

# Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 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: 14 Staff: 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 to approve, supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Barbara Lambdin requested we invite a speaker to address fire safety. Wright will speak to Jerry Becker or the Fire Chief. Tom Vaughn stated he had a friend who cleans chimneys, to maintain and avoid a chimney fire.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Will resume at the next meeting

**CLERK'S REPORT:** December meeting minutes submitted prior to the meeting. Conway moved to approve minutes, supported by Iutzi; 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 the purchase of body cams for the sheriff's department, an appointment to the Substance Abuse Board, Lot 14 at the airport to be leased to Clare County Transit and the Commissioners are looking at a Land Bank grant, for future funding of blight remediation. Commissioners' meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, each month, at 9 a.m. Committee of the Whole meetings have been eliminated.

**Assessor, Tina Wright** - absent

**Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett** reported continuing work on ordinance updates, including the Cemetery Ordinance. The goal is to finish review in February.

**Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend** reported her busiest December. She shared comparison of 2021, 2022, and 2023 activity.

**Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph** reported 2 new blight complaints. An individual claiming to be from the Township is entering resident's property and shouting at them, concerning blight. This person is NOT from the Township. A resident spoke of a blight situation on Dodge Lake that involves animal carcasses, filth, old appliances, vehicles, a camper, chickens, ducks, animal feces, pigs, and concern for minor children in the home. Wright stated the Township is aware. Wright said they could call the Health Department but that would be a waste of time. He suggested the resident notify CPS and continue to contact them until they act on behalf of the children. The Township will be actively following the situation.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Garage door lock/pickle ball access.** Gilboe's Lock and Safe is coming Monday, January 8 to give an estimate on the door. Since nothing can be installed by Township employees because of the short setback on the door, two more bids will be sought.

**Cell phone tower-** no updates. All permits have been issued.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Audit Results-** The Township was audited December 1. The auditor found the Township in good condition but warned to watch for dips in State Revenue Sharing, as the Township depends on that income and, although it is constitutional, the amount can change.

**Review/rescind or amend 2015 Resolution to set wages-**The Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk offices will be vacated this election cycle; residents interested in running have asked the starting wage. A Resolution adopted in 2015 set starting wages very low, could result in qualified candidates choosing not to run for office. Erskine offered a motion to amend the 2015 Resolution, to set the starting salary of all offices to current pay rates and strike the salary of the Planning Commission Chair, to continue paying a per-meeting stipend. Second by Conway. A random roll call vote resulted in a unanimous decision to amend the 2015 resolution. Erskine will seek best practice from the MTA on correct language for changing a standing Resolution.

**Vote needed to remove rubbish assessment** – 3 properties are currently charged Rubbish and Recycling, in error. Conway offered a motion to remove the rubbish assessment from the 3 properties. Iutzi supported; all in favor. **MC**

**Resolution to apply for SPARK grant-**The formal application for the SPARK grant must be submitted by January 30. A Resolution to support the application is required by the DNR. Wright moved to offer Resolution 2024-1 in support of the application, to be between \$100,000 and 1,000,000. Duby supported. A roll call vote by random draw resulted in 5 'Yes', 0 'no'. Resolution adopted.

**Community Engagement-** Saturday, January 6, beginning at 11 AM is the Equity Based Community Engagement. Lunch, child care, and transportation will be available. A Survey is published to get feedback from the community. All are encouraged to attend and have their opinion heard, concerning amenities. Please complete a survey.

**ADJOURNED:** Conway made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**