

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

Lynn Ferguson, Supervisor
Angela Bunn, Clerk
Patti Warnke, Treasurer
Rex Ferguson, Trustee
Aurelio (Hank) Zamarron, Trustee

2/19/2014 REGULAR MEETING	Township Supervisor Lynn Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center. He began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
ROLL CALL	Present: Supervisor Lynn Ferguson, Trustee Hank Zamarron, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Patti Warnke and Clerk Angi Bunn
VISITORS	County Commissioner Kam Washburn; Jim and Dottie Bancroft, Phil Glinke, Cory Wilson, Essex Township Assessor Greg Armbrustmacher
VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Jim Bancroft	Jim Bancroft presented a proposed two-year contract to the Board for the mowing and maintenance of the Sowle, Lowe and Beech Cemeteries.
Phil Glinke	Proposed providing snow removal for the Sowle and Lowe Cemeteries for \$200 per year.
Kam Washburn	County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported current happenings in the County, including that the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC) is experiencing higher than normal expenditures due to the adverse weather conditions this year. Washburn also reported the following activities by the Clinton County Commissioners: Commissioners voted to approve the Clinton County Transit budget; they voted to make a portion of Motz Park tobacco free; the Commissioners opted out of the DeWitt Corridor Authority; they voted to extend the Fowler Wind Farms special use permit by one year.
Greg Armbrustmacher	Essex Township Assessor Greg Armbrustmacher reported the 2014 assessments are complete. He also presented two-year contract proposal to the Board. Armbrustmacher is requesting an additional

Dollar per parcel in the new contract, citing additional state requirements and an increased workload.

Cory Wilson

Wilson, Owner/Operator of Cutting Edge Lawncare presented proposals for the mowing and maintenance of Essex Township Cemeteries. Wilson also provided references for Townships he currently contracts with.

APPROVAL OF
12/18/2013 MEETING
MINUTES

The reading of the December 18, 2013 regular meeting was waived. R. Ferguson moved to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Zamarron. MPC.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income and expenditures since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$95,739.03. Bunn moved to accept the Treasurer's report, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

Transfer of funds

Warnke moved to transfer \$1,000 from unallocated to Clerk-Legal Fees. Supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

Increase of duplicate bill
fees

Warnke is in the process of increasing the \$5 duplicate bill fee to \$10 in the next budget year.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on check numbers 5222 through 5244, written since the last meeting, and reviewed the general ledger.

Trustee Zamarron motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by Warnke. MPC.

Fire run billing

There are no new fire or medical run billings to report. After discussion, it was decided the Clerk will include the Essex Township Fire Charges Ordinance, ordinance number 4, with the first fire run billing, and will send the third billing via certified mail. A lien will be filed against the property one month after the fourth billing.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
CCRC meeting

The Essex Township annual meeting with the Clinton County Road Commission will be Tuesday, March 25 at 10:00 am.

Requests for donations

The Township has received requests for donations from the following non-profit organizations: the Tri-County Office on

Aging, for local Meals-On-Wheels deliveries, the Clinton County Historical Society for operation of the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

NEW BUSINESS
Board salaries discussion

Discussion regarding Township Board salaries included referencing Board intentions of 2012 to increase salaries according to the Cost of Living increases, unless there is an instance of increased responsibilities for a Board member. Bunn proposed an increase in Essex Township Supervisor salary to \$8,500 to compensate for an increased workload by the Supervisor. Additional discussion and a review of the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) salary survey took place.

Resolution to Establish
Board Salaries

Bunn offered a resolution to establish the Essex Township Supervisor's salary for the 2014-2015 fiscal year at \$8,500. Resolution supported by Zamarron. Upon roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Ferguson declared the resolution adopted.

Bunn offered a resolution to establish the Essex Township Treasurer's salary for the 2014-2015 fiscal year at \$12,721.15. Resolution supported by R. Ferguson. Upon roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Ferguson declared the resolution adopted.

Zamarron offered a resolution to establish the Essex Township Clerk's salary for the 2014-2015 fiscal year at \$12,721.15. Resolution supported by R. Ferguson. Upon roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Ferguson declared the resolution adopted.

Bunn offered a resolution to establish the Essex Township Trustees' compensation for the 2014-2015 fiscal year at \$103.42 per meeting. Resolution supported by Zamarron. Upon roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Ferguson declared the resolution adopted.

Resolution presented to
electors 3/19/2014 at
Annual Meeting

These resolutions will be submitted to the electors at the Essex Township annual meeting held on March 19, 2014, at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modifications that may be made by electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during an official's term of office unless the responsibilities are requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to that reduction. In the event the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

Discussion on establishing a Township Planning Commission

Supervisor Ferguson and Trustee Ferguson met with Denise Russman from Fulton Township regarding their Planning and Zoning Board. They reported Fulton Township had Pete Preston draft a Master Plan for their Township, at a cost of approximately \$10,000. It costs approximately \$640 per year for Fulton Township to fund their Planning Commission. Supervisor Ferguson tabled discussion on a planning commission, citing further investigation being needed to proceed.

Limits for Poverty Exemption

Supervisor Ferguson motioned to set limits for poverty exemption at the levels suggested by the State Tax Commission (STC) in Bulletin No. 14 of 2013. The STC guideline suggestions as follows:

Size of family unit	Poverty guidelines
1	\$11,490
2	\$15,510
3	\$19,530
4	\$23,550
5	\$27,570
6	\$31,590
7	\$35,610
8	\$39,630
For each additional person	\$4,020

Motion supported by Zamarron. MPC.

CCAA budget approval

Warnke moved to approve the Clinton County Ambulance Authority 20104-2015 operational and capital expenditures budget. Supported by Zamarron. MPC.

Proposed meeting dates

The Supervisor proposed the following dates for 2014: April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15 and December 17. For 2015: February 18 and March 18. Meeting dates will be approved at the March 19 Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Zamarron motioned for adjournment at 9:27, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

The Essex Township Board Annual Meeting will be held March 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk