

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

Carla Wardin, Supervisor
Angela Bunn, Clerk
Kathy George, Treasurer
Rex Ferguson, Trustee
Aurelio (Hank) Zamarron, Trustee

12/17/2014 REGULAR MEETING

Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center. She began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George and Clerk Angi Bunn
Absent: Trustee Hank Zamarron

VISITORS

County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Essex Township Assessor Beth Boetke, Ken Grubaugh, Greg Armbrustmacher, Jim Miller, Jim Gavenda

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS County Commissioner Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activities and actions taken by the County Commissioners. Washburn clarified for Bunn that Speedway gas station located at the corner of Scott Road and M-21 in St. Johns requested there be a rezoning at that location, with the intent to expand. There has been no additional activity since the County Commissioners granted that rezoning.

Jim Graham from Greenbush Township has been appointed to the County's Parks and Greenspace Commission.

The Commissioners have approved a final plan submitted by Nathan Beck for his trailer building business, located on the corner of Hyde Road and US-27. The proposed plan will bring Beck's buildings into compliance with state and county zoning.

Washburn reported the Commissioners have approved apportionments for the County. The county's taxable value is \$2,470,000,000, which is about a 1% increase from last year.

Two new Commissioners will take office January 1, 2015; Ann Hill and Ken Mitchell.

The field in Motz Park (located south of the water on the west side of DeWitt Road) has been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 15 years. There will be a walking trail around the perimeter of the field.

Jim Miller, Les Miller & Sons Aggregates

Jim Miller of Les Miller and Sons Aggregates presented a site plan for a proposed 20 acre expansion to their operation located at 7250 North Forest Hill Road. Miller asked that the Board recommend approval of the expansion.

Greg Armbrustmacher, Maple Rapids Lumber Mill

Greg Armbrustmacher presented a plan to advertise to amend the original 1973 Special Use Permit for the Maple Rapids Lumber Mill. The Mill would like to expand 120', to build an office building. Armbrustmacher and Mill owner Ken Grubaugh asked the Board recommend the approval of the amendment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
10/15/2014, 10/21/2014
12/11/2014

The reading of the 10/15/2014 regular meeting, 10/21/2014 special meeting and 12/11/2014 special meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS
Les Miller & Sons expansion

Bunn moved to recommend approval for Les Miller and Sons Aggregates proposed expansion. Supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Maple Rapids Lumber Mill expansion

George moved to recommend approval for the Maple Rapids Lumber Mill's request for amendment of their original Special Use Permit. Supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Warnke Site Plan approval

An Administrative Site Plan for the Warnke property located at 4633 Essex Center Road (Parcel ID#080-028-100-020-50), Section 28, Essex Township was reviewed. Bunn motioned to recommend approval of the Site Plan. Supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Assessor paperless records management

Boetke proposed a paperless record management system for the assessing. She will keep the system current, and abide by the State mandated retention schedule for all paper records. Boetke said the paperless system works well with the BS7A software the Township uses for assessing, as well. She estimates it will take four months to complete the project. Bunn motioned to forward Boetke \$500 to purchase two external hard drives to begin the transition to a

paperless record management system. The Township will pay an additional \$1,000 when the project is completed. Motion supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Federal Poverty Guidelines

Wardin motioned to approve the Federal Poverty Guidelines for determination of poverty exemptions for 2015 as follows:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$11,670
2	\$15,730
3	\$19,790
4	\$23,850
5	\$27,910
6	\$31,970
7	\$36,030
8	\$40,090
For each additional person	\$4,060

Motion supported by George. MPC.

2015-2017 Board of Review appointment

Wardin motioned to approve the following members for the 2015-2017 Board of Review: Dan Findley, Lawrence Pierce, Mike Townsend and Rich Hollis. Ferguson supported. MPC.

Resignation of Trustee Hank Zamarron

Trustee Hank Zamarron submitted a letter of resignation effective December 1, 2014. George moved to accept the resignation, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Appointment of Trustee Jim Gavenda

George motioned to appoint Jim Gavenda as Essex Township Trustee. Motion supported by Ferguson. MPC.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT
CCRC

Ferguson and Bunn met with Brian Betz of the Clinton County Road Commission to discuss the condition of the Township roads. Ferguson also reported the Findlay Road Bridge will likely be a summer 2015 project for the Road Commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$66,589.27. The treasurer reported

income and expenses since the last meeting. George will be in office 12/26/2014 and 03/02/2015 to collect taxes. Otherwise she is available by appointment or there is a drop box available in front of her house.

Ferguson moved to approve the Treasurer's report, supported by Wardin. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on expenditures 5384-5409 and reviewed the general ledger, as well as the profit and loss budget vs. actual report. Upon review, Bunn moved to transfer \$200 from unallocated funds to Treasurer – reimburse taxes category. Motion seconded by Ferguson. MPC.

Bunn reported there have been no new fire runs since the October meeting.

Election and election audit

Bunn said the November General Election ran smoothly. The Township was audited for the November election, and the audit went well, with no significant findings. Bunn reported there were two issues found during the audit, but both were minor and will be corrected in future elections.

George motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT Planning and Zoning

The Board discussed developing a local Planning and Zoning Commission. There was question as to whether the County would continue to provide inspection services, etc. Kam Washburn would like to discuss with the County Commissioners the role of the County if Townships choose to implement local zoning ordinances. The Board tabled the issue pending further investigation.

Proposed WECS regulatory ordinances

The Board reviewed proposed ordinances for regulating the operation of wind energy conversion systems. Board discussion centered on wanting more definitive terms in the ordinance. George is concerned about the time frame, and does not want to table the issue until the Board's February meeting. Wardin tabled the issue with the intent to clarify within the next few weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Ferguson motioned to adjourn the meeting, supported by George. Wardin adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be February 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk