

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

March 13, 2024 @ 7:00pm

Members Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Deputy Supervisor Eric Verlinde, Clerk Tim Karasek, Treasurer Kathy George, Trustee Mark Winsor, Trustee Jim Gavenda (absent)

Visitors: Dave Pohl- County Commissioner, Seth Miller- Grassmasters, Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager, Malissa Schutt- Clinton County Transit, Jody Smith, David Smith, Pete Maniec.

Call to Order: Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:59pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Bonne Hale- Cemetery Manager

- Per previous request by Rex Ferguson, VFW fixed the cemetery flag pole and may donate a flag.
- Monument going to be cleaned soon.
- April will bring a new grave digger Jeremy McAllister. New rates will be forthcoming.

MaLissa Schutt- Clinton Transit

- Thanks for the support which keeps people connected.
- Clinton Transit 40% over national average for recovery since Covid-19.
- Transit Development Plan in works.
 - o Expand Saturday service.
 - o Add Sundays.
 - o Add scheduled services.

Dave Pohl- County Commissioner

- County has established the Veterans Treatment Court Program, a mentor program for vets with minor legal issues.
- Recycling contracts renewed by Granger.
- State of Michigan developing a Materials Management Plan.
- Re-monumentation Program: a 40 year project to plot county cemetery surveys.
- Waiting on a state review of broadband challenges.
- Fairground and Courthouse renovations approved.
- Wind and solar tabled, hopefully will come to an agreeable conclusion.

David Smith

- Review and discussion on wind and solar farm issues
- Bon discussion for SJPS. Bond vs. a sinking fund differences.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of the February 21, 2024 Board Minutes.

M. Carla Wardin, S. Kathy George: MCU

Additions to the Agenda

2024 Cemetery lawn mowing contract.

Trustee Report: None

Treasurers Report: Kathy George,

- Review Transaction Detail by Account
- MML audit adjustment \$11
- Cemetery CD renewed at 4.13%, interest goes into general fund
- Wind and solar tabled by county.

M. Tim Karasek, S. Carla Wardin: Accept the Treasurers Report as presented. MCU

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek,

- Review of Budget and 2023-2024 Financial Reports.
 - o Proposed budget changes:
 - Account 215-752 Clerk Office Supplies \$310.00
 - Account 215-805 Clerk Audit Fee -\$310
 - Account 253-752 Treasurer Office Supplies \$290.00
 - Account 253-970 Treasurer Capital Outlay -\$290.00
 - Account 262-752 Election Supplies \$1600
 - Account 262-807 Set Up Fee -\$850.00
 - Account Unallocated -\$750.00
 - Account 445-958 Drains at Large \$1310.00
 - Account Unallocated -\$1310.00
 - Account 567-930 Cemetery Maint/Supp \$3210.00
 - Account 567-928 Equip Fee Opening -\$900.00
 - Account Unallocated -\$2310.00
 - Account 651-801 Ambulance Service \$300
 - Account Unallocated -\$300.00
- Discussion on proposed 2024-2025 Budget with its corresponding adjustments and account additions to Cemetery category.

M. Carla Wardin, S. Mark Winsor: Accept the Clerks Report as presented with amendments. MCU

Supervisors Report: Carla Wardin,

- Roads Projects: Anderson Rd. slope and Hyde Rd. bridge (culvert). We will help with repairs on culverts.
- Discussion on Island and Essex Center Rd. contract signing.
- Eric Verlinde will be appointed Township Supervisor and Carla Wardin will be sworn in as Deputy Township Supervisor at the April 17, 2024 meeting.

Discussion of the **Resolution to Establish a Joint Planning and Zoning Board for Essex Township and Bengal Township, Michigan.**

Roll call vote: Yay: Carla Wardin, Tim Karasek, Kathy George, Mark Winsor. **Nay:** none.
Absent: Jim Gavenda.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- Accept 2024 Grass Masters contract for cemetery lawn maintenance.

M. Carla Wardin, **S.** Mark Winsor. **MCU**

- Approve proposed cemetery fee increase effective April 1, 2024.

M. Carla Wardin, **S.** Kathy George. **MCU**

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 8:10pm.

M. Carla Wardin, **S.** Kathy George. **MCU**

Next Meeting March 13, 2024 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk