

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625
Board Members Present: Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Mickie DUBY, Valdine Erskine Absent: Mike Conway Guests: 4 Residents: 4 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 Iutzi to approve, supported by DUBY; all in favor. **MC**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Linda Barkell asked if the township would be putting a fire protection millage proposal on the ballot. A discussion of millage vs special assessment followed. Bill Simpson said Franklin used a special assessment. An attorney opinion conflicts with MTA opinion. Discussion between township attorney and MTA is needed. Another asked about ambulance service.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report read by DUBY. Erskine moved to approve, support by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

CLERK'S REPORT: January meeting minutes submitted in advance. Iutzi moved to approve minutes, supported by DUBY; all in favor.

MC Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine. DUBY moved to approve and pay bills including incoming, support by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

GUESTS: Candidate for Drain Commissioner, Brian Coon gave an overview of his 31 years as support for the Road Commission and reviewed his background in county affairs. He will be on the August Primary ballot.

Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson reported weight restrictions for County roadway start 02/01/24. The Road Commission is searching for funding to replace the current CCRC building, as it is in bad condition and not large enough for today's equipment. He is watching legislation that could affect brining and legislation concerning user fees to replace the gas tax. The MTA meets 2/6.

Fire Chief, Chris Damvelt submitted a report of activity for 2023 and gave department updates. Contact the Fire Department for free fire detectors. The Fire Department must install them. Safety tip: sleep with bedroom doors closed, to slow smoke.

County Commissioner, David Hoefling reported the Committee of the Whole had been reinstated and meets the 1st Wednesday each month, at 9 a.m. The next meeting is February 7 and a Public Hearing concerning ambulance service will be part of the meeting. Early In-Person Voting at the County Building will be February 17-25, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Assessor Report – Tina Wright submitted a report stating a proposed change in the Headlee amendment could reduce taxes.

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett submitted copies to the Board of proposed changes for the ordinance updates. The Cemetery Ordinance is expected to be completed at the February meeting. A Public Hearing is scheduled for March 6, at 5 p.m.

Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend submitted a report ahead of the Board Meeting, showing 1 permit.

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported no new blight complaints; one in the pipeline from last month and one resolved. A better description of the person claiming to be from the Township and entering resident's property was discussed. ID badges for Township officials were suggested. Brian Coon suggested Jerry Becker be consulted, as he makes them in his office.

Introduction of new employees- Denise Goodenow has been appointed Deputy Treasurer. Andrea Wallace will be appointed Deputy Clerk, at the end of the month. Denise and Andrea will run for office in August, for the Treasurer and Clerk positions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Verizon Tower – Skyway Tower ran a notice in the Clare County Cleaver, last week. Construction could begin any time.

Garage door lock/pickle ball access. Two bids for door locks have been obtained. Erskine will unlock the doors on Tuesday and Thursday each week while a third bid is sought. Doors will remain unlocked 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday. Erskine submitted a liability waiver/rental agreement for review. Erskine made a motion to use the agreement for pickle ball use, charging \$10 per month per person, to increase to \$20 per month when restrooms are available. Supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions for pay of elected officials- In the January meeting, the Board voted to rescind a Resolution adopted in 2015, to set starting wages below current. The MTA recommends separate Resolutions for each ELECTED position. Starting salaries for hired and appointed positions can be set by motion. Erskine offered Resolution 2024-2 Supervisor Salary, 2024-3 Treasurer Salary, 2024-4 Clerk Salary and 2024-5 Trustee Salary to set starting salary of all elected to current rates; support by Iutzi. Roll call vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 1 absent. Resolutions adopted.

Motion to authorize/update signers, on bank accounts – Current authorized signers on accounts at Huntington Bank are incorrect. Finette LaBoda resigned and moved December 2021. Brianne Gruno resigned on January 31, 2024. Denise Goodenow was appointed to replace her, as Deputy Treasurer. Wright made a motion to update authorized signers to: Mickie DUBY, Treasurer (existing), Valdine Erskine, Clerk (existing), Denise Goodenow, Deputy Treasurer (new), Andrea Wallace, Deputy Clerk (new) and remove Finette LaBoda and Brianne Gruno. Motion supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

SPARK Grant- Community Engagement was held January 6. Results show resident's priorities to be playground equipment, walking paths, and amphitheater for music/movies in the park, along with the pavilion. Rowe Engineering submitted a park plan. The application was completed with help from grant writers, Little Berry Press and submitted, January 30. Results expected March 15.

Republic Contract date- Republic will move the current rubbish/recycling contract expiration from March 31 to June 30, to align with our fiscal year. The cost will be \$3,462.48. That covers 1603 households, at an increase of \$0.72 each, for 3 months. Erskine moved to accept the change, supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

REMINDERS

Election equipment Public Accuracy Test and Election Inspector appointment is Tuesday, February 6, at 10 a.m.

Presidential Primary voting at the County Building for early in-person voting, February 17-25; 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. and at the Township Hall February 27, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Last day to pay taxes before they are transferred to the County – Wednesday, February 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Board of Review-Organizational meeting - March 5, 5 p.m. Appeals dates; March 11, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and March 14, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

ADJOURNED: Iutzi made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**