

## **Duplain Township Regular Meeting**

September 13, 2023

The September 13, 2023 meeting of the Duplain Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Bruce Levey at 7:30 pm at the Duplain Township Hall 145 W Main Street, Elsie. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Members Present:** Bruce D Levey, Amy Bowen, Ryan Boots, Robert Ladiski, and Dawn D Levey.

**Professional Visitors:** Charles Smith and Tim Inman, Spicer Group; Ailie Weaver, Maner Cistercian; Val Vail-Shirley, County Commissioner.

**Visitors:** Martin Bernath, Brent Denovich, Robin Wooley, Ken Euler, Rodger Roof, and Gail Wadell

**Agenda:** The meeting agenda presented for approval with the removal of clerk's retreat request, and the addition of dam decisions and discussion with Chief Bryce, it was moved by Ryan Boots to approve the agenda as amended, supported by Amy Bowen. Approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the regular August 9, 2023, special meetings August 19, 2023; August 29, 2023; and work session September 11, 2023 were presented for approval, it was moved by Dawn Levey approve the minutes as a group as corrected, supported by Robert Ladiski. Approved.

### **Special Reports:**

- a. Ailie Weaver, Maner Costerisan – Presented the audit. She thanked Amy Bowen and Dawn Levey for a smooth audit. Duplain received an unmodified clean opinion, the best a township can achieve. Balance sheet is in a very healthy state. Currently equity on hand is 86%, in 2023, the balance sheet is in a very healthy state as of 3/31/23. Revenues higher than expenditures, again a healthy state. Finances in healthy condition. With \$73,000 being added to the equity. Fantastic documentation of expenditures and revenues.
- b. Charles Smith and Tim Inman from the Spicer Group presented officials with a proposal. – Please see attached. Studies and phases were explained. Phase II - \$30,000, total package \$75,407.00. The proposal quotes are good for 60-90 days. Questions were asked, some of the work would be completed by a third party. The phases were written for what is known today.

**Assessor:** Dr. Mark Holley: The L-4029 completed and prepared for signatures.

**Financial Reports:** The monthly financial reported were presented by Amy Bowen, Township Treasurer:

- General Fund \$236,374.93
  - \$109,658.39
  - \$185.00
  - \$13,756.43
- Emergency Services \$899.01
  - \$86,411.83
  - \$5.00
- Road Fund \$92,955.58
  - \$5.00
- Tax \$105,665.14
  - \$5.00

It was moved by Robert Ladiski to accept the financial reports and supported by Ryan Boots. Approved.

**Correspondence:** Drain Commissioner reported on drains to be considered for the season.

**Public Comment:**

Gail Wadell – questioned the assets owned by Duplain Township.

**Old Business:**

1. Road/Bridges - Dam continues to be a concern. Road work for the season is wrapping up.
2. Parks and Recreation: The committee met September 6 to discuss how things have changed and will be rethinking the needs of the dam park area.
3. Planning Commission: Renewable Energy Citizens Advisory Committee – wrapped up its work on wind and solar ordinances. The ordinances will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Board Thursday, September 14, 2023.
4. Election Update – The draft agreement with Clinton County was presented to officials for review and the final agreement will be presented for approval at the October 2023 meeting. It should be noted that the agreement is for early voting. In addition, the ballot box has been ordered.

**New Business:**

1. Fire/Ambulance Update:
  - a. Fire – Auxiliary purchased an old ambulance for the services they provide. During the month there were six fire runs by the Elsie Area Fire Department – 6 fire runs (2 billable) and 10 rescue runs. Total fire runs to date 66 and rescue 172
  - b. Clinton County Ambulance Service Report:
 

Runs to Date:	2021	2,169	2022	2,305	2023	2,425
1. Rescue	2021	71	2022	74	2023	99

Two events at the Lug Nut Stadium for staff. Continues to provide excellent service for the community.

2. Resolution – Clinton County Part 115 Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment – Moved by Ryan Boots to adopt the resolution, supported by Robert Ladiski.  
Bruce Levey- Yes    Amy Bowen - Yes                      Ryan Boots - Yes  
Robert Ladiski – Yes    Dawn Levey – Yes
3. The Elsie Dam decision – Options include: 1) Rebuild; 2) Complete Removal; 3) Partial Removal. It was moved by Ryan Boots to remove the dam due to safety concerns, to improve fishers and the environmental issues. Supported by Amy Bowen. Approved, unanimously.
4. Second motion request was to close the Hope Green Memorial Park until further notice due to safety concerns. It was moved by Amy Bowen and supported by Ryan Boots, to close the park. Approved unanimously.
5. The next motion was to request that the Elsie Police Department to be sworn in to issue citations in the dam area to those who trespass. It was moved by Amy Bowen to authorize the Elsie Village Police Department to issue citations at the dam area, pending legal counsel review. Supported by Ryan Boots. Approved.

#### **County Commissioners –**

- Val Vail-Shirey – Informational: that there is a measure to allow RVs and side-by-sides on county roads, public hearing October 31, 2023, 9 am, Clinton County Board of Commissioners.  
Budget process is underway. Municipalities are encouraged to contact LEAP for resources and grant updates, Jacklyn Hutchison is the contact person. County Commissioners will be issued tablets, and county e-mail, to address FIOA issues.  
Citizens Advisory Committee update – 9/14/23 a long agenda. Four applications for special use and amendments, plus the Solar and Wind Ordinances, the committee was thanked for the work the 19-member completed. Eagle Township Report as well.  
The Governor’s goal is 100% renewable by 2050 – some townships and counties have opted out, not a good idea. Four bills to take away local zoning for wind and solar and place it in a three-member board. MTA, Michigan Municipal League, Farm Bureau are lobbying against the legislation. It is recommended that counties that have developed a feasible plan they could be exempt. Will be advised of the Committee Hearings.  
Has contacts with the MDNR

#### **Public Comment:**

- Brent Denovich – shared information from the work session presented September 11, 2023.
- Robin Wooley – excellent job on Hollister Road.

**Clerk's Report & Expenditure:** Presentation and explanation of the expenditures was presented for approval. Expenditures totaled \$53,713.63. It was moved by Ryan Boots and supported by Robert Ladiski to pay the bills as presented, plus \$1,000.00 for EMS.

**Things That Need to be Talked About:**

**Adjournment:** Moved by Robert Ladiski and supported by Ryan Boots to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn D Levey

Duplain Township Clerk

DRAFT