

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

October 16, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Members Present: Supervisor Eric Verlinde, Clerk Tim Karasek, Treasurer Kathy George, Trustee Mark Winsor, Trustee Jim Gavenda

Visitors: Beth Botke- Assessor, Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager, Dave Pohl-County, Jodi Smith- Clinton Transit, Chad Gamble- City Manager, St. Johns, Tom Torok- Fulton Schools Superintendent.

Call to Order: Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:34pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Bonne Hale- Cemetery Manager

- Mr. Lynn was asked to submit a summary for maintenance and work proposed in Beach Cemetery.
- Discussion on Civil War headstones replacement and cost. No cost for headstones but a \$125 cost for installation.

Beth Botke- Assessor

- Currently visiting new construction sites.
- Discussion on merging B.O.R. with Lebanon Township to reduce costs.

Jodi Smith- Clinton Transit

- Clinton Transit will be providing free "Rides to Polls" this election. Please call ahead.
- New program: Microtransit- One bus and one driver dedicated the entire day to one zone. Doing DeWitt and St. Johns now.

David Pohl- County Commissioner

- County budget moving forward: \$29,000,000.
- Sheriff asking for additional staff for road patrol. Looking for a stronger connection with the schools.
- New generator at the courthouse being installed: \$1,000,000 plus in cost.
- Extension agreement approved, 3% increase.
- Discussion on renovating the Farmland Preservation Committee.
- Zoning:
 - o Medical hardship definitions revised. Discussion.
 - o Amend regulations for mineral extractions.

Chad Gamble- City Manager, St. Johns

- Fantasy Forest 2.0 renovation project presentation.
- Asking for \$15,000 from 9 outlying townships for partnering.

- Looking to receive funding prior to June 30th 2025.

Tom Torok- Fulton Schools Superintendent

- Discussion on proposed ballot initiative for a Sinking Fund.
- Extend existing sinking fund for 2 years and approve a broader definition of sinking funds to be able to include bus purchases.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of the August 21, 2024 Board Minutes.

M. Kathy George, S. Jim Gavenda: MCU

Additions to the Agenda

Investments

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Jim Gavenda: MCU

Trustee Report: Jim Gavenda

- Discussion on CAASA, board meeting and funding options.

Treasurers Report: Kathy George,

- Review of Transaction Detail Report.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Mark Winsor: Accept the Treasurers Report as presented. MCU

- Call for suggestions on December Township Newsletter.
- Discussion on potential township investment opportunities.

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek,

- Discussions on financials.

MOTION: Move \$100 from Contingencies to Assessors Supplies.

M. Kathy George, S. Jim Gavenda MCU

MOTION: Move \$150 from Contingencies to Cemetery Office Supplies.

M. Kathy George, S. Jim Gavenda MCU

M. Jim Gavenda, S. Mark Winsor: Accept the clerks report as presented. MCU

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- Road Commission Projects: Anderson Road under way and to be completed by Friday. Hyde Road culvert project will start Monday and will be completed within 1.5 to 2 weeks.
- Drains and Maintenance: Biddinger and Hayworth Drain maintenance underway.
- A BIG thank you to retiring trustees Jim Gavenda and Mark Winsor for their dedicated years of service to the Essex Township Board as Trustees.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Jim Gavenda: Accept the Supervisors Report as presented. **MCU**

Old Business: NONE

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 9:15pm.

M. Mark Winsor, **S.** Jim Gavenda. **MCU**

Next Meeting December 18, 2024 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk