

# Essex Township

## Clinton County, Michigan

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Carla Wardin, Supervisor  
Angela Bunn, Clerk  
Kathleen George, Treasurer  
Rex Ferguson, Trustee  
James Gavenda, Trustee

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### 4/20/2016 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 James Gavenda, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George and Clerk Angi Bunn

### VISITORS

Township Assessor Beth Botke, County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Deputy Treasurer Ann Gifford, Jim and Dottie Bancroft, Dean Feldpausch, Sara Morrison, Mark Winsor, Mark Kappler and Sam O'Neill of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric

### VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Essex Township resident and Briggs Library Librarian Sara Morrison

Morrison was invited to address the Board regarding upcoming changes to Briggs Public Library. Morrison distributed copies of the library's annual report and explained that in June 2015, a library committee prepared a strategic plan for the facility. Briggs Library has been operating at a deficit. The operating budget for the library is \$380,000 per year. They have reduced staff and operating hours, and otherwise have cut expenses without impacting library users. The committee decided it was in the community's best interest to work with the St. Johns Public School system, and become a District Library. The SJPS Board voted to approve the library as a District Library in March. The change will be in effect as of May 1, 2016. There will be a ballot request for .75 mills. The millage will affect residents in the St. Johns Public School district. Ballot language for the millage request will be available on the Clinton County website as soon as it is available. Morrison invited any questions residents have about the library change or the millage request.

Mark Kappler  
HomeWorks Tri-County Electric

Mark Kappler of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative explained his company's work in the Township, and explained that it is time to renew their Electricity Service Franchise Resolution, which enables them to provide electrical service in Essex

consider renewing the Resolution.

County Commissioner Kam Washburn

Washburn reported the County has signed the health insurance contract with a 2.8% increase in costs. Also, Brian Lawless is retiring from the Drain Commissioners office. They will be posting an open engineering technician position in the drain commissioner's office. The County will also be posting a Community Planner Position. This will be a full-time position. The County Commissioners voted to put a 911 surcharge request on the August ballot. The surcharge request is for \$2.75 per month per line. The Clinton Area Transit millage renewal request will be on the November ballot.

Township Assessor Beth Botke

Botke reported the March Board of Review went well. Twelve petitions were presented to the BoR, with 66% receiving a change of assessment. The BoR will meet again in July and December. 2016 Assessed Values for Essex Township were \$102,610,100.

APPROVAL OF THE 4/20/16 MEETING MINUTES

The reading of the 04/20/2016 regular meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

REVIEW OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT  
New website

Ferguson reported that the Essectwp.org website changed to the new format that morning. Ferguson is happy with the new layout, and encouraged everyone to take a look at the new site.

Request to review burning ordinance

Ferguson has talked with Township residents who request the Board review the Township Burning Ordinance to allow burning of brush when there is at least two inches of snow cover.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the general fund balance is \$115,223.44. She reviewed income and expenditures since the last meeting. The summer newsletter articles need to be completed and to George by May 15. Some article topics discussed included election information, burning permit information, the new website, cemetery rules. Ferguson moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bunn reviewed the general ledger for the fiscal year and reviewed checks #5614-5630.

Township. Kappler requested the Board

presented, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT  
Library

Wardin reported she has been in contact with the Maple Rapids Public Library, and they are aware the change in the Briggs Public Library will change their funding. Essex Township could contract with the Maple Rapids Public Library (MRPL) so that the library will receive penal fines acquired within Township borders.

CCTOA Meeting

Wardin also reported the Clinton County Township Officers Association meeting, hosted by Essex Township, was well attended and went very well. George expressed an interest in pursuing a relationship with the Building Stronger Communities representatives who presented at the meeting, to see what services they may provide for Township residents.

Fowler Wind Farm Lawsuit  
Update

Wardin explained that the Supreme Court did not take up the Fowler Wind Farms LLC case.

Maniez operation

Wardin has heard nothing new on the Maniez pond/mining operation.

NEW BUSINESS  
Budget

Bunn presented the FY 2016-2017 budget and explained that on the budget presented at the Annual Budget Meeting, the formula to figure the total expenditures was incorrect. Each line item was correct, and the Board has approved each line item, but the Total expenditures are \$261,884.00, and the estimated balance forward is \$92,853.91. As the Board had discussed and approved each line item, George motioned to approve the corrected budget numbers, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

Banking Fees Budget  
Addition

George explained that because of the newly instated banking fees discussed at the last meeting, the Board needs to consider adding a line item to the budget to cover those expenses. Bunn motioned to add line item 101-800 under Legislative, and transfer \$300.00 from unallocated funds to 'Bank Fees' to cover those expenses. Supported by Ferguson. Roll call vote: George – yes; Ferguson – yes; Bunn – yes; Wardin – yes; Gavenda – yes. MPC.

CCRC Contracts

The Board reviewed the Clinton County Road Commission contracts for 2016. Discussion commenced on what to do with budgeted funds that remained after the final Findlay Road Bridge payment. Ferguson motioned to accept and sign the contracts for brush and foliar spray throughout the Township, regravel and

George motioned to accept  
the Clerk's report as

Mineral Well Brine Contract Wacousta Road from Hyde to Maple Rapids. These were some of the CCRC's highest priority projects for the Township. Motion supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Electricity Franchise Resolution Bunn motioned to sign the contract to have mineral well brine applied to the Township rural roads, with three applications over the course of the summer. Motion supported by George. MPC.

ADJOURNMENT Bunn motioned to adopt the HomeWorks Tri-County Cooperative, Inc. Electricity Service Franchise Resolution. Motion supported by George. MPC.

There being no further business before the Board, George motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, supported by Gavenda. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held ~~August 17, 2016~~ **June 15, 2016** at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

surface Essex Center Road from Kinley to Colony, and

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Bunn  
Essex Township Clerk