

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

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

8/20/2014 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 Hank Zamarron, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George and Clerk Angi Bunn

VISITORS

County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Dru Mitchell of Clinton County Economic Alliance, Larry Clever of Burnham & Flowers Insurance Group, James Bancroft, Ken Fedewa, Jim Gavenda, Honey Blemaster

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS

Ken Fedewa

Ken Fedewa owns property in the Orchard Estates, just outside of the Village of Maple Rapids. He is concerned about the valuation of his property as compared to other properties within the subdivision. He does not believe the properties are assessed properly and would like an explanation. He is not available when the Board of Review meets. Mr. Fedewa was directed to Barb Moss in the Clinton County Equalization Department, and invited to write a letter to the Board of Review, explaining his concerns. Mr. Fedewa can direct his letter to Essex Township Assessor Greg Armbrustmacher or to the Clerk, Angi Bunn.

Dru Mitchell, Clinton County Economic Alliance

Dru Mitchell, Director of the Clinton County Economic Alliance (CCEA), explained recent activities of the CCEA. The CCEA has been working on projects specifically in Ovid, Fowler and St. Johns, as well as investigating alternative uses for empty local school buildings. Mitchell says Essex Township has been a member of CCEA since 2010, and she encouraged the Board to consider continued membership.

County Commissioner Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activities and actions taken by the County Commissioners. Washburn was pleased to report the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is working to expand the General Motors stamping plant, located

within Clinton County. If approved, the facility would create dozens of new jobs in the community.

The Clinton County Commissioners have approved assessors setting section corners throughout the County.

A representative from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) came to the County Commissioners meeting to discuss the purchase of land just outside the Village of Maple Rapids. Washburn is pleased to see the MDNR getting more involved locally.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony Sunday, August 24 at 3pm at Motz Park, celebrating the official opening of the west side of the park. Additionally, the County Commissioners will soon be discussing what to do with the land south of the ponds on the west side of Motz Park. The County owns 272 total acres, some of which is currently farmed. Washburn said Pheasants Forever is interested in working with the County to create a habitat space around the Park.

Larry Clever, Burnham & Flower Insurance Group

Larry Clever presented and explained the Essex Township property and liability Municipal insurance policy through the Michigan Townships Participating Plan.

Honey Blemaster

Honey Blemaster's son is buried in the Beech Cemetery. Her other son has experience in pouring footings for cemetery markers, and she has requested her son be allowed to pour the footing for a marker in the Beech Cemetery. Bunn explained the Township policy for having a contractor pour all footings in the Essex Township cemeteries. Bunn agreed to investigate the matter further through the Michigan Townships Association.

APPROVAL OF 3/19/2014 MEETING MINUTES

The reading of the 6/18/2014 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 New Business C. Board of Review salaries.

OLD BUSINESS
Township Audit

Essex Township received the final audit, which Bunn distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for review. The audit was discussed, and Bunn has been in contact with Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. in regards to education the auditors recommend for Township

management. Abraham & Gaffney will provide the recommended training for Bunn and George for approximately \$800. The cost is within the Clerk and Treasurer's budgeted education, so Bunn will schedule that training.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT
Website hosting renewal

Ferguson reported that the Township's website hosting and domain name are up for renewal. Bluehost Are up for renewal. Bluehost is the Township's current server, and a three-year web hosting renewal and one-year domain name renewal is \$215.64.

Information form Mt. Rest Cemetery

Ferguson spoke with the sexton at Mt. Rest Cemetery in St. Johns, and reported they have given Mausoleum keys to family members, with the understanding that Cemetery management may change the locks at any time. Mt. Rest has experienced no problems thus far. Ferguson also learned Mt. Rest does not allow families to plant trees as living memorials. The Cemetery Board does occasionally purchase and place trees in strategic locations, which will not affect future burials.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$86,822.56.

Summer tax collection

George reported the summer tax collection is well underway, and she has collected on over 300 parcels so far.

Bunn moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, supported by Zamarron. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on expenditures 5318-5351 and reviewed the general ledger. Ferguson motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by Zamarron. MPC.

Cemetery report

Bunn reported she sold two lots in the Lowe Cemetery.

Elections

The August primary election went smoothly, and Bunn anticipates no problems for the upcoming November election. Upon review, Bunn noticed election workers have not received a raise in wages for many years. They are currently making \$8.50 per hour. Bunn would like to raise their wages, but will stay within the budgeted allotment for election salaries.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Portable restrooms in Cemetery

Wardin contacted Fulton Township regarding the use of portable restrooms in their Cemetery. The Fulton Township Supervisor said they have experienced problems with people tipping over the restrooms, etc. It costs Fulton Township \$75 per month to have Jason's Septic take care of the facilities.

Graffiti on Anderson Road bridge

Wardin discovered graffiti on the Anderson Road bridge recently and contacted Clinton County Road Commission. They removed the graffiti the next day.

Planning and Zoning research

Wardin has done contacted several Townships who have local planning and zoning boards. She presented the information she gathered to the Board.

CCAA

Kathy George will be attending the Clinton Area Ambulance Authority meeting to represent the Township.

NEW BUSINESS
Township insurance renewal

The Board discussed the Township's insurance policy, and whether a \$5million liability policy is necessary. Ferguson motioned to drop the policy to have a \$2million liability coverage, with the rest of the policy to remain the same. Motion supported by Bunn. MPC.

Board of Review salaries

Bunn motioned to move \$150 from unallocated expenses to Board of Review salaries, to cover the expense of an additional meeting in July for the Board of Review.

Web hosting renewal

Bunn motioned to renew the Bluehost web hosting services for three years for \$215.64. Supported by George. MPC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Zamarron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, supported by George. MPC

The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be October 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk