety Evaluations Are Needed for any New Safety Path Road Crossings to Avoid Killing our Children

It seemed obvious from the tone of discussions at the 3/4/2026 Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC) meeting video that the five committee members present (two absent) did not agree 100% with the Board of Trustees’ opinions that their planned crossing of Snell Road from north side to south side was unsafe. (I can’t find a record of this plan being formally rejected by the Board.)

In the past, about 2013, considerable money was spent planning a steep path down the Adams Road hill from Delta Kelly School to Paint Creek Trail. This path was ultimately rejected by the Board as unsafe. The steepness exceeded

AASHTO standards and the Board could see daredevil youths getting seriously injured or killed careening down the path on bikes at high speed.

At the time, the precursor to our current 7-,member SPTC was a three member committee consisting of a Trails Planner (40% of an employee) plus a Board member and a Planning Commission member. I believe this Adams Rd. path issue, was one reason the Board created the current larger, 7-member SPTC.

The question of whether something is safe or unsafe, in my view, can be divided into two parts -

1 – Does the construction meet existing standards? In this case AASHTO. If it does not, a well-thought, thoroughly presented and widely accepted reason is needed for each deviation. Only comparing a proposed trail to existing trails is not an acceptable evaluation.

2 – In addition to 1 above, we need to consider the question, “How often will someone be killed on this path?” Nothing is 100% safe. Professional safety engineers should be able to help SPTC arrive at an answer. They can help determine an estimate of how often that several things going wrong simultaneously to cause a death. Of course, this begs the question of - How often is it OK to kill someone? In my past chemical industry career, one death in 10,000 years was the standard, in my company, for a chemical process being built new or evaluated for safety improvement.

Modifying a path after someone is killed may be the current standard method of operation, but is also not acceptable. Think of the young student killed on Rochester Hills on Tienken East of Stony Creek High School four years ago. What if the now in place crossing safety upgrades had been done earlier, based on a professional risk evaluation? Link: [Teen’s death prompts safety changes to Rochester Hills crosswalks](#)

Township Website “Training”

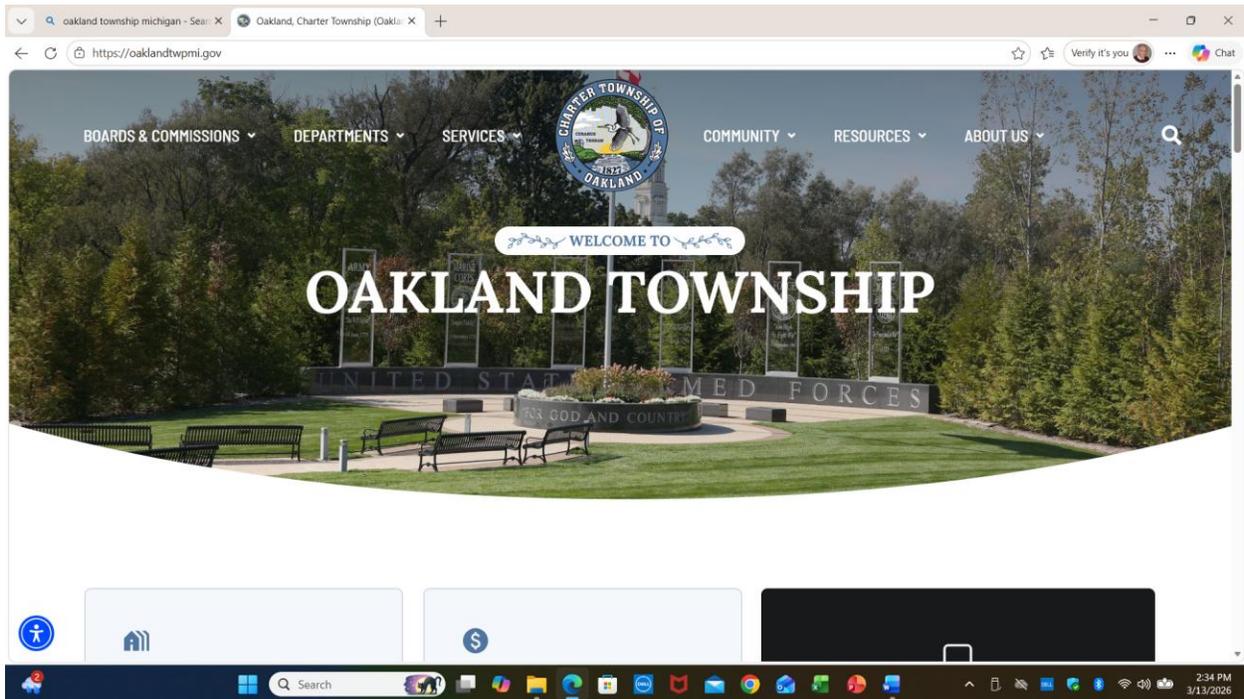
Per request of a local long-time resident to do some training on finding things on the website, I offer this as a small start.

Finding RCOC Report on Gallagher / Silverbell on Township Website (Do steps 1-5 below or use this link [2026-03-9-Oakland-Twp-Board-Packet-1.pdf](#)).

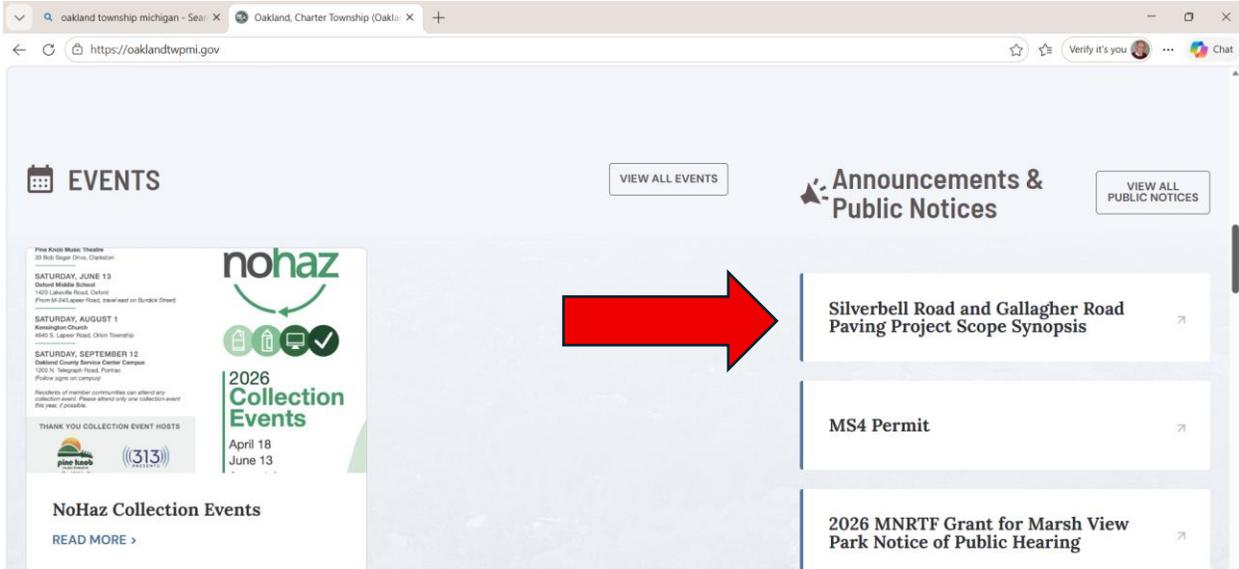
A long-time township resident has suggested that I do training on use of the township website. Here is an attempt to start.

1 – Go to the township website at <https://oaklandtwpmi.gov>

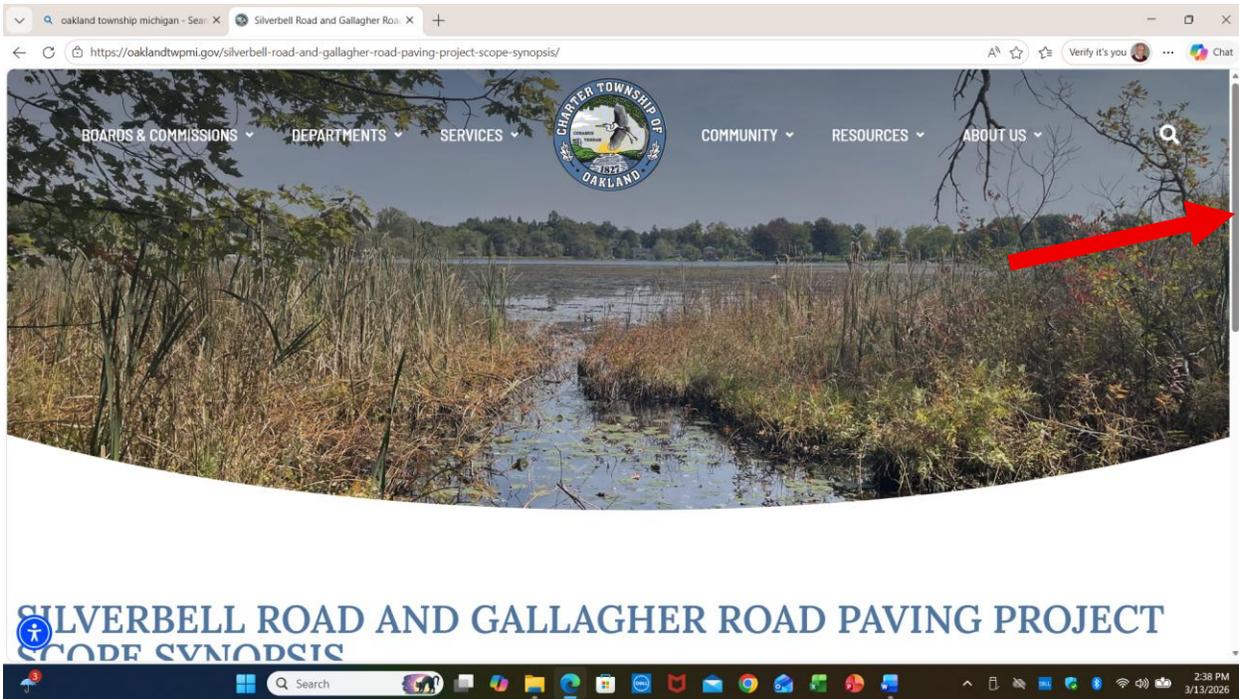
You will see this on next page.



2-Scroll down a little until you see the box titled “**Silverbell Road and Gallagher Road Paving Project Scope Synopsis**” Note my red arrow pointing at it. Click on the box.



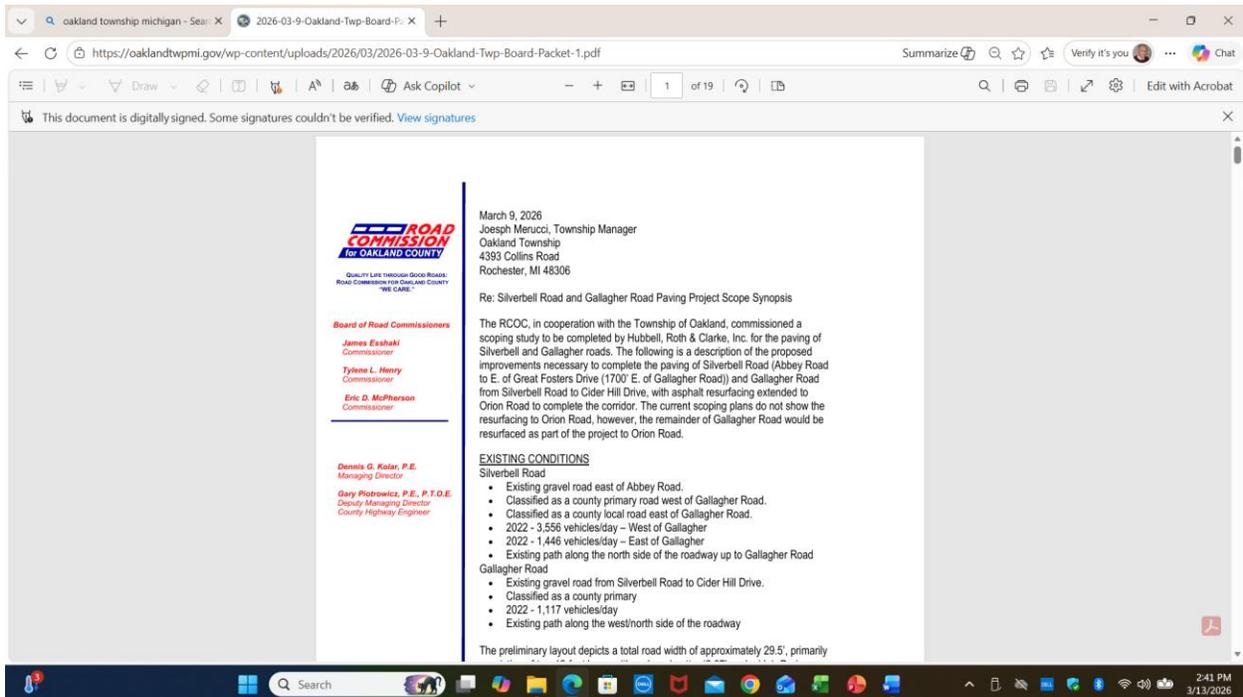
3 – You will see the screen below. Scroll down a little using the “thingy” that the red arrow above points to.



4- Click on the very small print that says – “Road Paving Project Packet”



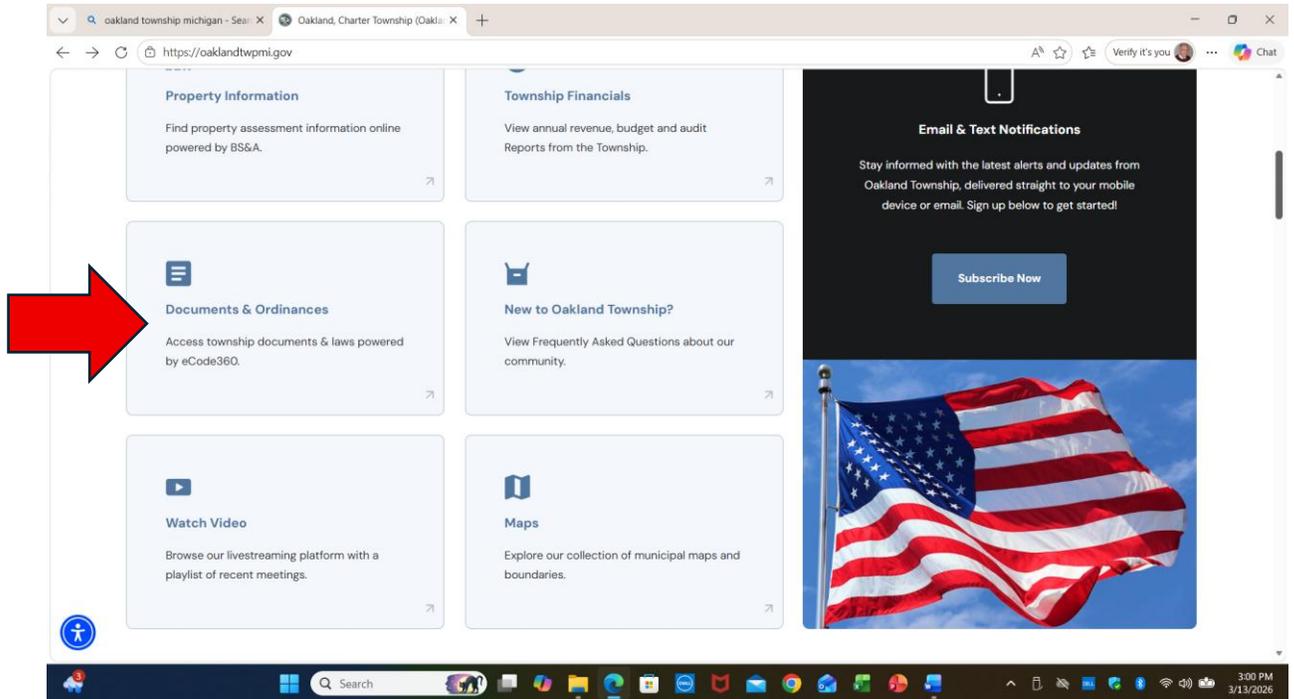
5-You will see this, the first page. You can scroll down through three pages of words and 16 pages of engineering drawings.



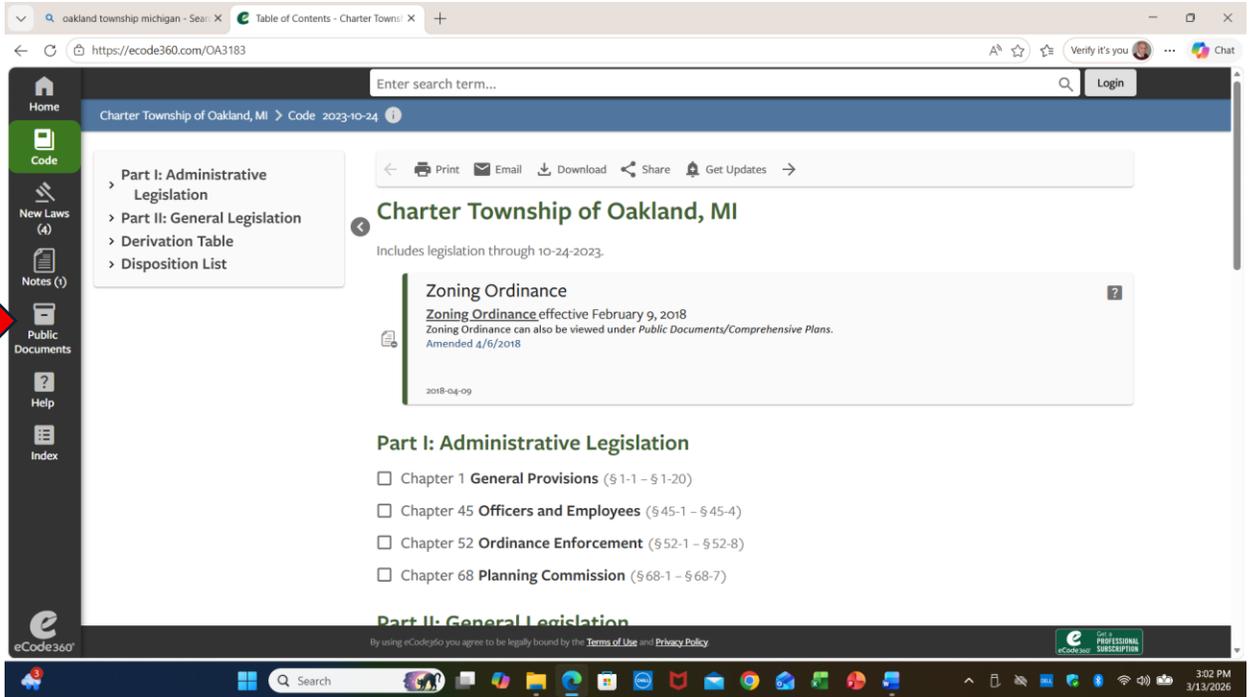
Finding Board resolution 22-20

See the wording of the resolution by following the instructions below oGo to township website <https://oaklandtwpmi.gov>

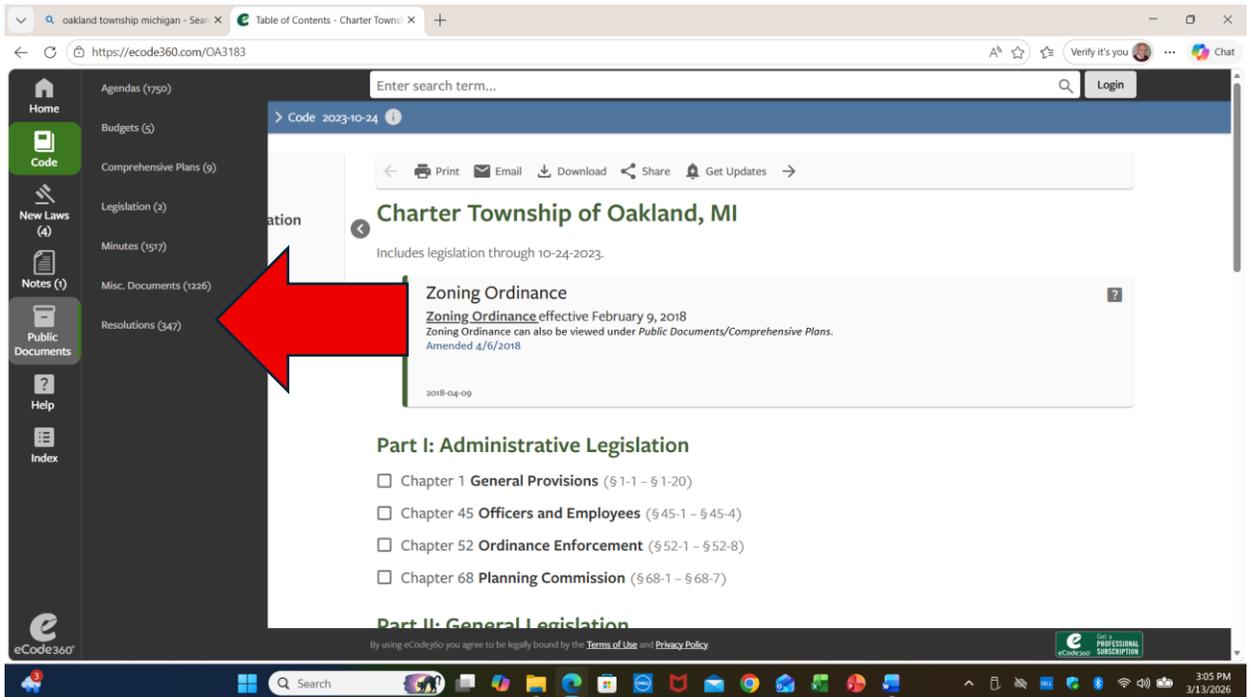
- 1- Scroll down until you see the box on left titled “**Documents and Ordinances**”, Note the red arrow I added pointing at the box. Click on that box.



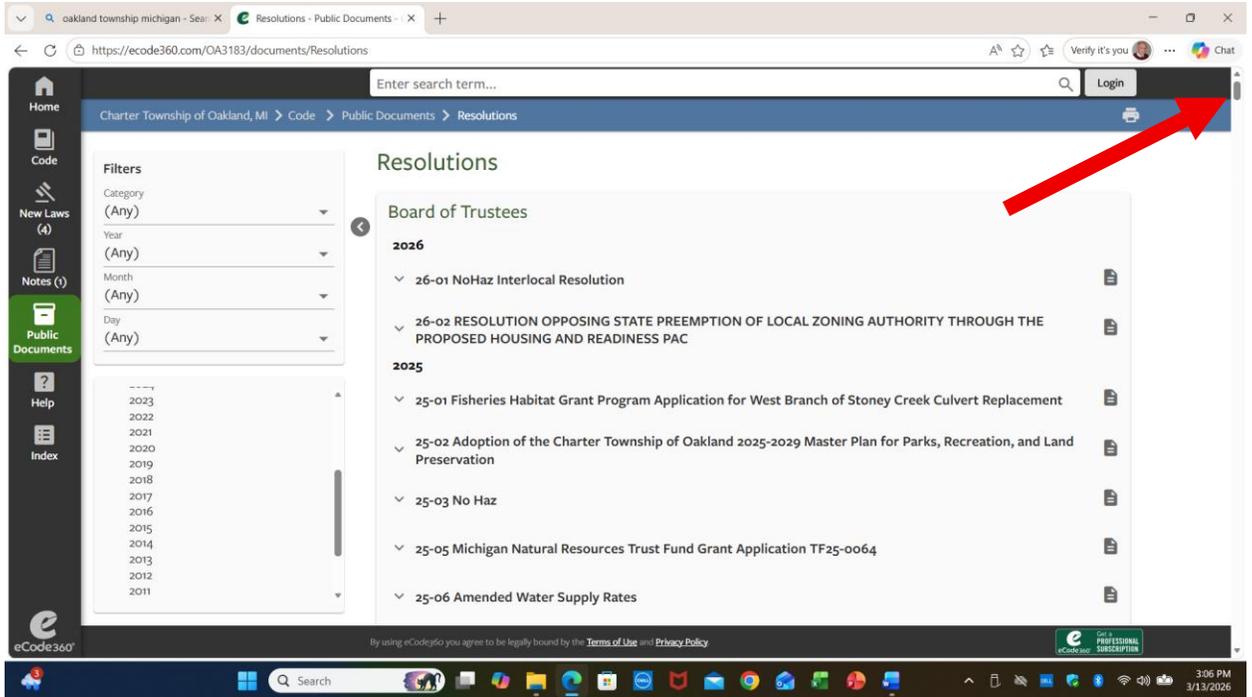
- 3-You will see this below. Click on “**Public Documents**”



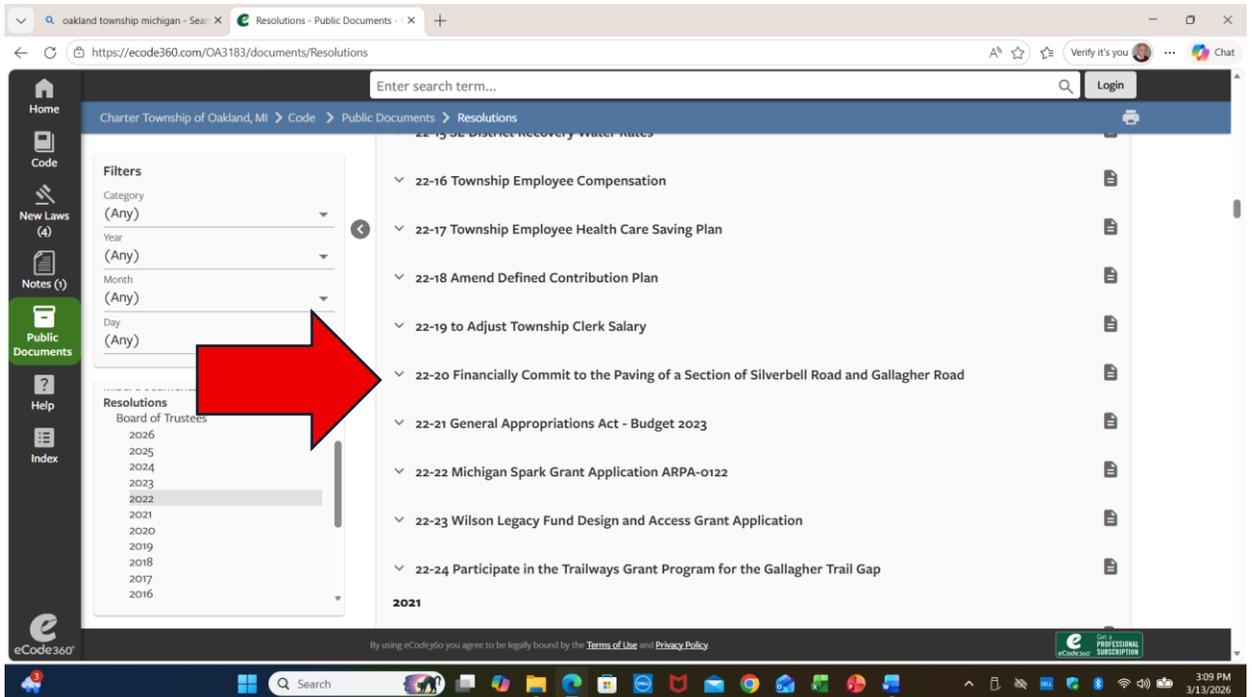
4-You will see this. Click on **“Resolutions (347)”**



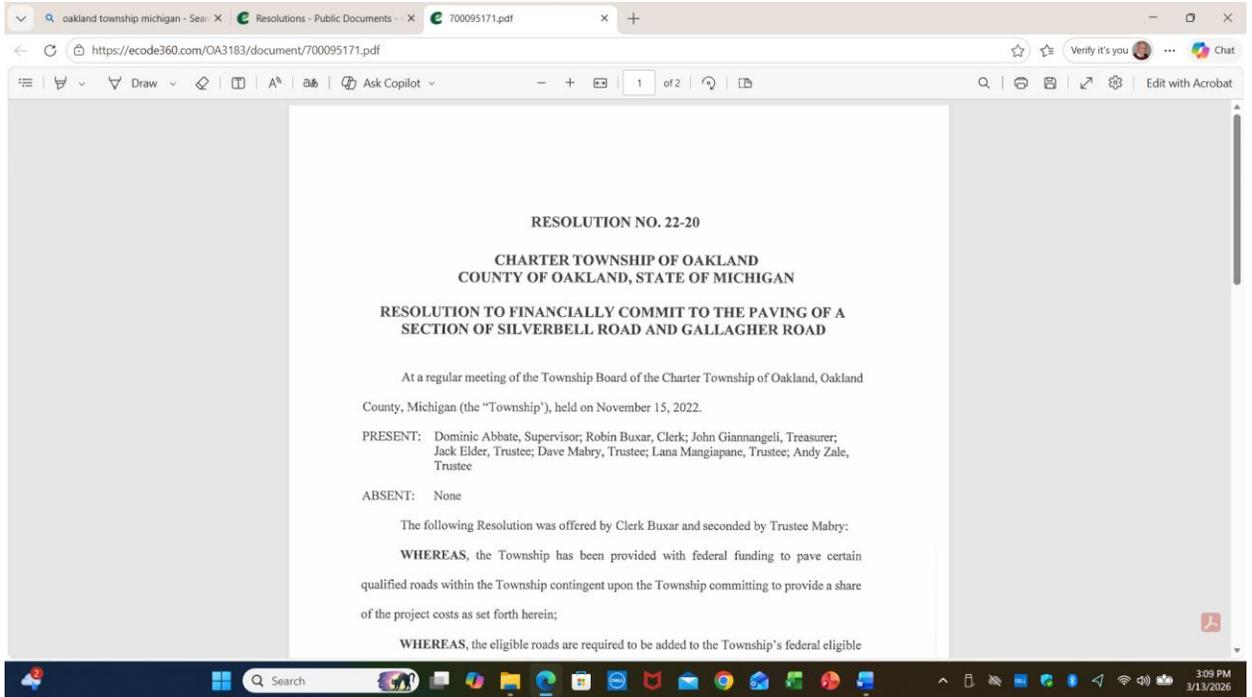
5-You will see this below. Scroll down to 22-20 using far right “thingy” (see arrow, what is the name of that “thingy” anyway?)



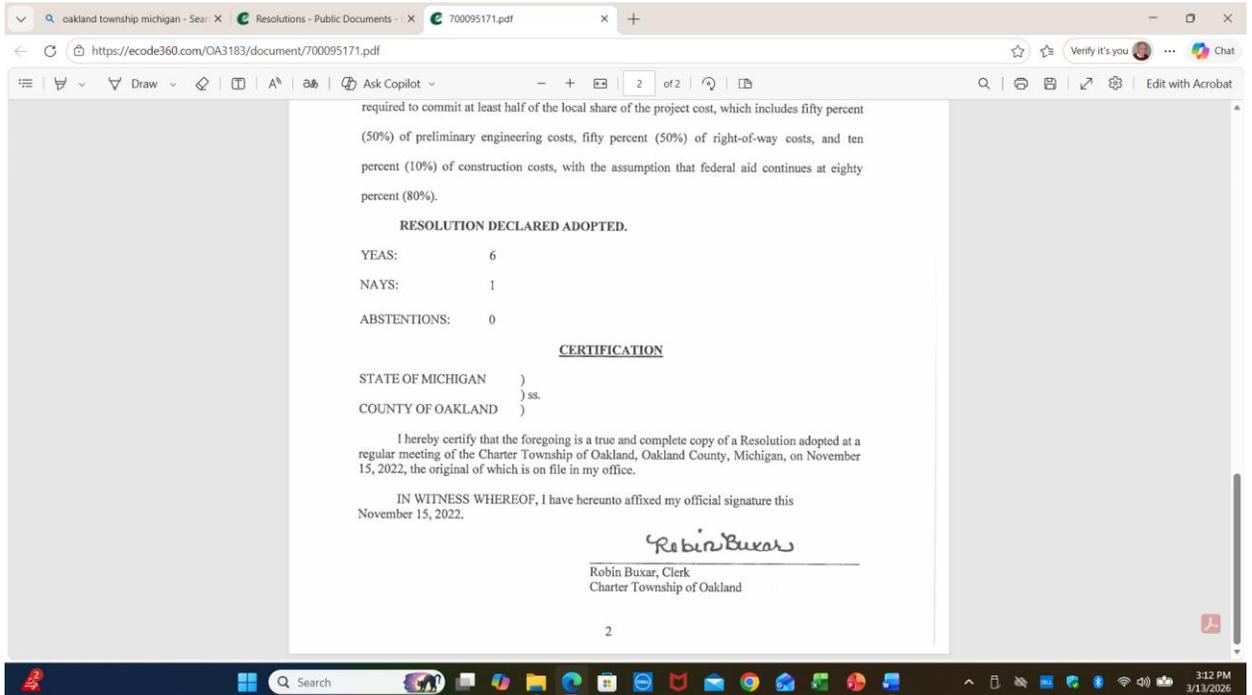
6-Here you are at 22-20. Click on it.



7-You arrive at Resolution 22-20 below.



8-However, when you scroll to the end you notice the 6-1 vote does match the minutes 7-0 (far above in this report).



Contact Us

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