

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625

Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Valdine Erskine Guests: 1 Residents: 23 Staff: 4

CALLED TO ORDER: by Wright at 6:28 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: **Kathy Laubon, a Harrison resident representing a pickle ball club** asked about using the garage/annex. A discussion concerning the logistics determined a change to door locks would be necessary and will be investigated. **Brian Cummings, Chain of Lakes Association President** asked the Board to donate \$1000 to pay for a survey of a beach/park that is disputed, next door to him. Wright informed that the Township could not be a party to a private property dispute and could not lawfully donate funds. Cummings would need to raise the funds through the COL Association. **Joan Cooper asked when the cell tower would be complete** as phone service is challenging. Wright informed that permits have been approved. Construction could begin any time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: DUBY absent. Report read by Deputy Treasurer, Brianne Gruno. Iutzi moved to approve, support from Conway; all in favor. **MC**

CLERK'S REPORT: November meeting minutes submitted prior to the meeting. Iutzi moved to approve minutes, supported by Conway; all in favor. **MC** Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine. Iutzi moved to approve and pay bills including incoming bills, support by Conway; all in favor. **MC**

GUESTS: **County Commissioner, David Hoefling** reported approval of a 2018 GMC Terrain for the Animal Shelter, approval of 4 Dodge Durango leased vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, after waiting 3 years for Fords, with 4 more possible in the Spring, a USDOJ grant of \$300k to pay for help needed to clear the backlog in the Public Defender's office, a reappointment to MDHHS Board, and the Wind and Solar legislation passed, taking away local control.

Assessor, Tina Wright - absent

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett submitted the completed Fireworks Ordinance to the Board. Bennett requested an extension on the moratorium for Short Term Rental permits, for 6 months or until the ordinance is completed, whichever comes first. Conway made a motion to extend the moratorium for 6 months, supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC** The Cemetery Ordinance is still being worked on. Meeting dates for 2024 will be the first Wednesday each month, with the exception of the July 2024 meeting to be held July 10. Property owner, Larry Kilby asked why the STR permits could still not be obtained. He has been waiting and was upset. He was also angry with the way he was treated and a lack of communication from Assessor Wright, concerning another property matter.

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

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported no new blight complaints and the one on Cathey Street is almost cleaned up.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Contract for 2024 is due January 1. The millage rate stayed the same as last year, at 0.90 mills. Because of property valuations, the amount increased to \$71,565.61 and must be paid by April 1, 2024. Conway moved to approve signing of the contract, seconded by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**

2024 Meeting dates for the Board were discussed. Erskine offered Resolution 2023-8, to adopt meeting dates on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, with the exception of July 4, to be moved to Friday, July 5, supported by Conway. Upon random roll call vote, 4 yes, 1 absent. Resolution 2023-8 passed and was signed by Supervisor Wright.

Plowing for the flowing well, at Townline and Athey was discussed. If plowing becomes needed, it will be discussed again.

Vacancy on the Board of Review for 2024. Board Members interviewed applicant George Laura. Conway moved to appoint Laura to the BOR, second by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**

Security Cameras for ballot box and Township Hall- 4 bids for the required ballot box camera were review. Each bidder also submitted a bid for cameras for the Hall. The State of Michigan will reimburse for the ballot box. Funds for the remaining security would be paid by the Township, from ARPA funds. Conway made a motion to accept the bid from Starvision, for the ballot box security and table the bid for the remainder until other projects were completed. Erskine supported; all in favor. **MC**

Results from Trimedia/Cemetery GPR survey- Erskine received the invoice for the completed GPR and it was approximately \$4000 under budget. Erskine moved to use \$6000 budgeted funds and the remainder from ARPA funds, support from Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

Erskine shared information on the Sparks Grant-The Board chose Saturday, January 6, beginning at 11 AM for the Equity Based Community Engagement. Lunch, child care, and transportation will be available. A Survey will be published to get feedback from the community. Like and follow the new FaceBook page at [Hamilton Twp., Clare, Co](#) or the website www.hamiltontwp.us for updates and the survey.

Reminder:

BOR corrections December 14 @ 5:00 pm

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**