

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N. Rodgers, Harrison, MI
Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Valdine Erskine Guests: 3 Residents: 8 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, seconded by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Question concerning dumpsters. Question concerning an individual's absentee ballot address.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Duby absent

CLERK'S REPORT: April 4 meeting minutes submitted in advance. Conway moved to approve, Iutzi supported; all in favor. **MC**

Invoices over \$100 read by Erskine. Wright moved to approve and pay bills including incoming bills, 2nd by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

GUESTS:

County Commissioner, David Hoefling reported the retirement of Ruby Hicks from animal control, approval of new election software for County Clerk's office, sale of the Clare Senior Services building, a couple of millage renewal will be on the November ballot, and continued work concerning ambulance services.

County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson discussed projects underway at the Road Commission. For the legislative update he had little to report due to shifting members of the legislature. Bills still out are the gravel pit bill and the brining issue. CCRC is still searching for funds for a new building and several staff members are retiring this year. Bill also announced his candidacy for another term.

Library Board of Trustees Member, Nancy House gave a report of library services available to Hamilton Township residents.

Residents can use the Harrison District Library and check out books as well as participate in youth clubs, events and programs. Some activities are free; others have a minimal cost or membership. To order in books from the district library system, residents can become a member of the library for \$100 per year, per family. Wi fi is also available. Check out their calendar of events at

www.hdl.org

Candidate for Hamilton Township Supervisor, Tom Vaughn introduced himself and spoke about his life experience as well as his time as ZBA Chair at Hamilton Township and Hayes Township. He also discussed his outlook concerning property rights and ways to work with residents.

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett announced the Ordinance and Master Plan updates were finally complete and presented the Cemetery Ordinance to the Board. Iutzi moved to approve the changes to the cemetery ordinance, supported by Wright; all in favor. **MC** Bennett also reported pending legislation to require Short Term Rentals register with the state and pay an excise tax. She will monitor this legislation.

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

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported 68 blight calls, 5 citations to be served, 6 letters sent, and 7 properties to visit.

OLD BUSINESS:

ID Badges- Erskine will contact staff members when ID badges are in.

Cell Tower - No update is available for the cell tower.

Spark Grant - The results of the DNR Spark grant have been delayed. Erskine has a Zoom meeting with a DRN rep on Friday, May 10.

Pickle ball rentals are going well. Over \$400 in fees has been collected so far. The back door of the gym needs a panic door exit.

The current door opens in so a panic bar can't be added to the existing door. ARPA funds could be used to replace the door. After discussion, Conway moved to spend up to \$1200 to replace the door, support from Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

Update on Cedar Crest Cemetery mapping – Erskine will give a demo to those who want to view the website after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Price increase for cemetery services – The Township Sexton has raised his price to dig a traditional grave site and concrete costs have increased. Erskine offered Resolution 2024-12 to increase a traditional grave opening to \$600; \$500 to the sexton and \$100 to the township. An inurnment to increase to \$250; \$150 to the sexton and \$100 to the township. Footings must be prepared by the township and will increase to \$150 for a single and \$200 for a double. Fees for footing must be paid to the township and passed to sexton per MTA. Resolution supported by Iutzi; rollcall vote passed unanimously.

Budget Amendments – with the cost of the geothermal repair and funds paid out for security cameras and gym lock, the budget was reviewed. Conway moved to approve amendments presented; support from Iutzi; all in favor **MC**

Annual SLFRF/ARPA funds report was due April 30. Erskine reported on the status of funds and how the report was completed. Funds must be committed by year end and spent by October 2026.

Reminder: Scrap Tire collection is June 1

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m., supported by Erskine; all in favor. **MC**