

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625
Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valdine Erskine Guests: 1 Residents: 15 Staff: 3

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, supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Barbara Lambden** asked about creating a committee to clean/improve the appearance of Cedar Crest Cemetery. Iutzi will discuss with Lambden. **Marty Ruggirello** suggested moving spring yard waste dates to accommodate snow birds and take advantage of better weather. Wright will discuss with Republic Services. **Dennis O'Mell** asked when the playground work would resume. Wright explained a part for construction was on order. Also discussed was pending application for the DNR's Sparks Grant. **Brian Cummings** discussed trying to revitalize the Chain of Lakes Association, including some gravel improvements and signage for each park.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Duby reported the balance of Township accounts. Iutzi moved to approve with corrections, supported by Conway; all in favor **MC**

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

GUESTS: **County Commissioner, David Hoefling** reported the Child Advocacy Center had terminated their lease, a contract for special associate prosecuting attorney had been approved, the new fiscal year for the County started, with 20.6% of last year's budget still remaining, and lease opportunities for two properties to the Conservation District. Two candidates for the open Board of Canvassers position resulted in the appointment of Al Johns. Hoefling also attended the MERS and MAC Conferences. Erskine asked about the availability of Emergency Services as some residents have expressed concerns and an incident at a Harrison sporting event exemplified their poor response time. Hoefling explained MMR is the only ambulance service currently available. It's up to MMR to dispatch and they determine where the priority/money is. Residents and Board Members discussed an automated external defibrillator (AED) at the Townhall for emergency use. Brian Cummings suggested placing it outside the hall under camera. He volunteered to do the inspections.

Assessor, Tina Wright discussed the requirements of the 2026 Michigan Township audit, to make property information accessible outside of office hours and strongly suggested using a program through BS&A. The program is free to the Township. The tax payers can look up their own property to determine outstanding bills. The cost to the tax payer is \$6. Also discussed was the taxable value for 2023 at 5%. Due to inflation that will be the same in 2024. Assessed value (not taxable value) in 2024 is expected to increase 15%. Wright's laptop has experienced intermittent outages and needs to be replaced. After discussion, Conway moved to replace Assessor's laptop, not to exceed \$1500, Iutzi supported; all in favor. **MC**

Planning Commission meets on October 11 so nothing new to report.

Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend is absent but submitted a report.

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported 2 complaints in process; one on Cathey Street in court. Other complaints were not blight. A letter from an out-of-area realtor asked about the blight ordinance and Rolph suspects he is looking for land, to develop solar farms. The blight case on Cathey was discussed. Next court date is October 25th. The cost to the Township is mounting and is not budgeted for.

OLD BUSINESS: Bathroom bids for the annex - Bids that were opened last month were reviewed. Board members discussed the funding to make sure ARPA/Covid Grant funds were to be used. Conway made a motion to accept the bid from A Plus, supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC** Wright will also use Rid-X for the septic system when he replenishes the salt.

NEW BUSINESS: The outdoor ballot drop box has arrived and needs to be placed, with cameras for surveillance. Erskine asked the Board if other cameras should be added, for surveillance of the townhall. Options were discussed. Erskine will seek three bids to determine best placement of cameras. The State will reimburse for surveillance of the drop box.

Trunk or Treat in the Township Hall parking lot. Residents informed Board that Kern's Party Store hosts a Trunk or Treat already. Erskine will check with the store to offer the parking lot.

Reminder: Yard Waste dates are October 17th and 31st and November 7th and 21st.

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**