

SPRINGFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP



SEAN R. MILLER, CLERK

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Kickoff Environmental Proposals

Springfield Township
12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350
January 15, 2026
10:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard L. Davis, Township Supervisor
 Sarah Richmond, Township Parks Director
 Greg Need, Township Council
 Kevin Sclesky, Trustee
 Amanda Gruzin, Resident
 Chris Todd, Resident
 Danielle Sink, Supervisor's Assistant/Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Township Supervisor Richard L. Davis, who explained that the purpose of the meeting was to formally initiate a fair, unbiased, and independent evaluation process for the environmental proposals submitted to the Township. Supervisor Davis emphasized that the process was intentionally structured to allow each participant to review materials independently and to ensure that subsequent discussions would be informed, candid, and defensible. He noted that establishing a clear record of due process was critical to protecting the Township and maintaining the integrity of the review.

Supervisor Davis reviewed the scope of work that had previously been presented to and approved by the Township Board as part of the Township's legal strategy. He explained that the scope of work outlined the expectations placed on applicants and served as the baseline against which submitted proposals would be evaluated. He further stated that, based on a review of comparable cases, a consistency review and concurrence statement, reviewed by legal counsel Greg Need, would be added to all review documents moving forward to ensure uniformity and transparency throughout the process.

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Supervisor Davis then explained the evaluation worksheet developed for the review. He stated that the worksheet was designed to address specific evaluation areas and parameters identified in the scope of work and to allow reviewers to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. He clarified that the Township was not seeking to select a single firm for all review components but instead intended to assign elements of the review to firms demonstrating the strongest credentials, experience, or expertise in each evaluation area. He noted that this approach was developed collaboratively with special legal counsel Gerald Fisher and Township Attorney Greg Need, with the goal of avoiding placement of critical review components with firms lacking depth in a particular area.

Supervisor Davis explained that reviewers were asked to identify which firm they believed was strongest in each evaluation category and to document their reasoning in the notes section provided. He emphasized that these notes would form the basis of a future committee discussion, during which individual perspectives would be compared and discussed before final decisions were made by legal counsel and the Supervisor, with significant reliance on committee input.

Trustee Sclesky asked whether a follow-up meeting could be scheduled promptly after individual reviews were completed, noting that the evaluations were due by Friday, January 13.

Supervisor Davis responded that he, Attorney Fisher, and Attorney Need would first review the completed worksheets as part of their responsibility in the selection process, after which a meeting would be scheduled to allow full committee discussion and open dialogue among participants.

Resident Amanda Gruzin asked why Atwell declined to submit a proposal and whether the reason could be shared.

Supervisor Davis explained that Atwell indicated they did not feel they had sufficient information to prepare a proposal, whereas Ramboll and Fleis & Vandenbrink were able to do so. Supervisor Davis stated that, in his view, the ability to understand the Township's expectations based on the interview process was itself an important consideration, as the Township needed reviewers who could work independently without guidance that could be perceived as influencing outcomes. He

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emphasized the Township's commitment to avoiding any appearance of impropriety and ensuring decisions were driven by facts, science, and professional expertise.

Attorney Need commented that under technical expertise evaluation areas, it would be appropriate to note where specific firms demonstrated particular strengths, such as geology or traffic, recognizing that no single firm may be strongest across all disciplines.

Supervisor Davis agreed and reiterated that the Township's approach was intended to be comprehensive and potentially serve as a model for other municipalities, noting that no other community to his knowledge was conducting a review in this manner.

Mrs. Gruzin raised a question regarding traffic analysis, and Supervisor Davis clarified that roadway use and routing determinations would rely on agencies with jurisdiction over the roads, with prior discussions involving Fishbeck addressing use rather than safety. He explained that additional studies, including property value analysis, would be conducted separately and that the current review represented a focused component of a broader, phased evaluation process. He emphasized that the Township was not operating under any artificial timeline and would proceed deliberately to ensure the process was done correctly.

Parks Director Sarah Richmond asked whether the evaluation worksheet could be distributed electronically to allow typed comments.

Supervisor Davis confirmed that electronic distribution would be provided. He then proposed the idea of making the review materials publicly available on the Township website, including the scope of work, evaluation worksheet, and submitted proposals, to allow interested residents to review and provide input. He emphasized that while public submissions would not alter the established process, any feedback received would be acknowledged and discussed in an open meeting, with the minutes reflecting that public input was considered.

Attorney Need noted that from a legal standpoint, the materials constituted recommendations and that while public input may be limited, transparency would be maintained. Mrs. Gruzin expressed strong support for public engagement and stated that opening the process could help residents better understand the depth and rigor of the Township's review.

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Trustee Sclesky echoed this sentiment, stating that the opportunity for public participation reinforced transparent government and demonstrated that residents were given the chance to be involved.

Supervisor Davis clarified that all review materials would be provided consistently and that the process itself would not be modified based on public input, noting the substantial amount of time already invested. He reiterated that the Township's objective was to encourage fact-based engagement rather than misinformation or speculation.

Further discussion occurred regarding public communication and recent community discourse. Supervisor Davis emphasized that the Township was committed to impartiality, openness, and transparency, and that the structured process was designed to withstand scrutiny.

Mrs. Gruzin and others expressed agreement and reiterated the importance of educating residents on the process and maintaining focus on facts rather than emotion.

Supervisor Davis summarized the legal strategy underpinning the process, noting that tasks had been clearly assigned among legal counsel and Township leadership to ensure a defensible approach and to manage costs responsibly, as discussed at a prior Township Board meeting.

By consensus of the committee, there was general agreement to proceed with making the review materials available to the public in a structured manner.

The meeting concluded with Supervisor Davis inviting any final comments and reiterating the Township's commitment to conducting the review thoughtfully, transparently, and in the best interest of the community.

The meeting adjourned 3:45 PM.