Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 Time: 6:30 PM

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

Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valdine Erskine Guests: 1 Residents: 14 Staff: 4

**CALLED TO ORDER:** by Wright at 6:29 P.M, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dennis O’Mell asked about paving Springwood Lake Road. Wright suggested residents consider approaching the Road Commission and start a petition to obtain 51% of resident’s signatures and add a special assessment to their taxes, to pave the road.

Scott Morton read a prepared statement concerning continued blight near his home and threatened legal action against the Township for failure to remedy the situation. Several others complained about blight and their views about the action of the Township Board. Because of the extent of blight complaints, **Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph** took the discussion and gave his report at the outset of the meeting as well as giving a review of the blight enforcement process. Rolph will be going house to house on July 21, to document blight. Flags are NOT blight. They are a First Amendment Right, UNLESS it is pornography.

Brian Cummings on Circle Drive brought up concerns in Section 19 and the park that has been blocked. Discussion also concerned the Township owned boat launch and boat launch parking on Circle Drive and Courtney. All OTHER Dodge City parks/boat launches are by *deeded access*. Another lengthy discussion ensued.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Duby reported the balance of Township accounts. The 2-year CD matures this month. After discussion, a decision was made to invest half of the CD in a new 1-year CD and half in a CD for a term up to 2 years so the funds were available in the next fiscal year’s budgets. Erskine moved to approve, supported by Conway; all in favor **MC**

**CLERK’S REPORT:** June 1 meeting minutes read by Erskine. Wright moved to approve; Conway supported; all in favor. **MC** Invoices over $100 read by Erskine. Conway made a motion to approve and pay bills including incoming bills, 2nd by Duby; all in favor. **MC**

**GUESTS:**

**County Commissioner,** **David Hoefling** was ill and submitted a report via email. Copies of the email were offered to residents and given to the Board.

**Clare-Gladwin RESD Coordinator, Sarah McCurdy** spoke about a grant to install a Little Free Library and Talking Is Teaching signage. About 60% of the Township is low income so the RESD is happy to participate with the Township, The Township can receive both, free of charge. The RESD will provide books and the Parent’s Coalition will check the Little Library to make sure it is stocked. Books do not need to be returned. The Board agreed to accept the offer and place the new Free Little Library in front of the new playground, when it is completed. The only involvement/expense to the Township will be installation.

**Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett** reported that workon the MasterPlan is nearing completion and could be ready for the Board to review by August or September. Erskine and Wright stated they attended the MTA training for cemetery management and suggested a full review of the Township’s cemetery ordinance. Erskine will supply her notes and a book purchased from the MTA, to be used in comparing the current ordinance to what is suggested by the MTA. A wedding venue ordinance is coming.

**Zoning Administrator,** **Melissa Townsend** submitted a written report to the Board, prior to meeting. A zoning permit for a site near water also needs an EGLE permit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Erskine reviewed ARPA/Covid Grant funds.** **Three previously submitted bids for the pavilion project were again reviewed**. Conway made a motion to accept the pavilion project bid submitted by Four Way Structures, that included cement work by Brian Watkins. Erskine supported, all in favor **MC**

**Wright reviewed the contract with Skyway Towers** and reported they will be reviewing the site to consider beginning construction.

**The mandatory Absentee Ballot Drop Box** needs to be ordered from the state. Options were reviewed. Conway moved to order ASC710 absent ballot box, second by Duby; all in favor**. MC**

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**REMINDERS:**

Board of Review is July 19, 2023 at 9 am, for corrections and Veteran’s exemptions.

**ADJOURNED:** Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**