

Essex Township Clinton County, Michigan

Carla Wardin, Supervisor
Angela Bunn, Clerk
Kathleen George, Treasurer
Rex Ferguson, Trustee
James Gavenda, Trustee

2/18/2015 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 Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George, Trustee James Gavenda and Clerk Angi Bunn

VISITORS

County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Essex Township Assessor Beth Botke

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activities and actions taken by the County Commissioners. Finance and Personnel meetings have changed to the third Thursday of each month, most meetings held at 2 pm at the County Courthouse, but interested parties should confirm meeting dates and times on the County website.

The County has entered into an agreement with Community Mental Health, so that the Sheriff may request mental health evaluations when he deems necessary.

The County Commissioners have approved the Clinton Transit budget. Clinton Transit is building a new facility on Scott Road. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2015.

The Commissioners have approved a one-year extension on Forest Hill Energy LLC's special-use permit. Washburn voted 'no' on the extensions, maintaining his voting record in this project.

The Commissioners have voted to call the bond on the Courthouse build; this will mean the Courthouse will be paid off three years early.

Assessor Beth Botke

Botke has sent assessment notices to landowners. The Board of Review dates will be March 11 from 3-9 pm, and March 12 from 9 am – 3 pm. The Board of Review will meet in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Botke recommends the Board consider resolutions to accept written petitions, as well as to establish poverty exemption guidelines.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
12/17/2014

The reading of the 12/17/2014 regular meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson motioned to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Supported by Gavenda. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

APPROVAL OF
AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed. Under New Business, F. Board of Review written petitions and G. Poverty asset test, were added.

NEW BUSINESS
Huston property land
variance application

A land variance application for the Huston property was reviewed. George moved to recommend approval for the Huston's request for land variance. Supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CCRC recommended 2015
projects

The Board reviewed the Clinton County Road Commission's (CCRC) recommended 2015 projects for Essex Township. The bridge project on Findlay Road was discussed as the major construction and maintenance project of 2015. Wardin will consult with CCRC regarding the timeline for the bridge project before the Township's Annual Meeting March 18, 2015.

2015-2016 Salary
discussions

Township Board salaries were discussed, with discussion leading to agreement on a 1.7% increase in salary for the treasurer, clerk and trustees to reflect the cost of living increase. Bunn reviewed data from the Michigan Townships Association regarding the supervisor's salary in other Clinton County Townships. Essex Township's Supervisor salary is significantly lower than other comparable townships'. Raising the Supervisor salary from \$8,500 annually to

\$10,000 will bring the Township more in-line with other townships.

Bunn offered a resolution that the 2015-2016 salary of the Essex Township Treasurer will be \$12,937.40, reflecting a 1.7% increase. Support by Ferguson. Roll call vote: Ferguson-aye; Gavenda-aye; Wardin-aye; Bunn-aye; George-aye. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Wardin offered a resolution that the 2015-2016 salary of the Essex Township Clerk will be \$12,937.40, reflecting a 1.7% increase. Support by Ferguson. Roll call vote: Ferguson-aye; Gavenda-aye; Wardin-aye; Bunn-aye; George-aye. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Bunn offered a resolution that the 2015-2016 salary of the Essex Township Trustees will be \$105.18 per meeting, reflecting a 1.7% increase. Support by Wardin. Roll call vote: Ferguson-aye; Gavenda-aye; Wardin-aye; Bunn-aye; George-aye. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Gavenda offered a resolution that the 2015-2016 salary of the Essex Township Supervisor will be \$10,000, reflecting a \$1,500 increase. Support by Bunn. Roll call vote: Ferguson-aye; Gavenda-aye; Wardin-aye; Bunn-aye; George-aye. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Proposed 2015-2016 budget

The proposed 2015-2016 budget was reviewed. The Board will continue reviewing the budget individually before the Annual Meeting March 18, 2015.

2015-2016 meeting dates

The meeting dates for 2015-2016 were discussed. Wardin plans to continue the same meeting dates and times, which will be finalized at the Annual Meeting.

Board of Review petitions

Bunn offered a resolution for the Board of Review to accept resident and non-resident petitions in writing. Supported by George. MPC.

