

Essex Township

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

October 19, 2016 @7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee James Gavenda, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George, Clerk Lori Conner

Visitors: Deputy Clerk Ann Gifford, Mark Winsor, Louise Ferguson, James and Ida Bancroft, County Commissioner Kam Washburn

Call to Order: Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Rapids Community Center followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

County Commissioner Kam Washburn

- In regards to Clinton County budget, property taxes are up while other revenue remains steady. There is a need to grow the revenue base.
- Outside counsel will be sought if regulations are not followed in Maniez pond project.
- Don Sisung has retired from Road Commission. Kevin Hale will be his replacement.
- Because the Clinton County jail is able to offer educational programs, the State of Michigan has offered them a 5 year contract to house more inmates, which will create additional revenue.
- A potential solar panel project may be installed east of St. Johns on M-21, though zoning has not yet been completed.
- Construction continues on Clinton County Transit building on Scott Road.

Township Assessor Beth Botke

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the year is .9%.
- Number of building permits is up.
- Similar to building permits, maintenance permits will now be required for projects such as siding, roofing, shutters. No taxable value will be added with maintenance projects.

Minutes of August 17, 2016 Meeting: George moved to approve the meeting minutes. Supported by Ferguson. Motion passed and carried (MPC)

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Rex Ferguson

- Clinton County Transit has had to turn away children for transport due to declining number of drivers. They are hoping to increase number of drivers by first of the year.

Trustee Jim Gavenda

- There have been 70 medical and 21 fire runs this year.
- New fire department truck is not yet ready for use.

Treasurer's Report:

- General fund balance is \$81,328.73 as of October 16th, 2016, with \$78,104.22 in the general account and \$3224.51 in tax checking. Total income for the period 8/15/16 – 10/16/16 was \$25,397.10 while total expenses were \$28,527.70.
- Annual audit was reviewed and was favorable. State revenue may decrease in future.
- Ferguson moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Clerk's Report:

- The general ledger for the period 08/15/16 – 10/19/2016 was reviewed including checks #5706 – 5744.
- There are two trees that may need to be removed due to dead and falling branches. One is in Beech Cemetery while the other is in Sowle. Bids will be collected for their removal.
- A small tree was planted on a grave in Sowle Cemetery, which is not allowed under the township cemetery ordinance. Owner will be asked to remove tree.
- Cremains were exhumed from a lot in Beech Cemetery so that a full burial could take place in said lot. An additional set of cremains were found. Keck Coleman is in the process of identifying the cremains.
- George motioned to move \$300 from unallocated funds to "Cemetery Salary" to cover salaries for cemetery workers. Seconded by Gavenda. MPC.
- Test deck and ballot marking is being outsourced to The Election Source for the coming election.
- Ferguson moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Supervisor's Report

- Regulations regarding donations were reviewed. Township cannot give to fire truck fund drive while under contract.
- An update was given on the Clinton County Township Officers Association held 9/15/16.

- Essex Twp. declined the 3rd chloride application for 2016 as it was deemed unnecessary and would save on expenses.
- Essex Center Road from Kinley to Colony was regravelled and the township was billed \$14,736.44, which is over budget. George motioned to reallocate \$1000 from unallocated funds to "Roads and Bridges". Seconded by Gavenda. MPC.

Old Business: None

New Business: Assessor Botke submitted a new contract. Gavenda motioned to accept contract, seconded by Ferguson. MPC.

Adjournment: Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by George. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held December 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Conner

Essex Township Clerk