

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N. Rodgers, Harrison, MI
Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valdine Erskine Guests: 5 Residents: 7 Staff: 4

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 to approve, seconded by Lutzi; all in favor. **MC**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Linda Barkell praised the Fire Department for their quick response during the recent fire on Cathey Street. Dennis O'Mell reported that some areas in the state are utilizing 4 brine applications per year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Duby reported the balances of accounts. Lutzi moved to approve, supported by Conway; all in favor **MC**

CLERK'S REPORT: August 3rd meeting minutes read by Erskine. Conway moved to approve minutes, Duby supported; all in favor. **MC**
Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine. Lutzi moved to approve and pay bills including incoming bills, 2nd by Duby; all in favor. **MC**

GUESTS: **County Commissioner, Jack Kleinhardt** discussed items *pending* in the legislature including septic inspections, gravel pit regulation possibly going to the state, rather than local control, and the Governor's green initiative seeking to use large amounts of farm land for solar projects.

County Commissioner, David Hoefling reported work on the renewal of contracts at the County level.

County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson stated the Road Commission had a busy summer and projects were on time. He reported some movement on the legislature's 'gravel bill' and is watching the Legislative Update. At stake is the question of control over land use for gravel pits. Simpson expressed concern over how the legislature will handle the reduced gas tax revenue, do to EV use. A possible 'per mile' charge could be implemented. Also at question is the number of brine applications allowed.

County Clerk, Lori Mott reviewed the *anticipated* election calendar and 9 days of early voting for Presidential Primary season. The Primary could be February 27 so early voting would be February 17 – 25 at the County Building, with the traditional voting day of February 27, at the Township. This year, the County will pay for early voting, using grant funds from the state. The grant is not expected to cover the full costs or be renewed. Mott is working to hire Election Inspectors. Contact her office if interested.

Because of early voting, the Electronic Pollbook will be online, to notify township clerks when someone has already voted. TEXTMYGOV is a new app available, to sign up for notifications and seek information. Mott stressed the need to sign up for *Property Fraud Alerts* since property fraud has increased, even in Clare County.

EMC Insurance Agent, Ken Lind reviewed the Township's insurance for liability and litigation. He gave examples to help Board Members better understand the coverage.

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett reported the Event Venue Ordinance is complete. Work continues on a Fire Works Ordinance, and the Cemetery Ordinance. The Planning Commission will move their October meeting to October 11, at 6:30 pm.

Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend reported the month's activity.

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported of the 5 active blight complaints from last month, 2 are complete, 2 are pending, and 1 is an active court case.

OLD BUSINESS: Bids from TriMedia for the Cemetery GPR were reviewed. This item was tabled in the August meeting so Board Members could study the bids. After discussion, Lutzi moved to accept the full bid for Cedar Crest Cemetery, using the budgeted \$6000 and \$6950 from ARPA funds. Erskine supported, all in favor. **MC**

NEW BUSINESS:

Bids for the bathrooms in the annex were distributed to the Board for review. Since so much information is in the bids, Erskine offered a motion to table the discussion to next month, supported by Conway; all in favor. **MC**

Document Shredding service was discussed. Some townships use Shred Experts to manage document disposal, at approximately \$60 per quarter. Lutzi made a motion to approve the expense, second by Conway; all in favor. **MC**

Erskine introduced a Spiller Pays Ordinance. The Ordinance was discussed at the recent MTA meeting by Jerry Becker of Emergency Management. The template came from that department. A rise in hazardous waste spills, some caused by EV fires, prompted the Ordinance. A Public Hearing was scheduled for Thursday, October 7 at 6:00 pm. Erskine will publish the Public Hearing in the Clare County Cleaver.

Reminder: Scrap Tire and Playground Assembly is Saturday, September 9, at 9 am.

We still have a few NOAA Weather Radios for residents. Pick one up at the office.

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**