

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP****Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 **Time:** 6:30 P.M. **Location:** Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625

**Board Members Present:** Mickie Duby, Mike Iutzi, Mike Conway, Dave Wright, Valdine Erskine **Guests:** 2 **Residents** 16 **Employees:** 5

**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 Conway; all in favor. **MC**

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Minutes of September 1 meeting read by Erskine. Motion to approve minutes by Iutzi; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duby; 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**

**GUESTS:**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER, Sandy Bristol** reported a balanced budget for the County with excess funds, continuing work on the Commissioner's room in the County building, Lake Association meetings on October 14 at 10 AM and 11 AM, at the County building, more broadband meetings, a new barn at the animal shelter, determination on the Spongy Moth spraying was set at a 100 foot buffer and approved by the County's attorney, and more weather radios are coming per Jerry Becker. Bristol also reported an inspection on the old Amble School building resulted in a decision to keep the building as it serves police departments throughout Northern Michigan as a training site for school shooting response.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** **Virginia Collins** thanked Board Members for their work and timely response and said Hamilton Township Board Members are underpaid for what they do. She suggested a comparison of other townships to set raises. **Michael Cox** complained about a travel trailer in a front yard. **Denise Keller** complained about a pile of branches, wood, and possible construction material in a ditch along N. Hoover. **A resident said don't raise taxes to provide raises.** Assessor Wright explained taxes don't pay for raises.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Assessor, **Tina Wright** explained the difference between Assessed (market) value and Taxable value. She stated 2023 inflation rate will likely be 5%, used to calculate property tax, millage is voted. She discussed attorney Hovey's opinion on the Special Assessment District for maintenance and improvement of private roads. Every 5 years 51% of the property owners must sign a petition to continue a SAD, provide notice and hold a public hearing. **THEN** the Township obtains bids to contract for the maintenance and chooses the contractor. The private road committee needs to start by January and be done by spring 2023. One vote is counted per property owner, not per property. Concerns were raised about how to get signatures from part-time residents.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Chair, **Kelly Bennett**- The next meeting is November 2 at 6:30. A guest from Clare County Animal Control will discuss the township dog ordinance. More work is in process concerning tiny houses. Master plan review in 2023.

**ZONING & BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT:** **Blight Administrator, Keith Rolph** reviewed the blight ordinance and process from start to finish and what constitutes blight. We don't have a grass cutting ordinance. Call police for noise at night, cows out, and civil disputes.

**ZONING ADMIN REPORT:** **Melissa Townsend** reported 53 permits for the year, 3 violations, a demo house on Townline, ZBA declined a 12 foot fence, and the next ZBA meeting is October 10. Townsend reviewed violations and variance application process.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Siren-** Wright spoke with Emergency Manager Jerry Becker. Technology in the siren is out of date. New sirens, county wide are being investigated. Repairs on the current siren were cancelled.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Guest Cindy Jones** discussed the need for a system to mark and track grave sites in Cedar Crest Cemetery. Cid worked on the Hamilton Township Cemetery on Hoover. Cedar Crest is not square, graves are off-set, not in straight rows, and many unmarked graves exist. Discussed the use of a survey that would mark graves or a type of ground scan to determine location.

Commissioner Bristol suggested a ground penetration technology that Marty Johnson could explain. She will try to reach him. Cid will work with Erskine to further investigate. Funds were budgeted for this project, during the 2022-2023 budget hearing.

**Zoning Administrator, Townsend** will apply for next year's Scrap Tire Grant, \$3000 paid up-front and then reimbursed.

**Treasurer, Duby** asked to contact the company that collects credit card payment for taxes and set up a similar service to collect permit and other fees, paid to the General Fund. Conway moved to approve the suggestion, supported by Erskine; all in favor **MC**

**Jackie Erskine was hired to clean Hall;** Mikyla is stepping down. Jackie has commercial experience and will clean for the same pay.

**State of Michigan has announced that voting equipment must be replaced** in 2026 and they will not pay for it. Start budgeting now.

**ADJOURN:** Conway moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm., supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**