

Duplain Township regular Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

The December 14, 2022 regular meeting of Duplain Township was called to order by Bruce Levey, supervisor, at 7:30 pm, Duplain Township Hall. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The oath of office of Trustee for a partial term ending November 20, 2024, was administered to Ryan Boots.

Board Members Present: Bruce Levey, Amy Bowen, Robert Ladiski, Ryan Boots and Dawn D Levey.

Visitors: A. Weaver, H. Hartenburg, Doug Steffen, and Dr. Mark Holley.

The agenda: was presented for approval with the additions: Dr. Mark Holley under special reports; new business item special meeting January 11 ,2023 7:15 pm and a special meeting January 16, 2022. Moved by Amy Bowen and supported by Ryan Boots to approve the agenda as amended. Approved.

The Minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting were presented to officials for approval. It was moved by Ryan Boots, supported by Robert Ladiski to approve the minutes as presented. Approved.

Special Reports:

- **The Spicer Group – Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
- **Maner/Costerisan – Ailie Weaver and Hannah Hartenburg. Audit Report** – Overall a very clean audit. A thank-you to Amy Bowen and Dawn Levey for assisting with the process. It was an unmodified opinion, which is the best a municipality can receive. Ration of assets to liability which is in sound financial position. Unallocated balance reflects 104%, again a healthy balance well over the 15 – 20% recommended for 3/31/22.
- **Clinton County Road Commission – Doug Steffen/Managing Director** – good year, lots of work and projects completed. 2023 will be an aggressive year, as well. Materials are up approximately 15%, fuel process are trending down. The projects are fuel driven. It was reported that the road rating in Clinton County improved by 12 points, and the CCRC is pushing hard to improve Clinton County Roads. It was further reported that the Federal funds that are received are utilized in high traffic and more urban areas. Clinton County is #5 with Federally eligible roads, very proud of where we are, noting that it is an 80-20 match. No staff shortages. There is a 32-million-dollar budget for the road work in 2023. MDOT Summit hosting meeting 12/15/22. New facility is progressing and is on schedule to open September 2023. Getting waste salt from Mid-Michigan

Cheese which is blended into the sand for the Clinton County Roads, a good relationship has been established.

- **Dr. Mark Holley, assessor,** presented officials with the annual Poverty Exemption Resolution – Moved by Boots, supported Bowen. Roll Call vote: Levey – Yes; Bowen – Yes, Boots – yes; Ladiski – yes; and Levey – yes. Nays – 0. Adopted.

Financial Reports were presented for review and approval by Amy Bowen, treasurer.

- **General Fund Account Balance:** \$352,835.12
- **Emergency Services Account Balance:** **\$101,568.32**
- **Road Account Balance:** **\$68,448.34**
- **Tax Account Balance:** **\$2086.34**

It was moved to approve the financial reports by Ryan Boots, and supported by Robert Ladiski to approve the reports as presented.

Correspondence: B. Levey reported that flags have been ordered for the cemetery.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Unfinished Business:

1. Road/Bridges/Mill Pond – Thank-you to Jason Weslock, Joe R. Fabus and John Ladiski for cleaning up the downed tree on the bridge, noting that the situation caused a potential traffic hazard.
2. Action to accept the 2021-22 audit – It was moved by Ryan Boots to accept the audit as presented, supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved. Roll call vote unanimous.
3. American Rescue Plan – A placeholder on the agenda.
4. Action on Spicer Group Recreation Plan
 - a. Approval of the Parks Committee – Moved by Robert Ladiski and supported by Ryan Boots to approve the members of the Parks & Recreation Committee: Dawn D Levey, chair; Martin Bernath, Danette Cramer, Rick Jones, Stephanie Levey, and Gail Parker. Approved.
 - b. Information and postings – attached for information.
5. FOIA Request Update – D. Levey reported that an attorney had been contacted and that all necessary documentation and paper was completed. The cost was relayed to the individual who requested the tabulator tape, \$7.40. Upon receiving the invoice, the request was rescinded.
6. Election Update – The State Board of Canvassers has not certified the November 2022 election because of recounts that have been requested, the committee will meet 12/21/22 at 9am. The County Board of Canvassers has certified the election at the county level. Also, a recount of 20 precincts representing Clinton, Ionia, Montcalm and Eaton County was conducted 12/14/22 – there were no irregularities.

