

# HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625

Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mickie Duby, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Valdine Erskine Guests: 2 Residents: 18

**CALLED TO ORDER:** by Wright at 6:30 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Conway; supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read by Duby. Motion to approve by Erskine, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting read by Erskine. Motion to approve minutes by Duby; supported by Wright; all in favor. **MC** Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine; motion to approve and pay bills including incoming bills by Duby; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

**GUEST: County Commissioner, Sandy Bristol** reported the salary increase for the Sheriff's department finally passed, bringing the pay to levels paid in Gladwin County. Bristol also stated that Commissioner Stephanie Brown resigned, leaving a vacancy for the 4<sup>th</sup> District. She discussed a meeting held by the Airport Board and the current Board's work toward fund raising for the airport, with an end goal of improving the status from that of a "Basic" airport to a "General" airport. One fund raiser in the works is Bracket Racing on the 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile runway. Patching of the asphalt will be done prior to the race.

**Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson** reported the Road Commission was audited and is considered to be in good shape, with improvement in pension fund assets. The Department has been recognized by MDOT and other counties for its successful 2 year Apprenticeship Program. As a result, other areas are adopting the template created by the Road Commission. Major projects include 2022 plans to improve Stockwell Road between Old State and Old 27, to Class A and 2023 plans for a roundabout on Surrey, at Old State. Another project that is gaining recognition for the county is the Mostetler Bridge, with bridge beams being poured in the county garage, from ultra high performance concrete. MDOT and road departments from around the county are interested in seeing what is being done with this new technology. The county is taking advantage of the opportunity to "sell" its Federal Aid money to MDOT so the paperwork costs are shifted and funds received are usable for a greater variety of projects. Additionally, a new website allows residents to request service and submit pictures of road conditions. A resident expressed concern over the recent flooding on Cranberry Lake Road and the condition of the culvert. Simpson explained the culvert is in good shape and being monitored for possible future work.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** **New resident, Michelle** questioned the current use of the Mennonite Church. Further discussion was held during New Business. **Several residents complained about the condition of Private Roads**, in the Dodge City area. Duby explained the Township only collects and pays out the bills. Complaints and solutions should be sought via the Dodge Property Owner's Association and their road committee. Duby explained the annual meeting will be held in July, gave residents the name of the committee chair as Randy Robbins and suggested they get involved. Wright and Duby explained that the Dodge area residents turned down an opportunity to have the roads upgraded and paved. Complaints continued and some wanted to explore the cost of upgrades. Linda Barkell said the meeting would be posted and encouraged residents to attend and get involved. **Several residents complained about blight.** The blight discussion was further handled by Blight Administrator, Keith Rolph. **A new resident complained about the library.** Duby explained the library is a district library, not a public library. Township residents can take out books at no charge but if they want to take media, a resident will need to pay \$100 per year to receive full service rights. Only a millage would allow full participation in the library and that would not be expected to pass.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** not present

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Chair, Kelly Bennett** not available due to an incident at work.

**ZONING ADMIN REPORT: Melissa Townsend** absent but submitted a report of permits issued in March

**ZONING & BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT: Blight Administrator, Keith Rolph** reported 48 calls received since March 22 and that 36 were for blight; then explained what blight is, and isn't. Rolph gave a detailed explanation of the correct process and further noted that we can never violate a person's Constitutional rights. He stressed that callers must leave their name, phone number and a description of the issue, with a complete address of the property involved in the complaint. Many residents were very vocal about their complaints and unhappy with the legal process that must be followed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Wright scheduled a **Workshop** to formulate a plan for spending ARPA funds; workshop to be held, Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 PM, at the Township Hall. The meeting is open to the public. Discussion will be around demolition of the old township hall, use of the Mennonite Church as a rental venue, establishing a park at the current township hall, and other possible projects. A resident asked if the funds could be used for roads and specifically brining. Wright explained ARPA funds can be used for road improvement. Brining is not road improvement. Commissioner Simpson concurred. Wright explained that was why we are asking for a road millage; for maintenance including brining and improvements.

**Duby reported** BS&A has a program the township can use so tax payers can look up their own tax information. She is looking into the cost of their credit card program, as many pay their taxes thru GovPAYNET and the fee is increasing.

**REMINDERS:** Siren is still out.

**ADJOURN:** Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM, supported by lutzi; all in favor. **MC**