

**Sharon Township SPECIAL Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Broadband Ballot Language**  
**(unapproved)**  
**January 30, 2018**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** The Sharon Township Board held a SPECIAL meeting on January 30, 2018 at the Sharon Town Hall. Supervisor Psarouthakis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. There were 29 public attendees. The pledge of allegiance was said.

**ROLL CALL:** Guysky, Mikel, Psarouthakis, Simons, Cooper: PRESENT

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion by Guysky to approve the agenda, supported by Simons. Motion approved.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Psarouthakis reported meeting with Air Advantage and having a discussion on fiber, wireless, the pro's and con's

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Question on how the project will be funded. Comment about costs of phone and internet and sees internet as a necessity for kid's education. Comment made about property value increase and he would not support a plan that didn't reach every household. Comments on how much this project would save their household per year on internet costs. Questions about costs in millage, payment question about taxable value, concern about longevity of fiber and comments about concerns of installation of fiber if millage passes.

**Supervisor Psarouthakis responded to public comment:** In regards to longevity- fiber will outlast all of us- confirmed by President of Air Advantage (who was present at this meeting). In regards to installation issue with frontiers fiber line that runs through the township- there was no township involvement or oversight in that- the township had no say. If the project passes the township will have complete control on who we contract with and direct involvement with the project. In regards to financing the project- it is a millage similar to schools and road- based on taxable value. In regards to other questions, tonight's meeting is to approve ballot language so that the residents can come out to a vote in May and decide what they want- this Board is not deciding, the residents will decide.

**BUSINESS:**

a. **Discuss/Approve "Sharon Township Broadband Bond Proposal" Ballot language for the May 8, 2018 election:**

Guysky started the discussion with concerns about the feasibility study, costs projections and his opinion that Wireless is the way to go.

**Motion by Guysky to postpone approving the Broadband Bond Proposal Ballot language, no support, motion not approved.**

Mikel responded to Guysky's comments stating that for years residents with unreliable wireless and satellite internet –or no internet option at all- have come in asking the township for a better option, and that she was not comfortable offering a mediocre option to the residents. She reiterated that the Feasibility study and the President of Air Advantage –a fiber and wireless company- confirmed that Fiber is the best option.

Simons offered comments on believing it should be up to the residents to decide at a vote.

Cooper offered comments on wanting to bring something to the Township that would better the lives of residents and the community as a whole.

**Motion by Psarouthakis to move forward and vote on the Broadband Bond Proposal language for the May 8, 2018 election, supported by Mikel, Motion approved.**

**Motion by Mikel to approve the Twenty (20) year, 1% growth rate, estimated millage to be levied in 2018 of 3.2583, and offer the RESOLUTION SUBMITTING BROADBAND BOND PROPOSAL AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 8, 2018, including the ballot language:**

**SHARON TOWNSHIP BROADBAND BOND PROPOSAL**

**Shall the Township of Sharon, County of Washtenaw, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,900,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed Twenty (20) years from the date of issuance of each series, for the purpose of paying the cost to acquire, construct, furnish, and equip a broadband provisioning system to provide broadband internet service in the Township, including high-speed fiber optic infrastructure, service lines, and necessary electronic equipment and building improvements, together with necessary interests in land, rights-of-way, appurtenances and attachments thereto?**

Yes

No

**The estimated millage to be levied in 2018 is 3.2583 mills (\$3.2583 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 3.2518 mills (\$3.2518 per \$1,000 of taxable value).**

**Supported by Cooper.**

**\*full Resolution read aloud by Supervisor Psarouthakis**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Cooper: Yes, Simons: Yes, Guysky: No, Mikel: Yes, Psarouthakis: Yes. MOTION APPROVED, RESOLUTION ADPOTED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Scott Zimmer, President of Air Advantage, made comments about the strength/speeds and longevity of a Fiber network. He stated that Fiber will reach everyone in the township while a wireless option may not. He offered his companies support throughout the process. He commended the Board on their dedication to the process.

Residents commented on current internet speed troubles and connection troubles not allowing them to do work or communicate with their family cross county. Resident thanked Guysky and stated he understood the need for internet and the intent of the project but had trouble with the financing. Resident concerns about vacant properties and farm land were brought up. Resident expressed concerns about not having access to 4G currently so the promises of wireless 5G mean nothing to him, Barb Fuller commented on behalf of SharonBroadbandYES, and offered a calculator worksheet to help residents figure out individual households costs, and offer informational FAQ sheets put out by SharonBroadbandYES.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m**

*Chelsea Mikel*

*Sharon Township Clerk*