

Hamilton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 5, 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: 3 Residents: 10 Staff: 6
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: A resident, Dennis, asked about receiving a smaller rubbish can from Republic. He believes the current collection cart is too large. Wright will contact Republic to see if that can be done.

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

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

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

GUESTS:

County Prosecutor, Michelle Ambrozaitis reviewed activity in her office, as she prepares to depart. She discussed positions in the office, case load, grant funds successfully raised in the past, the current lawsuit with the County, and her qualifications for the office she seeks in November, as 55th Circuit Court Judge.

Commissioner, David Hoefling reported a second vote on PA152 that successfully opted-out, so County employees will pay a lower medical insurance premium. The County will use Priority Health. Hoefling also reported board appointments and the County will end the fiscal year with a budget surplus of about \$200,000.

Nicole Iutzi-Kubista gave an update on the farmer's market/fall fest, slated for late September or early October. Since the Township's liability insurance would not allow the township to host or be a party in the vendor agreement, Iutzi-Kubista sought solutions. She felt a committee was needed and possibly non-profit status. The farmer's market may be revisited in the spring.

Clare County Clerk, Lori Mott gave an update on election planning. She encouraged residents to attend the Public Accuracy Test and the Board of Canvasser's meetings. Two recounts for the August election are scheduled for Monday, September 9. She also reported the new, free tabulators for the county will be delivered after the election. Early voting starts Saturday, October 26, 8 am – 4:30 pm, for 9 days and the Clerk's office is hiring.

Assessor, Tina Wright – reported that field work is about 75% complete. Overall, the people have been great. Hamilton Township has nothing going to Tax Tribunal. She expects to see SEV (market) values increase in 2025 by 8-10%. Good news, she expects the taxable value to increase less than the 5% increase of the previous 2 years. Her office is producing a tri-fold brochure to help residents understand valuation and Facebook info is coming, aimed at education to combat misinformation. Wright also requested the Board approve an upgrade to the Apex software. The discussion was tabled at a previous meeting.

Planning Commission Chair, Kelly Bennett reported the ZBA approved the variance August 29 concerning a Special Event Venue, for Mafia Haunted Trail. The next PC meeting is October 2, at 6:30 pm. Bennett also requested the township issue a disclaimer in support of employees, condemning abusive behavior and foul language, as some residents have become abusive.

Zoning Administrator, Melissa Townsend asked that money dropped in the drop box be attached to a permit or note to identify.

Blight Enforcement Officer, Keith Rolph reported 2 new pending blight complaints. He also has a meeting scheduled with the Building Inspector, to resolve a property that was destroyed by fire, on Swallow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Flowing Well- Wright has a meeting on Friday, September 6, at 8:30 am, with a well man and the District Health inspector, to try and resolve the issue of safety and continued operation of the flowing well.

Siren Update – ProComm Inc began working to bring the siren back up. As new parts are not available, he is searching for a booster in the salvaged sirens in his possession.

Vandalism at the Township park/beach – marking posts were removed. The vandalism was reported to authorities

Public Hearing #2 for the Fire Contract was Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm. At the meeting only 1 resident opposed the Fire Assessment tax roll. Because there was not 10% opposed, Erskine read Resolution 3, to finalize the Special Assessment District. The Resolution was offered by Erskine and supported by Wright. The vote to adopt was 4 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Rezoning fee – When an inquiry concerning establishing multifamily units was received, it was discovered a fee had not been established for rezoning. After discussion, the Board asked the Planning Commission to research appropriate costs and report.

NEW BUSINESS:

ZBA vacancies – One person on the ZBA is military and attends by phone. Another person has not attended in a year. The ZBA Chair expressed concern about staffing the ZBA. Since several appointments expire in December, it was decided to leave the decision of new appointments to the new board.

MTA Fall Regional – The fall meeting focuses on making smooth transition for the newly elected. Since the clerk and treasurer have already been working with their replacements, the board decided not to send anyone to the fall MTA meeting.

Township Attorney, Jaynie Hoerauf is retiring. Her celebration is September 12.

Paving of Dodge Lake Road is expected by the end of September.

Scrap Tire collection is Saturday, September 14.

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., supported by lutzi; all in favor. **MC**