New Business

1. **Fire/Ambulance Update:** There were three fires with one in Duplain Township and twelve rescue runs. Amy Bowen noted that the Elsie Area Fire Association is investigating the possible leasing of a new fire truck. The options are being considered because of the cost to purchase and the way to finance the equipment in a more cost-effective way. The department is still waiting on a grant that was applied for in 2021, EFD is still in the running for the grant. Maintenance continues on equipment and Engine 2 was lettered to include all of the supporting townships and the village.
2. B Levey, recommended setting the stipend for the Parks and Recreation Committee – Levey recommended that members receive \$50 a meeting. It was moved by R. Ladiski and supported by Ryan Boots to pay committee members \$50 per meeting. Approved.
3. American Rescue Fund – D. Levey reported that after discussing the recommendation with the auditor that officials approve the adding of a line item for the ARF monies. This action will allow for easy accounting of the funds. It was moved by Amy Bowen and supported by Ryan Boots to add the ARF line item to the budget. Approved.
4. Action was taken to slate a Special Meeting for January 11, 2022, 7:15 pm for a Public Hearing to address the Park and Rec Plan and a second Special Meeting January 16, 2023, 7:30 pm to approve the minutes of the 1/11/23 special meeting at 7:30 pm. Moved by Ryan Boots and supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

County Commissioner Kam Washburn presented his last report. - Broadband task force received new maps and then requested that vendors resubmit bids. Another challenge was that those bidding must provide financials, a service was contracted to review those numbers which are not disclosed publicly. There is a lot of review during the process. The end of January the selected companies will be disclosed. Some work could begin in the summer, if Clinton County is awarded the grant. It appears the county is well positioned for grant funding. Clinton County has secured a representative for Clinton County and dedicated to the county on the LEAP board. The MEGA sight on the west end of the county is being looked at seriously, it will be more or less high tech.

Next, there is a proposed solar farm that went to the Planning Commission meeting, more information is needed before a decision is made. The site is located in Greenbush Township. It appears that Consumer's is pivoting almost totally toward solar farms instead of wind. This is going to be a contentious problem now and in the future. Clinton County will have hard choices to make. Commissioners will be seriously looking at criteria, and perimeters for solar farms.

Kam Washburn's last meeting, a huge thank-you for many years of public service.

Expenditures: D. Levey presented a requested to amend the budget in the following areas:

Amount	From	To	Balance
\$4,800.00	Road Fund - Brush Spray 211.756.000	Road Fund - Construction 211.967.00	211.756.00 = \$200.00 211.967.00 = \$36.44
\$300.00	Road Fund – Misc. 211.956.00	Road Fund – Bank Fees 211.820.000	211.956.00 = \$200.00 211.820.00 = \$129.90
\$800.00	General Fund – Twp Board – Supplies 101.727.000	General Fund – Twp Board – Misc. 101.956.000	101.727.000 = \$1736.44 101.956.000 = \$607.71
\$1,000.00	Gen Fund – Professional & Contractual Services 101.801.000	Gen Fund – Computer Main. & Update 101.931.000	101.801.000 = \$5,616.05 101.931.000 = \$614.87
\$1,000.00	Elections – Salaries 262.702.000	Elections – Supplies 262.727.000	262.702.000 = \$1,421.12 262.727.000 = \$242.24

It was moved by Amy Bowen to approve the budget amendments with the addition of bank fees in the Road Fund. Supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

D. Levey, Township Clerk, presented expenditures totaling \$85,751.29 for approval. It was moved by Ryan Boots to approve the monthly expenditures. Supported by Amy Bowen. Approved.

Moved to adjourn by D. Levey supported by R. Ladiski – Approved. 9:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn D Levey

Duplain Township Clerk