

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

Lynn Ferguson, Supervisor
Angela Bunn, Clerk
Patti Warnke, Treasurer
Rex Ferguson, Trustee
Aurelio (Hank) Zamarron, Trustee

3/19/2014 REGULAR MEETING Township Supervisor Lynn Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center. He began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Present: Supervisor Lynn Ferguson, Trustee Hank Zamarron, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Patti Warnke and Clerk Angi Bunn

VISITORS Deputy Supervisor Carla Wardin, County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Lee and Marilyn Thelen, Jim Bancroft, Phil Glinke, Cory Wilson, Edwin Peters and Katherine Becsey of Wolverine Pipe Line Company

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS
Lee and Marilyn Thelen Lee Thelen presented a petition for change of zoning/map amendment for his property located at 5115 W. Marshall Road, from A-2 – General Agricultural District to A-3 – Agricultural/Residential Transition District. Thelen presented survey maps to the Board, in addition to his petition. He asked for the Board’s approval of the plan before the Clinton County Planning Commission hearing April 10, 2014.

Edwin Peters,
Wolverine Pipe Line Peters presented an overview of the Wolverine Pipe, which runs along Essex Center Road, through Essex Township. Peters discussed maintenance procedures and safety precautions in regards to the pipe line.

Jim Bancroft
Cory Wilson Bancroft and Wilson each submitted bids (at the February 19, 2014 meeting of the Essex Township Board) for the mowing and maintenance of Township Cemeteries.

Phil Glinke Glinke submitted a bid (at the February 19, 2014 meeting of the Essex Township Board) for snow removal at Sowle and Lowe Cemeteries.

Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Washburn reported that he investigated further as to the Sheriff's Tri-County Metro Narcotics Unit. At the Essex Township February 2014 meeting, Washburn had thought the Sheriff had discontinued the program, but after contacting the Sheriff Kangas, Washburn reported that while the program is no longer being funded at the County level, it was an ongoing program, which is being funded through contributions at the City, Village, and Township level within the County.

Washburn said the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC) has spent much of their budget dealing with adverse weather conditions this winter. He reported Clinton County will be receiving approximately \$390,000 from the State of Michigan, due to Public Act 51. The money will be used in the general budget to help cover operating costs. The Clinton County Commissioners voted to spend \$100,000 to assist the CCRC in purchasing a new truck.

Washburn reviewed the status of Clinton County Economic Alliance (CCEA) and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). Washburn's goal is to have representatives from each organization, as well as from Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, sit down and develop a plan to work together to develop, retain and grow the economies in those Counties.

Washburn is on the Community Mental Health board, and he invited the Director of Community Mental Health to the Clinton County Commissioners meeting to discuss how the Affordable Care Act will change program and the distribution of funds. Washburn also urged citizens to contact Community Mental Health for any mental health concerns, especially veterans and those dealing with substance abuse.

**APPROVAL OF 2/19/2014
MEETING MINUTES**

The reading of the 2/19/2014 meeting minutes was waived. There being no changes or corrections noted, Warnke moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Supported by R. Ferguson. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

**REVIEW OF THE
AGENDA**

Bunn asked to add Old Business; C. Furnishings for Maple Rapids Fire Hall

OLD BUSINESS
Cemetery maintenance -
mowing

Discussion and review of Cemetery mowing and maintenance bids included a review and comparison of the bids. L. Ferguson and Bunn stated that while Wilson's bid was competitive and his references were outstanding, the Township has been very happy with Bancroft's services for several years. Warnke asked if Wilson would consider allowing the Township to keep his bid, and if

Bancroft was unable to fulfill his contract for any reason, if Wilson would be willing to take over at that time. Wilson agreed. Supervisor Ferguson motioned to accept the Bancroft bid for Cemetery lawn care, which will include mowing, trimming, leaf removal, other minor lawn and maintenance repair; refilling and seeding sunken graves and removal of organic litter from the cemetery proper. The bid was \$8,200. R. Ferguson supported the motion. MPC.

