

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

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

3/18/2015 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 James Gavenda, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Kathleen George and Clerk Angi Bunn

VISITORS County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Essex Township Assessor Beth Botke, Essex Township residents Lawrence Pierce and Lynn Ferguson

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Kam Washburn County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activity and votes taken by the County Commissioners, including: Commissioners voted to begin construction on a communications tower in the southeast corner of the County. Funds for construction will come from the 911 surcharge. Commissioners voted to undergo interior work on Green Haven Youth Home, located within St. Johns. Commissioners are investigating options to fix the roof on Peck Hall, a building on the Clinton County Fairgrounds. As the County Commissioners Personnel Chair, Washburn helped negotiate and settle the County's contract with road patrol and corrections officers, as well as telecommunications (911 operators). Washburn reported that due to the passing of Greenbush Township Supervisor, Jim Jorae, the Greenbush Township Board has appointed former trustee Eugene Jones as Supervisor, and Roberta Smith as Trustee.

Assessor Beth Botke Botke reported that the Essex Township Board of Review went well, the Board reviewed eight petitions and three Disabled Veteran exemption petitions. Botke further reported that the findings of the Board of Review have been filed and settled with the County. Botke further explained that the Huston variance request reviewed by the Essex Township Board at the February meeting has been withdrawn. The property owners are considering combining two

parcels, which will bring the property into compliance of the zoning ordinance. They are currently waiting for a survey of the land in question.

APPROVAL OF 2/18/2015
MEETING MINUTES

The reading of the 2/18/2014 meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson requested an addition of information under Supervisor's Report – WECS PPO. George moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Supported by Gavenda. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

REVIEW OF THE
AGENDA

Bunn added Clerk-E. Community Center maintenance and George added Treasurer – B. Tax collection

TRUSTEE'S REPORT
Website

Ferguson discussed recent activity on the Essectwp.org website, highlighting activity by suspected 'hackers'. Ferguson plans to remove old documents from the website, which seem most susceptible to hacker activity.

Suspicious phone calls

Gavenda reported there have been suspicious phone calls within the Township, with the callers claiming to be representing the IRS. The Clinton County Sheriff's Department is aware of the calls, and recommends residents hang up immediately if they receive a similar call.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tax collection

George reported the General Fund balance is \$141,987.51. She reviewed income and expenditures since the last meeting. Nearly 95% of taxes have been collected. George presented the Board with a tax disbursement record for summer/winter billing 2014. Bunn motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

Notice of Intent

Notice of Drain Assessment

Bunn reported on expenditures #5434-5445 and income since the February meeting, and reviewed the general ledger for the fiscal year.

The Clerk was served with a Notice of Intent to file petition regarding the Township's Police Power Ordinance 16, signed by an Essex Township resident.

The Clinton County Drain Commissioner has notified the Township it will be assessed for Fowler Drain 2, which affects approximately 23 acres in the Southwest corner of the Township. Bunn does not expect the assessment to drastically affect the Township budget.

Ferguson Motioned to accept the Clerk's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

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| Community Center maintenance | Bunn motioned to pay the Maple Rapids Community Center \$1,000 for general maintenance and upkeep of the facility. Motion supported by Ferguson. MPC. |
| SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CCRC meeting | The Township's annual meeting with the Clinton County Road Commission will be March 24 at 10:00 am. Wardin, Gavenda and Ferguson will attend. |
| CCAA Budget | The Board reviewed the Clinton County Ambulance Authority's (CCAA) budget for 2015-2016. The Township's portion will be \$3,714. Bunn motioned to approve the CCAA budget, supported by George. MPC. |
| FY 2015-2016 meeting dates | <p>The FY 2015-2016 meetings of the Essex Township Board will be held at the Maple Rapids Community Center at 209 W Union St., Maple Rapids, MI 48853 on the following dates and times:</p> <p>April 15, 2015 – 8:00 pm June 17, 2015 – 7:00 pm August 19, 2015 – 7:00 pm October 21, 2015 – 7:00 pm December 16, 2015 – 7:00 pm February 17, 2016 – 7:00 pm March 16, 2015 – 7:00 pm – Annual budget meeting</p> <p>Bunn motioned to approve these meeting dates, supported by Ferguson. MPC.</p> |
| Public budget hearing | Supervisor Wardin motioned to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 pm, supported by George. MPC. Supervisor Wardin then convened the Public Budget Hearing. The proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year was reviewed. The balance forward was changed to \$140,000. |
| Regular meeting reconvened | There being no further discussion, Wardin adjourned the budget hearing at 8:05 pm, and re-convened the regular meeting. |
| Budget approval | George motioned to approve the budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, supported by Gavenda. MPC. |
| | <p>Salaries:</p> <p>Supervisor - \$10,000 Clerk - \$12,937.40 Treasurer - \$12,937.40 Trustees - \$105.18 per meeting Assessor - \$12,920</p> |

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Wardin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, supported by Bunn. MPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk