

SPRINGFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP



SEAN R. MILLER, CLERK

248-846-6510 | 248-846-6538 FAX

Levy Kickoff Meeting

Springfield Township

12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350

April 8, 2026

10:00 AM

TOWNSHIP PRESENT:

Richard L. Davis, Township Supervisor
Sarah Richmond, Parks and Rec Director
Greg Need, Township Attorney
Gerald Fisher, Township Special Council
Kevin Sclesky, Township Trustee
Megan Masson-Minock, Township Planner
Brian Galley, Planning Chairperson
Danielle Sink, Supervisor's Assistant/Recording Secretary

OTHER'S PRESENT:

Reuben Maxbauer, Levy
Tom Green, Levy
Stephen Estey, Zausmer
Irit Walters, Zausmer
Bob Doyle, Smithgroup
Danielle Amber, Ramboll
Scott Hayter, Ramboll
Amanda Gruzin, Resident
Chris Todd, Resident

Supervisor Davis opened the meeting at 10:00 AM on April 8, 2026, welcoming everyone and framing the purpose of the gathering: the formal kickoff of the review process for the Burroughs's mining application and the associated special land use permit. Supervisor Davis emphasized

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structure, transparency, and the meticulous framework needed to move the township through a process as complex and sensitive as the proposed mining operation.

Supervisor Davis walked the group through the actions already completed, noting that the Township Board had approved bringing on Special Counsel Jerry Fisher to work with him and Township Counsel Greg Need to interview and hire the expert consultants required for the technical review. After an extensive vetting process, Ramboll had been selected, with their scope of work carefully outlined, approved, and thoroughly reviewed by counsel. Supervisor Davis explained that the Township had already analyzed the initial submission from the mining company, identified gaps, and requested additional information. Rather than sending material in small fragments, Levy chose to send the information in larger, more coherent groups over time, which Supervisor Davis suggested would aid in maintaining efficiency and clarity.

Supervisor Davis noted that during the upcoming Board meeting, approval would be sought to bring on senior planner Megan Masson-Minock as the Township's planning consultant for the project. He described how Planner Masson-Minock would serve as a project manager and primary coordinator moving forward. To ensure the integrity of the Planning Commission's role, he emphasized that decisions and evaluations would shift fully to the Planning Commission, with Chairperson Brian Galley and Planning Commissioner/Trustee Kevin Sclesky to begin preparing recommendations in coordination with Planner Masson-Minock, Ramboll, and legal counsel. Supervisor Davis stated he would be stepping back from any frontline involvement beyond coordination, allowing the Planning Commission to operate independently while still supported by necessary resources.

Ramboll's team, led by Scott Hayter and Danielle Amber, described their proposal and their technical team. Mr. Hayter noted that he would remain as project director, but that Ms. Amber would manage the review itself. The review would be comprehensive, with experts dedicated to groundwater, hydrogeology, stormwater and surface water, air emissions, noise and vibration, ecological and wildlife factors, traffic impacts, reclamation, and post-mining land use. Ms. Amber asked for conformation that additional data from the applicant was expected as early as May. She continued that once Ramboll reviewed the full set of documents, they would produce a technical memorandum summarizing findings, adequacy, and any recommended further action.

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She also noted that Ramboll would be prepared to communicate their findings both to Township officials and the broader community in accessible formats.

Supervisor Davis emphasized that before any deliverables could be released publicly, they needed to be shared with the mining company for review and comment, as agreed under the escrow terms. He asked Attorney Need to restate this requirement, ensuring absolute clarity.

Attorney Need confirmed that while the Township was not obligated to modify documents based on the applicant's comments, the opportunity for the applicant to review drafts was required.

Supervisor Davis then committed to providing Ramboll with the escrow agreement to ensure everyone understood the expectations surrounding document handling. He then walked through the current communication channels, clarifying that information would flow directly to Chair Galley, Commissioner Sclesky, Planner Masson-Minock, and legal counsel.

Supervisor Davis returned to a guiding principle: the review must be driven by truth and fact, free from speculation or personal opinion. He noted that the Township must balance its obligation to protect property rights with its duty to the community's wellbeing, and said this in a way that conveyed both authority and earnest care for the community's trust in the process. Attorneys Need and Fisher agreed, and the Levy representatives affirmed their agreement with those values.

The discussion moved to the budget for Ramboll's proposal, approximately \$81,000, which would be presented to the Board for approval. Levy recommended waiting for their full submission before Ramboll invested heavily in review time, and Supervisor Davis agreed with that practical suggestion, while ensuring alignment with the Township's timeline. When discussing Ramboll's availability, Supervisor Davis confirmed that their projected late-summer and fall capacity matched the Township's anticipated schedule for receiving data.

The meeting shifted toward fieldwork plans, production well drilling, and coordination with regulatory agencies. Supervisor Davis referenced a letter from the Levy company confirming that EGLE and EPA had no concerns regarding proximity to the nearby Superfund site.

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Supervisor Davis added that coordination was underway with Chief Covey and the Fire Department since the well would ultimately serve fire suppression needs.

Commissioner Sclesky and Chairperson Galley emphasized the importance of regular updates to the public, noting that residents had already responded positively to clear communication at recent meetings.

Supervisor Davis readily supported the idea of having Planner Masson-Minock to provide updates at each Planning Commission meeting.

When Chairperson Galley asked about placing updates as an agenda item, Attorney Need recommended doing so. Supervisor Davis noted that although the application had been paused for some time, the Township had always anticipated eventually moving into this structured, transparent communication phase.

As scheduling was discussed, Planner Masson-Minock suggested that the next meeting should take place roughly two weeks after the applicant's next major submission, ensuring consultants had adequate time to assess completeness first.

Supervisor Davis also confirmed that communications provided at Planning Commission meetings could be shared via the Supervisor's updates so the broader community would have access to the same information.

Supervisor Davis invited comments from residents, Chris Todd spoke briefly, saying they appreciated being able to observe the process and felt the Township was handling everything transparently and ethically.

Amanda Gruzin agreed and echoed Chris's remarks, confirming that from her perspective the Township was doing things the right way. She asked whether the office had received any calls about Ormond Road being reduced to one lane that morning, but otherwise said there was nothing more the Township needed to do to improve fairness or transparency.

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Supervisor Davis reemphasized Springfield Township contains rare and sensitive natural assets, pristine prairie fens, complex hydrology, endangered species, and ecological systems that cannot be restored once disturbed.

With no further comments from staff, consultants, residents, or commissioners, Supervisor Davis closed the meeting at 10:42 AM.

Danielle Sink, Recording Secretary/Supervisor's Assistant

Date

Approved By Ric Davis, Township Supervisor

Date