Resolution for poverty exemption guidelines

Bunn offered a resolution for poverty exemption guidelines: Total assets for applicants applying for poverty exemption may not exceed 25% of the current Poverty Exemption Guidelines adopted by the Essex Township Board in December 2014. Assets that are exempt are the applicant's

residence and one vehicle per licensed driver in the household.

Resolution supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Township website

Ferguson reported that the Township website has experienced more problems with corrupt and inappropriate files being added to the site by unknown individuals. He recommends the Clerk have a new email address, not associated with the website, so if the website has problems, it will not affect the Clerk's email. Bunn has begun taking steps to transition to a new email address; essexwpclerk@gmail.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George reported on income and expenses since the December meeting. The General fund balance is \$114,134.23. Tax collection has been steady, with the next in-office collection time scheduled for March 2 from 8 am – 5 pm. Bunn motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, supported by Ferguson. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bunn reviewed the general ledger for 2014-2015, and reviewed expenses, check numbers 5413-5433. Ferguson motioned to accept the Clerk's report, supported by George. MPC.

The Clerk was contacted regarding a burial in the Sowle Cemetery, after talking with Dean Leavitt, she advised the funeral home there will be no burials in the Township until at least early April – when there is less frost in the ground.

Bunn presented a letter from Clinton County Meals-on-Wheels, requesting a contribution of \$322.00 for meals delivered to elders in Essex Township in 2014. The Board approved this expenditure from the Contributions budget.

Bunn motioned to transfer \$400 from unallocated funds to Treasurer – office supplies. Supported by Ferguson. MPC.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT WECS PPO

Wardin presented a Police Power Ordinance (PPO) for Board review. Board members discussed the ordinance. BOARD ALSO REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED PORTIONS OF AN ORDINANCE FROM GARDEN TOWNSHIP, DELTA COUNTY, - ORDINANCE NO 2014-1 NUISANCE NOISE ABATEMENT ORDINANCE The Board contacted Attorney Chris Patterson via phone to clarify points within the

proposed Essex Township ordinance. Wardin moved to adopt the PPO, supported by George. Roll call vote: Ferguson-aye; Gavenda-aye; Wardin-aye; George-aye; Bunn-abstain citing conflict of interest. The ordinance declared adopted. Bunn will publish the following notice of adoption in the Clinton County News:

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSEX, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an ordinance addressing wind energy conversion systems (“WECS”) in the Township was adopted at a regular meeting of the Essex Township Board of Trustees on February 18, 2015. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSEX, COUNTY OF CLINTON AND STATE OF MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: TITLE AND PURPOSE. Provides the title and purpose.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS. Defines the terms “Wind Energy Conversation System,” “Wind Farm,” and “WECS Testing Facility or Testing Facility.”

SECTION 3: LICENSE APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE AND STANDARDS. Provides the applicability of the Ordinance, license approval procedures and the standards for a licensee operating under an approved license.

SECTION 4: LICENSEE RENEWAL, REVIEW AND REVOCATION. Provides the annual review, inspection and renewal conditions for an approved license, as well as revocation procedures.

SECTION 5: VIOLATION AND PENALTIES. Designates the penalty of the Ordinance as a fine of not more than \$500.00 or ninety days in jail, a municipal civil infraction of not more than \$500.00, collection of costs incurred in enforcing the ordinance, and notice to those not in compliance with the Ordinance .

SECTION 6: PUBLIC NUISANCE. Provides that violation of the Ordinance is a public nuisance and may be abated by a court.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY. Declares **the provisions of the Ordinance severable, providing for** severability of any provision declared void or unenforceable by a court.

SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE. Provides that the Ordinance shall be effective 30 days after legal publication.

SECTION 9: EFFECT ON OTHER ORDINANCES. Provides effect on other Township ordinances.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the full text of the ordinance, as adopted, has been posted, and is available for inspection at Township of Essex, 4848 W. Kinley Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879

Ambulance Authority

Wardin has been notified that the Board must vote on the Ambulance Authority's annual budget. The topic is tabled until the Township's March meeting, as the budget was not readily available for review.

Supervisor correspondence

Wardin has put a clip on her door for correspondence that must be dropped off at her home when she is not in-office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Ferguson motioned to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Supported by George. MPC.

*Respectfully submitted by Angi Bunn, Essex Township Clerk.
Meeting minutes were approved at the March 18, 2015 meeting of the Essex Township Board.*