

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

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

10/15/2014 REGULAR MEETING

Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Ronald and Kathleen Grubaugh

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Ronald Grubaugh

Ronald Grubaugh reviewed for the Board his application for a variance request for the property located at 8501 W. Mead Road within Essex Township (Parcel ID #080-020-100-010-00). The request would divide from the 68-acre parent parcel the portion of property previously containing a historically associated single-family dwelling.

County Commissioner Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activities and actions taken by the County Commissioners. Washburn said the County Commissioners have voted to approve a flyover mapping of Clinton County. The maps will be used primarily for taxation and drain commission purposes. Townships, villages, cities, other municipalities and road commissions are being asked to contribute \$1,000 for this endeavor. If municipalities do not choose to participate, they will be required to purchase the maps for their assessors use. Washburn pointed out that satellite generated maps are not scalable, and therefore cannot be used by assessors, drain commissioners, etc. The flyover will be done in early 2015 – before trees begin to leaf.

Washburn said Clinton County 911 has been approved to get bids for Next Generation GIS Mapping. The mapping will vastly improve emergency services' ability to locate addresses within the County.

Washburn said the Clinton County Road Commission anticipated the cost of road salt will increase at least \$100,000 this winter.

Washburn reported that a man from Bath Township has left half of his estate to the Clinton County. It is to be used toward youth services, and Washburn anticipates the bulk of the money (approximately \$30,000) will be used for Green Haven, a juvenile home in St. Johns.

A goose hunting season has been approved for Motz Park. The park will be closed to general use during the hunt. The dates of the hunt November 4, 6, 11 and 13. Details on permits, etc. are available on the County's website.

**APPROVAL OF 8/20/2014
MEETING MINUTES**

The reading of the 8/20/2014 meeting minutes was waived. There being no changes or corrections noted, Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC)

**ADDITIONS/ APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

Bunn asked to add under Clerk D. elections, and under Old Business A. Treasurers phone and internet reimbursement.

**OLD BUSINESS
Treasurer's phone and
internet**

The Township has paid for the Treasurer's phone for the past several years, at a cost of approximately \$50 per month. When George too the position, she established a new phone line, and also had to upgrade her internet connection, due to her geographic location. Bunn motioned the Township reimburse George for her phone and internet connections, to the cost of \$600 annually. Ferguson supported; MPC.

George motioned to donate the full \$4000 library donation to the Maple Rapids Library. Ferguson supported. MPC.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT
Website outage**

Ferguson reported that on September 29, 2014, he realized the Township website was not working properly. Ferguson worked with the website server Bluehost and their service, Site Doctor, to reestablish the Township website. Bluehost recommended the Township purchase a site malware scanning service to alleviate future problems. The Board decided to wait and watch for further problems. Bunn motioned to reimburse Ferguson for the \$49.99 service charge for the Site Doctor. Motion supported by Warnke. MPC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$67,910.74.

George reported on the Clinton Area Ambulance Authority meeting.

Tax collection deadline George intends to make tax collection deadline dates firmly due at the close of business on the due date. The Township will no longer accept post marked payments. She will implement the change next year, after informing property owners of the change in the newsletter and on the website, as well as on their tax bills.

Newsletter articles George needs articles for the winter newsletter by November 1.

Bunn motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported on expenditures 5352-5379 and reviewed the general ledger. She reported there have been no new fire runs since the August meeting. Warnke motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Cemetery Bunn reported she has been in contact with Honey Blemaster regarding her request to have her son pour a footing in the Beech Cemetery. Blemaster's attorney pointed out the Township's cemetery ordinance does not specify that footings must be completed by the Township's contractor, and that the Township's contract with James Bancroft does not specify he is the sole contractor. Bunn received assurance from the Michigan Townships Association that the Township has the right to maintain the Cemetery to its specifications. However, Bunn recommended that because of how the ordinance reads, the Township allow Blemaster to complete this footing, with a Township representative on-hand. Ferguson added that Blemaster must accept responsibility if the footing cracks, heaves, or otherwise incurs problems. Wardin spoke with Blemaster, and the family is happy with this plan. The Township will later review the Cemetery Ordinance. Bunn will ask James Bancroft if he would be willing to amend his contract with the Township to reflect being the sole contractor for pouring headstone footings.

Election Bunn motioned to approve the following Election Inspectors for the November 4, 2014 general election: Florence Benson (R), Chair; Jack Anderson (R); Mary Ellen Pung (D); Mary Jo Straub (R) Sharon Pung (D); and Tammy Wainright (D). Supported by Ferguson. MPC.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT Assessor's resignation The Township Assessor, Greg Armbrustmacher, has resigned his position, effective November 1, 2014. Armbrustmacher has

accepted a new job. Wardin has begun requesting bids from other assessors. She will need to call a special meeting of the Board to review those bids, as the Township will need a new assessor in place as soon as possible for the upcoming tax season.

Flyover mapping

Wardin discussed the County's flyover mapping request for \$1,000. Bunn motioned to agree to the County's request for \$1,000 to complete the ariel mapping. Motion supported by George. MPC.

Anderson Road Bridge

Wardin provided the Board with pictures of the Anderson Road Bridge, after the Road Commission completed painting over graffiti on the bridge. The graffiti is gone, and the bridge looks very good.

NEW BUSINESS
Grubaugh variance request

Warnke moved to send a letter recommending approval of the Grubaugh's variance request. Motion supported by George. MPC.

Jandernoa gravel
application

The Clinton County Road Commission has spread the six loads of gravel for Tony Jandernoa in front of his farm. Jandernoa has paid the Township \$1,515 for the work. CCRC has not yet billed the Township.

There being no further business before the Board, Warnke adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be December 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk