

## **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 101-840 Insurance -\$10.00
    - Account 101-915 Org Dues \$10.00
    - Account 257-752 Supplies -\$215.00
    - Account 257-933 Computer\$215.00
    - Account 567-930 Maint&Sup-\$300.00
    - Account 567-967 Proj&Misc \$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.

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- 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