

SPRINGFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP



SEAN R. MILLER, CLERK

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Ramboll Proposal Review

Springfield Township
12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350
March 4, 2026
11:00 AM

PRESENT:

- Ric Davis, Township Supervisor
- Greg Need, Township Council
- Gerald Fisher, Special Counsel
- Danielle Amber, Ramboll Representative
- Scott Hayter, Ramboll Representative
- Amanda Gruzin, Resident/FFC Member
- Danielle Sink, Supervisor's Assistant/Recording Secretary

The meeting opened with Supervisor Davis explaining that the Township leadership, special counsel, and other involved parties have reviewed and compared Ramboll and F&V proposals. Through this collaborative review process, they had reached a clear, unanimous conclusion that Ramboll Americas was the firm best positioned to undertake the extensive technical and analytical work required for this project. He stated that Ramboll had responded thoroughly to the questions issued during the interview phase and demonstrated strong alignment with the Township's scope of work. With that, he formally informed the Ramboll representatives that the Township intended to select them as the lead consultant, while leaving open the potential involvement of F&V for particular specialized components as the project unfolded.

Building on this foundation, Supervisor Davis described the initial steps Ramboll should expect. He asked them first to revisit the preliminary scope of work the Township had provided previously, identifying gaps, strengthening areas that lacked sufficient detail, and offering recommendations. These recommendations would then be reviewed by him and Township Council Greg Need and Special Council Gerald Fisher, and from there incorporated into discussions with counsel and the FFC Committee, ensuring the Township collectively shaped a fully comprehensive and well-structured scope before technical reviews accelerated. He reiterated that the goal was to be as complete and precise as possible from the start, acknowledging that the project would inevitably evolve and that we are still figuring out what questions to ask.

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Following this, Attorney Need raised the matter of the pricing structure under Phase B. While Ramboll had presented a single lump-sum price for the full discipline groupings, he requested that costs be separated by each of the categories listed. He clarified that although Ramboll would likely handle the majority of the work, certain disciplines could ultimately be assigned to different experts, such as Fleis and VandenBrink, making it necessary for the Township to understand the cost allocation behind each part of the proposal.

Danielle Amber from Ramboll affirmed that this could be done and asked for clarification regarding the format of the breakdown. Need reaffirmed that they were seeking itemized pricing by each discipline, recognizing estimates would naturally shift as real-world information changed.

The conversation gradually transitioned into deeper discussion of the environmental context surrounding the project. Supervisor Davis described Springfield Township's ecologically distinct Prairie fens, which experts had characterized as among the finest in the world. He highlighted the Township's profound responsibility to safeguard these fen habitats, especially considering their adjacency to a Superfund site and the potential environmental impacts of the proposed gravel mine. He explained that one of the notable strengths observed in F&V was their affinity for fen environments, and that this could be leveraged through a "second-look" peer review of Ramboll's work. This approach, he suggested, might increase community confidence and ensure that critical environmental concerns were scrutinized from multiple expert viewpoints.

Ramboll offered insight into its ecological capabilities, with Ms. Amber describing the expertise of the ecological teams located throughout the United States, including specialists in Ohio who frequently work in Michigan. She expressed confidence in Ramboll's ability to analyze wetland, species, and groundwater interactions but said she would confirm specific details with her team to ensure accuracy.

In response, Supervisor Davis introduced the involvement of Dr. Monfils at Michigan State University Extension, who conducts ongoing research on the Township's fen ecosystems and endangered species. He explained that Dr. Monfils had offered to collaborate and provide ecological insight, particularly regarding how changes such as groundwater temperature shifts could impact plant life and related species. There was agreement that connecting Ramboll with researchers already studying those habitats would strengthen the scientific foundation of the review.

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Turning to newly developing matters, Supervisor Davis informed the group that the EGLE Office in Chicago had reached out regarding a proposed aquifer drawdown test planned by the mining company. EGLE requested involvement, and Supervisor Davis had responded by looping in Ruben MaxBauer of the Levy company to ensure EGLE would have a seat at the table. He reiterated that any well-digging or drawdown activity would require maximum transparency and that EGLE's participation was essential. He reminded Ramboll that numerous documents were already available on the Township website, including Giffels Webster's deficiency review of the original application and a letter from Pangea and Agate highlighting initial concerns. The mining company was preparing to submit an additional information package within roughly ninety days, but, in his view, there was already sufficient content for Ramboll to begin working through.

When Ms. Amber asked about timing and deliverables, Supervisor Davis said that although previous conversations suggested fall deliverables might align well with Ramboll's scheduling, the Township's timeline remained flexible. The more important development, he explained, was the impending recommendation that the board approve a new planning consultant from Carlisle Wortman. This consultant, Megan Masson-Minock, was already working with Counsel Fisher on a separate gravel mine application and was expected to serve as project manager, working closely with the Planning Commission's chair and another commissioner. He said he would rely on Ms. Masson-Minock to develop the project timeline, milestone structure, and process management, because his own day-to-day responsibilities prevented him from managing a project of this scale directly. He emphasized repeatedly that, once the tools and experts were in place, he intended to step back to preserve the Planning Commission's independence and ensure there was no perception of influence on their ultimate recommendation to the board.

The meeting then turned to communication protocols. Scott Hayter asked for clarification on whether attorney-client privilege applied to communications involving the Township attorney.

Supervisor Davis asked whether he or Ms. Masson-Minock could be "looped in" if communications were still directed to Attorney Need, but the attorneys advised that early drafts should remain solely with counsel until they were reviewed and confirmed appropriate for release.

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The group acknowledged that litigation was a strong possibility and that any document an expert generated could later be subject to discovery, further underscoring the importance of careful document handling.

After the procedural discussion, scheduling was addressed. The group agreed to meet during the week of the 16th, finally settling on Tuesday the 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Amber indicated she had full availability that day, though Mr. Hayter stated he could not attend but emphasized that Ms. Amber would fully represent Ramboll and reach out to him should any issues arise. He noted that the project had been bid leanly to allow maximum budget allocation to technical work rather than management overhead, and therefore it made sense for Ms. Amber to serve as the primary point of contact.

Before closing, Supervisor Davis invited final questions or comments. Fact-Finding Committee member Amanda Gruzin spoke briefly, expressing satisfaction with the process and confidence in the Township's direction.

Supervisor Davis then asked counsel whether the Township should formally announce its engagement of Ramboll at the upcoming board meeting.

Attorney Need advised that the board had already delegated authority to hire experts, so only a simple communication for the record would be needed. He agreed to prepare and deliver that communication before public comment.

The meeting concluded with confirmation of near-term tasks. Ramboll would take on the Phase B cost breakdown and send for attorney review.

Supervisor Davis planned to revisit the earlier draft scope of work, incorporating any additional detail or suggestions from counsel or commissioners. After the Ramboll team left the call, Supervisor Davis, Attorney Need, and Counsel Fisher briefly remained to reflect on the discussion. Both attorneys confirmed their confidence in Ramboll's expertise, noting their multidisciplinary strength and the value of the breakdown request in ensuring every technical area received focused attention.

Supervisor Davis reaffirmed his intent to step back once the framework was in place so that the Planning Commission could conduct its evaluation without outside influence and deliver a

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recommendation aligned with the Township's best interests. With agreement on the path forward, the meeting adjourned.

Danielle Sink, Recording Secretary/Supervisor's Assistant

Date

Approved By Ric Davis, Township Supervisor

Date