

# Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N Rodgers, Harrison, MI 48625  
Board Members Present: Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valaine Erskine Absent: Mike Conway Guests: 2 Residents: 12 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 Erskine to approve, supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Linda Barkell asked if contact information for Republic Services was on the website. Joan Cooper asked for an update, concerning the cell tower construction.

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

**CLERK'S REPORT:** February meeting minutes submitted in advance. Iutzi moved to approve minutes, supported by Wright; all in favor. **MC** Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine. Duby moved to approve and pay, including incoming, support by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

## **GUESTS:**

**County Commissioner, David Hoefling** reported the first Board meeting of the new Ambulance Service is March 12, Clare County Community Foundation Talent Attraction Program will offer 'reverse scholarships' to attract and keep talent, and more strict security measures at the County Building to begin in April. Hoefling announced his run for reelection. The County Commissioner position has changed to a 4-year term.

**Candidate for Drain Commissioner, Bill Faber** gave an overview of his experience as a semi-retired small business owner who is a lifelong resident. He is currently serving as Drain Commissioner, having been appointed to complete the term of Carl Parks and will be on the August Primary ballot, running for a 4-year term.

**Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett** reported on the Public Hearing of March 6, concerning ordinance updates and new ordinances for Fire Works and Special Events/Wedding Venue. The changes and ordinances were submitted for Board adoption. Changes in the Cemetery Ordinance are pending. Resolutions for adoption of the Fire Works Ordinance, the Special Events/ Wedding Venue, Amendment of Animal Nuisance Ordinance, Master Plan Amendments and Zoning were all unanimously adopted.

**Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend** submitted a report showing the 1<sup>st</sup> STR inspection this year and 3 approved permits.

**Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph** reported 1 new complaint concerning a year-round garage sale in Springwood. The Township has no authority in that area. With the snow cover gone, blight complaints are expected to pick up. Because of an imposter acting as a blight officer, Erskine is arranging ID badges for Township employees.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Garage door lock/pickle ball access.** Erskine distributed 4 bids for the door lock. Key pads would allow 100 different codes. After review Wright made a motion to accept the bid of Frank Bongard, spending ARPA funds; support from Erskine; all in favor. **MC**

**Spark Grant** – Erskine received notice from the Council of Michigan Foundations, announcing a delay in Grant awards, until April 15.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Budget Amendments** – Erskine distributed the latest budget numbers. Some items need amending to account for higher office supply costs and higher electric bills, due to the furnace repair. Funds from Unearned Income also needed to be moved to Other Federal Grants, to pay out ARPA funds of \$2770.72 for the completed bathrooms, and \$962.50 for work on Cedar Crest Cemetery mapping. Wright moved to amend the budget, support from Duby; all in favor. **MC**

**Annual Resolution to adopt BOR poverty exemption** – Erskine offered the Resolution to adopt the Federal poverty guidelines with support from Iutzi. The resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**2024 Elm Creek Mowing Proposal** is a \$5 increase over last year. Duby moved to accept proposal, support by Wright; all in favor. **MC**

**Candidate Filing Deadline is April 23, at the County.** Erskine needs petitions by April 18 to allow for signature verification.

**Filing Deadline for Proposals is April 30** Erskine distributed a memo from Township Attorney, Heather Nevill, questioning the Township's ability to use a Public Hearing for a special assessment to pay the Fire Contract. She cited Michigan Compiled Law and stated fire assessments were not clearly written, and should be passed by a vote. The need for a Fire Board with Township representation was discussed at length. Wright will talk with MTA for clarification concerning a vote vs a special assessment.

**Adoption of Authorization Form for Equalization** – The County Equalization Department sent an example of a form they request the Treasurer use, when adding or removing the rubbish/recycling assessment. Iutzi moved to adopt the form, supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**

## **REMINDERS:**

\*Board of Review Appeals dates; March 11, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and March 14, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\*2 Scrap Tire collection dates – June 1 and September 14 **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

\*First Brine date is May 9

**ADJOURNED:** Iutzi made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**