

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 1, 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 Absent: Mickie Duby Guests: 6 Residents: 13 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 Conway to approve, seconded by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Candidate for District 6 Commissioner, Mick Haley** reviewed his experience and desire to serve the community. **Barb Lambdin** asked about the law concerning ATVs. **Candidate for Prosecutor, Tom Evans** reviewed his qualifications and vision for the prosecutor's office. **Candidate for 55th Circuit Court Judge, Karen Tomczyk** will be on the November ballot. She also reviewed her qualifications and vision. **Stephanie Conroy for Mid-Michigan Community Action** spoke at length about available services for residents. **Bill Faber** is running for reelection as Drain Commissioner. He also gave an overview of what he will do as Commissioner.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Read by Deputy Goodenow. Iutzi moved to approve, support from Conway; all in favor. **MC**

CLERK'S REPORT: July 5th minutes were submitted in advance. Conway moved to approve, Iutzi supported; all in favor. **MC**

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

GUESTS:

Commissioner, David Hoefling reported continued work on improvements for the airport, a 1-year contract for election software that will give live results as they come in, an additional insurance offering via an HSA, for county employees, and a county budget surplus.

Nicole Iutzi-Kubista spoke about starting a farmer's market at the township next year. She presented the idea of a one-day farmer's market/fall fest, in late September or early October. Vendors could be artisans and crafters, as well as those selling produce. Nicole investigated other farmer's markets, for best practices. She will bring a detailed plan to the next meeting.

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett stated the Ordinance and Master Plan work was finally complete. Regular PC meetings for August and September have been canceled, in favor of a Variance Meeting and PC meeting on August 29 for a variance concerning a Special Event Venue, for Mafia Haunted Trail.

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported 42 new blight complaints with only 1 form completed, 15 brought into compliance, and 6 citations. He is working to resolve a property that was destroyed by fire and needs to be cleaned up. Rolph also announced his candidacy for Township Supervisor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Early voting continues at the Clare County Building, thru Sunday, August 4, at 4 pm. **The Traditional voting** day of Tuesday, August 6 will still be conducted at Hamilton Township Hall, 7 am to 8 pm.

Public Hearing for the Fire Contract was Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30 pm. Fire Contract costs, showing the increases over ten years and hearing comment from David Wright Jr. helped residents understand. All in attendance were in favor of the Special Assessment. The Board voted 4 yes and 1 absent to adopt Resolution 2, to move forward with the Fire Contract Special Assessment. Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30 pm was set for the second Public Hearing. Goodenow and Erskine will prepare the mandatory Township wide mailing and publish the announcement in the Clare County Cleaver for 2 weeks.

Spark Grant – CMF/DNR finally announced Hamilton Township as a Grant winners, awarding the Township \$906,200 to build Hamilton Township Park. The next step is the bidding process for the Prime Professional. All contracts must be awarded by December 31, 2025 and the funds must be spent/project completed by September 30, 2026. The Hamilton Township Board appointed Amy Erskine-Wright to an unpaid position of Park Director, to bring the project to completion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Interest in purchasing glassware and old playground equipment- Hamilton Township owns 19 Fire King Jadeite coffee mugs. Hall renters have expressed interest in purchasing them. The handle shape makes them a rare/in demand item. Others are interested in playground equipment. The Board directed Erskine to obtain bids from those interested and bring back to the Board.

Flowing well testing – District Health Department officials inspected the flowing well at the old Township Hall. They are requiring a licensed well driller inspect and possibly make changes to the well. Wright has contacted well drillers in the area to inspect the well and determine what the Health Department is requiring.

Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend received an inquiry dealing with rezoning for multifamily units or a trailer park along Arnold Lake Road. Wright believed the development would be a PUD and rezoning fees had been settled when the original zoning was done. Neither Townsend or Erskine were able to find evidence of a fee schedule. Conway has a copy of the original zoning documents and will review them, to determine if this issue was settled in the past.

Siren update – With the recent tornado, Wright contacted Clare County Emergency Manager, Jerry Becker to inquire about grants for sirens or siren repair. No grants are available as this technology is considered obsolete. Wright was referred to Pro Comm Inc. They have access to replacement parts via salvaged sirens and may be able to help. More to come....

Reminders:

The Assessor's office is closed until August 16

The Clerk's office is open Saturday, August 3, 9 am – 5 pm for voter registration

Variance and Planning commission hearing for Special Event Venue is August 29 at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m., supported by lutz; all in favor. **MC**