

**Essex Township - Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
October 21, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee James Gavenda, Trustee Mark Winsor, Treasurer Kathy George, Clerk Lori Conner

Visitors: Assessor Beth Botke, Bonnie Hale, Scott Mertes, Commissioner Kam Washburn

Call to Order: Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Lowe United Methodist Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Bonnie Hale, Cemetery Manager

- Introductions made.

Scott Mertes, VP Mid Michigan College

- Discussed Proposal I: "College Annexation Proposition" and Proposal II: "Adoption of Mid Michigan College Maximum Tax Rate in Annexed Territory" which are on the November 3rd ballot for residents of the Gratiot / Isabella RESD.

Township Assessor Beth Botke

- Completed visits to all construction sites.

Commissioner Kam Washburn

- Update on Covid-19 was given. To date: 808 confirmed cases and 14 deaths in Clinton County. The Chief Judge has suspended all jury trials.
- County budget is complete.
- Washburn is up for re-election on November 3rd.

Minutes of August 26, 2020 Regular Meeting: Gavenda moved to approve the meeting minutes; supported by Winsor. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Gavenda:

- Clinton Area Ambulance report was given.

Treasurer's Report:

- The general ledger for the period 07/31/20 – 10/10/20 was reviewed including checks #6434 - 7020.
- Checking balance is \$101,253.91.
- Tax checking balance is \$30,733.35.
- CD Balance is \$8438.91

- George moved to transfer \$7500 from the general account to the tax account to avoid service charges, supported by Gavenda. MPC.
- December newsletter discussed. Ideas include Clinton Area Transit millage, cemetery clean up, cemetery manager, and new firefighter hire.
- Gavenda moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Winsor. MPC.

Clerk's Report:

- Year to date budget was reviewed.
- Conner moved to reallocate \$800 from account 941: Contingency to account 215-970: Clerk Capital Outlay, supported Winsor. MPC.
- Conner moved to reallocate \$1000 from account 671: Other Revenue to account 262-752: Election Supplies and \$1000 from account 671: Other Revenue to account 262-971: Elections Capital Outlay, supported by George. MPC.
- Conner moved to reallocate \$1100 from account 941: Contingency to account 449-959: Public Works Brine, supported by George. MPC.
- Election update was given. 430 absentee ballots have been sent and approximately 300 returned. A \$5000 grant was received to cover election expenses related to Covid-19 and absentee voting.
- Damaged trees were cut and removed from cemeteries due to storm damage. Insurance reimbursed township \$700 from the June 3rd storm and \$2762.50 from the June 10th storm.
- Gavenda moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by George. MPC.

Supervisor's Report

- Bonnie Hale has been hired as the new cemetery manager.
- Community news:
 - o Glambia Cheese Factory began operations.
 - o Bingham Township solar farm is almost complete.
 - o Tree damaged during the June 10th storm was cut down by Jameson's Tree Service.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Gavenda moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m., supported by Winsor. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held December 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Conner, Essex Township Clerk