Cemetery maintenance – snow removal

The Board discussed whether regular snow removal was necessary for the Sowle and Lowe Cemeteries. It has never been a regular maintenance consideration. Warnke pointed out that in winters with heavy snow, having several feet of snow removed before a burial may be as costly as having it maintained. Bunn added there is occasionally very little notice before a burial, and regular maintenance would alleviate the pressure of quick removal. Bunn also noted that L. Ferguson plowed the drives in Lowe and Sowle Cemeteries for burials during the winter of 2013-2014, but may not always be available or willing. Warnke added the cost would be within the Cemetery maintenance budget. Warnke motioned to accept Phil Glinke’s bid to plow all entrances and drives in Sowle and Lowe Cemeteries when there is 3 inches of snow or more, beginning with the first snow of the winter of 2014 through the spring of 2015 at a cost to the Township of \$400 per year. Motion supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

Supervisor’s compensation

Warnke was able to obtain copies of the 2012 Michigan Townships Association salary comparison for the position of Supervisor. The Board reviewed the more comprehensive data, and discussed the need to increase the Essex Township Supervisor compensation to be more in-line with local Townships, as well as similarly sized Townships throughout the State. Warnke noted that the position in Essex Township has expanded in work-load and is more time consuming than it was historically. While the Board has a resolution in place to increase the Supervisor’s salary to \$8,500 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Bunn suggested the Board revisit the Supervisor’s salary for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, with the intent of putting it more in-line with other local Townships.

Furnishings for Fire Hall

The Village of Maple Rapids has purchased tables for the Village Fire Hall. The cost of the tables was \$1,192. Warnke motioned to contribute \$1,000 for that purchase, with funds from Township Hall – maintenance. Zamarron supported. MPC.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income and expenditures since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$115,806.80. Bunn

motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, supported by Zamarron. MPC.

Summer newsletter

Warnke will include a newsletter with the summer tax bills, and will need articles by June 1. Supervisor Ferguson suggested a property tax article regarding the 'gifting' of land, as well as capping and uncapping agricultural land, the veterans disabled exemption, and that it is the responsibility of the individual property owner to make appropriate filings.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on expenditure numbers 5245 through 5258, written since the last meeting.

Supervisor Ferguson motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

Fire and medical run billings

There was one new fire billings to report. Bunn included the Essex Township Fire Charges Ordinance, ordinance number 4, with the first fire run billing, as discussed at the last meeting. A final bill was sent to two outstanding accounts via certified mail. Bunn will file in small claims court against those accounts if they have not arranged payment before April 1.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
Roads and bridges proposal

Supervisor Ferguson suggested the Board consider putting a half-mill roads and bridges fund proposal for rural residents on the November ballot. Filing deadline is August 12.

Board of Review

The Board of Review was conducted and went well. Supervisor Ferguson submitted minutes for the March 4, 10 and 11 Board of Review meetings.

Road Commission meeting

The Essex Township annual meeting with the Clinton County Road Commission will be March 25 at 10 am.

Public Budget Hearing

Supervisor L. Ferguson motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 pm, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC. Supervisor Ferguson then convened the Public Budget Hearing. The proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was reviewed. The balance forward was changed to \$115,000.

Regular meeting reconvened

There being no further discussion, Supervisor Ferguson adjourned the Budget hearing at 9:05 pm, and re-convened the regular meeting.

Approval of 2014-2015 budget

Warnke motioned to approve the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, supported by Trustee R. Ferguson. MPC.

Salaries:

Supervisor - \$8,500/year

Clerk - \$12,721.15

Treasurer - \$12,721.15

Trustees - \$103.42/meeting

Assessor - \$14,000/year

Supervisor Ferguson motioned to establish the following regular meeting dates for fiscal year 2014-2015:

2014-2015 meeting dates

April 16, 2014; June 18, 2014; August 20, 2014; October 15, 2014; December 17, 2014; February 18, 2014 and March 18, 2014. With March 18, 2014 also serving as the Public Budget Hearing. All meetings will be held at 7 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center. Motion supported by Bunn. MPC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Zamarron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk