

Essex Township

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting

February 15, 2017 @7:00 p.m.

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

Visitors: County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Assessor Beth Botke, Rex Ferguson

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

- *The Board of Commissioners reorganized in January 2017. Washburn is now chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Ken Mitchell chairs the Public Safety Committee, and Bruce DeLong chairs the Human Resources Committee.*
- *Washburn met with Daryl Trefil (Maple Rapids President) regarding the eroding of the road along the Pine Creek. DNR owns much of the land and it is hoped that the state will help address the issue.*
- *The USDA offers a grant to provide internet service in rural areas. Essex Township does not qualify.*
- *The current millage for roads and bridges expires at the end of 2017. Washburn encouraged the board to get millage request wording to the county if they wish to ask for a renewal in a future election.*

Township Assessor Beth Botke

- Board of Review will meet on March 14th, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and on March 15th, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m., to hear 2017 assessment appeals.
- Essex Township change notices were handed out. Change in assessed value for agricultural is -3.68%, commercial -2.59%, industrial 2.29%, and residential 5.57%.

Minutes of December 21, 2016 Meeting: Gavenda moved to approve the meeting minutes. Supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC)

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Trustee Reports:

- Gavenda attended a meeting of the Clinton County Ambulance Service. He reported that Greenbush Township would like a rescue rig that would operate throughout the county. A decision has been tabled.
- Gavenda reported that there have been 12 rescue runs and 2 fire runs 2017 ytd. There were a total of 107 fire and rescue runs in 2016.
- Winsor delivered Clinton County directories for 2017-2018.

Treasurer's Report:

- The total banking balance is \$134,803.43 with \$128,628.24 in the general fund and \$6,175.19 in tax checking. Total income for the period 12/15/16 – 2/1/17 was \$75,402.38 while total expenses were \$10,389.15.
- George reported 78.6% of taxes have been paid to date.
- Gavenda moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Winsor. MPC.

Clerk's Report:

- The general ledger for the period 12/19/2016 - 02/13/17 was reviewed including checks #5776 – 5800.
- Software is being considered to track cemetery transactions and plots. Decision tabled to evaluate different options.
- Cost of living salary increases were considered. The board has not received a raise in two years during which time inflation has risen 2.8%.
- One thousand dollars was budgeted to cover set up costs for the 2016 elections. The actual bill was \$1054.01. George moved to reallocate \$55.00 in the budget from "unallocated" to "elections: set up costs", supported by Gavenda. MPC.
- George moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Supervisor's Report

- Road projects for 2017 were discussed. The county has determined that gravelling Kinley Road from Airport to Grove is a top priority. Final determinations to be made at a later date.
- Thank you to Kathy George for posting questions and answers on the township website.
- Doug Riley of Community Development updated township of county happenings:
 - o A solar energy farm is slated for 2018.
 - o Maniez consent agreement draft is still in negotiations with attorneys.
 - o The township does not have to act on Medical Marijuana Law at this time.
 - o DTE Energy has approached Riley Township regarding wind turbines.

- A meeting schedule for fiscal year 2017-2018 was introduced. Meetings would be held on April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, December 20, February 21, and March 21. All meetings are held at 7:00 in the Maple Rapids Community Center. Gavenda moved to accept the schedule, supported by George. MPC.

Old Business:

- Two trees in Beach and Sowle Cemeteries are slated to be trimmed / removed by Ferrall's Tree Service. Jim Bancroft has offered to take the wood.

New Business:

- George moved to increase board salaries by 2.8% (rate of inflation), supported by Gavenda. Roll call vote: Gavenda – yes, Winsor – yes, Wardin – yes, Conner – yes, George – yes. MPC.
- A road commission meeting is scheduled with township on March 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Gavenda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., supported by Winsor. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held March 15, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Conner

Essex Township Clerk