

## Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

February 21, 2024 @ 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Supervisor Carla Wardin, Deputy Supervisor Eric Verlinde, Clerk Tim Karasek, Treasurer Kathy George, Trustee Jim Gavenda, Trustee Mark Winsor (absent)

**Visitors:** Dave Pohl- County Commissioner, Beth Botke-Assessor, Sara Morrison- Briggs Library, Theresa Owen- Citizens for Local Choice, Rex Ferguson, Kelby Leiby- MRFD, David Smith, Jodi Smith, Maya Baker-McKenna Associates.

**Call to Order:** Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:57pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

### Visitor Statements:

#### Beth Botke- Assessor

- Assessment notices going out this week
- Board of Review: 3-13-24, 3-14-24.
- Property Values increasing
  - o Agriculture 6% UP
  - o Residential 9.721% UP
  - o Industrial 4.4% UP
  - o Commercial 6.951% UP
- As a result of the Hedlee Amendment, Taxable Values capped at 5%.

#### Dave Pohl- County Commissioner

- Discussion on fairgrounds, waste management collection and courthouse updates and upgrades.
- Continues discussions on updates and renovations to the jail and locations of juvenile facilities.
- County is engaged in assistance to the Treasury Department.
- Wind and Solar Ordinances likely to be coming up in the March County Commission meeting 9:00am 2/27/24.
- Mr. Pohl adjourned himself from the meeting 7:18pm

#### Sara Morrison- Briggs Public Library

- Discussion on library issues. RFP are going out for new renovations to the library. The library currently has enough grant money to begin construction in the Spring.

**Theresa Owen- Citizens for Local Choice**

- Discussion on the removal of local control on wind and solar issues. CLC has sent our 27000 petitions to overturn legislation by placing a recall initiative on the Fall 2024 ballot.

**Rex Ferguson**

- Discussion on Sowl Cemetery Soldiers Monument. Ask the VFW or American Legion to furnish a flag and to put a post in the ground with a plaque.

**Kelby Leiby- MRFD**

- Review of the MRFD Report provided.
- EMS coverage from Carson City to St. Johns and Fire Department coverage of 54 square miles.

**David Smith**

- Review and discussion on wind and solar farm issues with a reminder of the county ordinance meeting on 2/27/24.

**Jodi Smith**

- Information on Clinton Transit bus schedules and issues.

**Miranda and Jeffry Burg, Chris George, John Roberts, Linda and Marvin Lovegrove, Brett Feldpausch, Lynn Dersham, Armond Smith-**

- Unanimously voiced their concern and opposition to commercial wind and solar farms.

**Maya Baker- McKenna and Associates**

- Consultant of planning and zoning services.
- Discussion on land use issues and the potential of cooperating with Bengal Township on joint planning of township ordinances.

**Approval of Board Minutes:**

Approval of the December 6, 2023 Board Minutes.

**M. Kathy George, S. Carla Wardin: MCU**

**Additions to the Agenda**

C. HR 15 Resolution for local control.

**Trustee Report: None**

**Treasurers Report: Kathy George,**

- Review Transaction Detail by Account
- Accounts balance. Discussion of tax dollars collected but not yet disbursed.

**M.** Tim Karasek, **S.** Jim Gavenda: Accept the Treasurers Report as presented. **MCU**

**Clerks Report: Tim Karasek,**

- Review of Budget and Financial Reports. No anomalies.
- Discussion on proposed 2024-2025 Budget with its corresponding adjustments.

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

**Supervisors Report: Carla Wardin,**

- Resolution to Authorize Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority to Purchase and Finance an Ambulance.
- Discussion of the resolution to have township contribute \$15 per capita for a total of \$18,195 for the purchase of a new ambulance.

**Roll Call Vote: Yay-** Carla Wardin, Tim Karasek, Kathy George, Jim Gavenda. **Nay-** none. **Absent-** Mark Winsor. **Resolution passed unanimously.**

- Discussion and notation on the dispersal and distribution of the 2023-2024 ARPA funds. Distribution amounts and recipients are as follows:
  - \$35,000- Maple Rapids Fire Department
    - Radios and equipment
  - \$18,195- Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority
    - Ambulance funding contribution
  - \$27,787.66- Clinton County Road Commission
    - Roads and Bridges
- Other annual road funding and maintenance included within the proposed 2024-2025 budget.
- CAASA budget discussion.
- Discussion on the new grave digging contract and rates submitted by Jeremy McAllister.
  - **M.** Carla Wardin, **S.** Jim Gavenda to accept the grave digging contract by Jeremy McAllister to begin April 1, 2024. **MCU.**
- Presentation and discussion on proposed staff salary increase resolutions.
  - Salary rates are as follows;
    - Supervisor- \$12,177.60
    - Clerk- \$19,419.00
    - Treasurer- \$15,789.60
    - Trustee- \$2064.00

**Roll Call Vote: Yay-** Carla Wardin, Tim Karasek, Kathy George, Jim Gavenda, **Nay-** none. **Absent-** Mark Winsor. **Resolution Passed Unanimously.**

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

- HR 15 Resolution for Local Control.
- Discussion of the resolution.

**Roll Call Vote: Yay-** Carla Wardin, Tim Karasek, Kathy George, Jim Gavenda. **Nay-** none. **Absent-** Mark Winsor. **Resolution passed unanimously.**

**Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn 8:50pm.

**M.** Tim Karasek, **S.** Kathy George. **MCU**

**Next Meeting March 13, 2024 7:00pm**

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk