

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

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

8/17/2016 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 Lori Conner

VISITORS

Deputy Micheal Leasher, County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Mark Winsor

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS

Deputy Micheal Leasher

Deputy Leasher is an officer with the Clinton County Sheriff's Department. He has been assigned to Essex Township to keep us updated on police activity within the township. He reported that there would be a new sheriff, Larry Jerue, who would take office at the end of the year.

County Commissioner Kam Washburn

Washburn reported that ground breaking occurred on the Clinton Area Transit Building.

The 911 tower in the southeast corner of the county is progressing and it is hoped it will be done by spring 2017.

The County Commissioners voted to allow Clinton County residents to apply and pay for building permits online. October – November 2017 is the target date to have the program up and running online.

Washburn reported that the county jail was built with excess capacity to house state prisoners which generates revenue for the

jail. This revenue has historically been used for capital expenditures. The State of Michigan has decided it will no longer allow state prisoners to be housed in the county jail and it is estimated that the county will lose \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 by 2017 due to this change in policy.

**APPROVAL OF THE
6/15/2016 MINUTES**

The reading of the 06/15/2016 regular meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Supported by Gavenda. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

*Maple Rapids Fire
And Rescue*

Gavenda reported the Maple Rapids Fire and Rescue purchased a Suburban to be used by Fire and Rescue. The fire department is seeking donations towards the vehicle. Wardin will research regulations regarding such donations with the Michigan Township Association.

Gavenda reported that there have been 16 fire runs thus far in 2016 (4 in August). There have been 43 medical runs thus far in 2016 (8 in August).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget

The Treasurer reported the general fund balance is \$120,325.31 as of August 10, 2016, with \$81,254.82 in the general account and \$39,070.49 in tax checking. George reviewed income and expenditures, and the budget since the last meeting. Total income for the period 6/10/2016 - 08/10/2016 was \$23,325.36 while total expenses were \$54,127.13.

Audit

George reported that this year's audit looks good, but is not complete.

Newsletter

George reported that she is readying the next township newsletter.

Ferguson moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CLERK’S REPORT

General Ledger

Conner reviewed the general ledger for the period 06/12/2016 – 08/15/2016. Conner reviewed checks #5670 – 5705.

Insurance Policy

Conner reported that she had met with the Burnham & Flower Insurance agent, Larry Clever. Options for modifying the township’s insurance policy were discussed. Ferguson moved to accept the policy without any new modifications for the coming year. Motion supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Independent Audit Review

Conner explained that an independent review of financial statements was now required to finalize the yearly audit. The review must be conducted by a CPA with a strong understanding of governmental accounting. Two CPA’s, Jeff Staley of Maner Costerisan, and Christina Schaub of Roslund Prestage & Co. were considered. Ferguson moved to hire Jeff Staley for the audit review. Motion supported by George. MPC.

Cemeteries

Dumping of non-organic trash in cemetery barrels continues to be a problem. Conner volunteered to monitor and empty barrels of non-compostable materials periodically.

Kurt Bancroft inherited 12 cemetery plots in Beach Cemetery from his father, Wilbur Bancroft. Three of the plots remain unused, but only one can be utilized due to changes in lot sizes through the years. Conner recommended exchanging 2 open plots (likely 60 c,d) for the unusable plots (59 c, d). George moved to approve the exchange of plots. Motion supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Primary Election

Conner reported that the primary held on August 2, 2016, ran smoothly. Essex Township reported 225 voters.

Grant

Conner lastly shared information about a grant available through Burnham & Flower Insurance Group. Twice a year they award grants up to \$5000 to fund initiatives that reduce safety and liability risks within the township.

George moved to accept the Clerk’s report, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

MTA Magazine

Supervisor Wardin reported that the current issue of the Michigan Township Association’s magazine, Focus, includes an article highlighting Essex Township and it was written by Wardin.

*Clinton County Township
Officers Association
Meeting*

The next Clinton County Township Officers Association meeting will be held on September 15, 2016, at Riley Township Hall. Wardin plans to attend and all other officers are welcome.

*Maniez Special Land Use
Permit*

Pete Maniez invited all Essex Township officers to visit his pond project. Trustee Gavenda, Trustee Ferguson, Clerk Conner, and Supervisor Wardin went to the property. Treasurer George visited the project last year. Maniez intends to invite the Clinton County Planning Commission to his property and attend the next Essex Township Meeting. He emailed the Township board members to inform them he is planning to resubmit a Special Land Use Permit, following permits in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

There being no further business before the Board, George moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, supported by Ferguson. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held October 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Conner
Essex Township Clerk