

**HOPE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING**  
**September 24, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Feldpausch in the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Highway, Hastings, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Mark Feldpausch, Arlene Tonkin, Deborah Jackson, Matt Peake.

**Members Absent:** David Messelink

**Others Present:** Rick Shannon, Chris Finch, Kathy Finch, Jessica Ulrich, Cody Ulrich, Phil Mazzotta, Andy Tomaszewski-PLM Lake & Land Management Corp, Catherine Kaufman-Township Attorney, Lisa Shockley-Curtis.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Tonkin, support by Jackson to approve the agenda as prepared. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Feldpausch opened the public hearing at 6:32 pm.

**Public Hearing for the proposed Guernsey Lake Aquatic Plant Control  
Special Assessment District No. 19-1:**

The next item on the agenda is the continuation of a special assessment district for an aquatic plant control project on Guernsey Lake in the township.

At the request of Supervisor Feldpausch, Andy Tomaszewski, explained the meaning of the re-established(continuation) of the special assessment means. The cost of the project and review of the plans for the project.

At the request of Supervisor Feldpausch, Catherine Kaufman, reviewed for the public the procedure involved in establishing a lake aquatic plant control special assessment project. She stated today's public hearing is the first of two that are required before the special assessment process is complete. Today's hearing is on the estimate of costs for the project, the plans for the proposed aquatic plant control project, the special assessment district proposed to be created for the recovery of the cost of the project and the carryover of surplus funds from the expiring SAD. The proposed new special assessment project will be for five years, 2020-2024 inclusive. If the Township Board proceeds to a second hearing in the special assessment process, the second hearing will be on the special assessment roll. If any interested person wishes to protest the special assessment and has not previously done so, they should feel free to do so prior to the close of the public hearing today. Such protest by the close of the second public hearing on the special assessment roll is a requirement to being able to appeal a party's special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Tomaszewski explained the aquatic plant control program. This project will be a continuation of the program already being used. PLM will continue to monitor the water quality, invasive species, and the overall plant community.

Clerk Jackson stated that a notice of the SAD public hearing was published in the Hastings Banner on September 12, 2019 and September 19, 2019 and was mailed by first class mail to each property owner within the proposed assessment district as shown on the current tax rolls of the Township on September 13, 2019,

Supervisor Feldpausch requested that any person speaking at the public hearing give their name so there will be an accurate record of the public hearing. He asked that each speaker limit their time to 3 (three) minutes. Supervisor Feldpausch opened the public hearing to the general public comment.

Kathy Finch, Oakwood Dr, President of the Guernsey Lake Association. She asked if there is a treatment for the lily pads. They are a native species and the DEQ protects them. Residents can treat an area of 40'x40' with a permit. Pulling and cutting are legal, dredging is not allowed.

Phil Mazzotta, Pike Rd. He stated he is not happy about paying for a service that is not benefiting him. His property is full of weeds and he can't get his pontoon through all of them and he asked about the cost of the treatment. Tomaszewski said he will like to meet with Mr. Mazzotta before the spring survey and see if there is anything that can be done. Tonkin said the cost for lake frontage owners is \$136 per year and back assessments \$66 per year.

Clerk Jackson reported the Board received two letters with respect to this matter. She read a letter from Katherine Finch in support of the continuation of this project and it also read that the Guernsey Lake Board of Directors are also in support. Dave & Robin Reynolds submitted a letter in support of the one assessment per owner.

There being no further comment, Trustee Peake moved that the public hearing be closed. Treasurer Tonkin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The public hearing closed at 6:48 pm.

**THE TOWNSHIP BOARD DELIBERATION ON GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL PROJECT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 19-1**

The Township Board then proceeded to deliberate with respect to the matters that has been the subject of the public hearing The Township Attorney gave an overview of the resolutions and advisement on how to move forward with the certification of the roll.

Treasurer Tonkin reported there is surplus amount of \$19,170.00 from the current assessment that will be carried over to the new assessment.

Clerk Jackson made a motion to adopt Resolution, seconded by Tonkin. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION ON GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL PROJECT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 19-1 AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS the Township Board of the Township of Hope determined on its own motion to proceed under the provisions of 1954 PA 188, as amended, to secure plans and estimates of costs together with a proposed special assessment district for assessing the cost of the proposed aquatic plant control project and related activities and to schedule a public hearing upon the same for this date; and

WHEREAS the plans, estimate of costs and proposed special assessment district were filed with the Township Clerk for public examination and notice of the within hearing upon the same was published and mailed in accordance with law and statute as sworn by affidavits pertaining thereto on file with the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS in accordance with the aforesaid notices, a hearing was held on September 24, 2019, commencing at 6:30 pm. And all persons were given an opportunity to be heard in this matter; and

WHEREAS as a result of the foregoing, the Township Board believes the project to be in the best interests of the Township and of the district to proposed to be established therefore:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Township Board does hereby approve the plans for the project as prepared and presented to the Township Board and the estimate of cost for the completion of the project of one hundred nineteen thousand five hundred and sixty dollars (\$119,560).
2. That the Township Board does hereby create, determine and define a special assessment district to be known as GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 19-1 within which district the amount of one hundred thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$100,390) will be assessed, which amount is the total project cost of \$119, 560 minus surplus funds carried over from the expiring special assessment district (\$19,170), which amount reflects the cost of such improvement plus administrative costs which shall be assessed according to benefit against the properties on Guernsey Lake and properties with access to Guernsey Lake in Hope Township and as identified by the attached map, which is incorporate herein.

This special assessment district shall remain in existence until all assessments and interest thereon have been paid; and that unspent special assessment monies, if any, remaining after

conclusion of payment for aquatic plant control measures taken through 2024 inclusive shall be applied to pay for future Guernsey Lake aquatic plant control measures taken subsequent to 2024.

3. That on the basis of the foregoing, this Township Board does hereby direct the Supervisor and Chief Assessing Officer to make a special assessment roll in which shall be entered and described all the parcels of land to be assessed with the names of the respective owners thereof if known, and a total amount to be assessed against each parcel of land which amount shall be the relative portion of the whole sum to be levied against all parcels of land in the special assessment district as the benefit to the parcel of land bears to the total benefit to all the parcels of land in the special assessment district. When the same has been completed, the Supervisor and Chief Assessing Officer shall affix thereto his certificate stating that it was made pursuant to this Resolution and that in making such assessment roll, he as, according to his best judgment, conformed in all respects to the directions contained in this Resolution and the applicable state statues.
4. That all Resolutions and parts of Resolution insofar as they conflict with the provisions of the within Resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Upon roll call vote, the following vote "Aye": Mark Feldpausch, Arlene Tonkin, Deborah Jackson, Matt Peake.

The following vote "Nay": None

Absent: David Messelink

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted.

It was then moved by Supervisor Feldpausch, seconded by Trustee Peake, that the Township Board adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING HEARING ON ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR  
GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT  
DISTRICT NO. 19-1**

WHEREAS the Supervisors and Assessing Officer of the Township have, in accordance with Resolution of the Township Board and the laws and statutes pertinent thereto, prepared a special assessment roll in the amount of one hundred three thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$100,390) for the parcels of land in the GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 19-1 according to the relation of the benefit to each parcel of land to the total benefit to all parcels of land in such special assessment district and has affixed thereto their certificate as required by said Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That said special assessment roll shall be filed with the Township Clerk and shall be available for public examination during regular working hours of regular working days from the present date until the public hearing on the same and shall further be examined at such public hearing.
2. That the Township Board shall meet at a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 29, 2019 at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Hwy, Hastings, MI, to review such special assessment roll and hear any objections thereto.

3. That notice of such hearing and the filing of such assessment roll shall be published twice in the Hastings Banner, a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, prior to the date of the hearing with the first publication being not less than ten (10) days prior to the hearing and shall further be mailed by first class mail to all owners of persons interested in property within the GUERNSEY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 19-1 as shown on the current assessment roll of the Township also at least ten (10) days prior to said hearing, all in accordance with the law and statute provided.
4. All resolutions and parts of Resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of the within Resolution are hereby rescinded.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Mark Feldpausch, Arlene Tonkin, Deborah Jackson, Matt Peake

The following vote "Nay": None

Absent: David Messelink

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted.

**SWBCSA O & M Delinquencies:**

Motion by Tonkin, second by Feldpausch to certify, in accordance with PA 188, for the 2019 tax roll, delinquencies for Sewer O&M--\$14,154.52 (fund 417) and Sewer Contracts--\$5,391.04 (fund 418), per attached list from SWBCSA, subject to revision November 1, 2019. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

**Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer Pay:**



Motion by Feldpausch, second by Tonkin to approve the pay schedule as follows:

\$50.00 for each pre-hearing inspections (per address) and actual mileage at current IRS reimbursement rate of 56.5 cents per mile.

\$100.00 base pay per hearing date and \$100.00 per hour for every hour after the first on the date of the hearing, in 15-minute increments, plus mileage to the Township Hall.

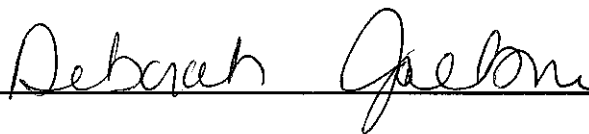
\$100.00, plus mileage, paid for single hearing that lasts 15 minutes.

\$150.00, plus mileage, paid for 4 (four) hearings that last a total of 1.5 hours.

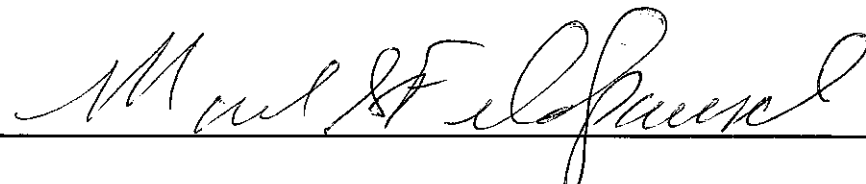
Roll call vote. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. Motion to close by Peake, second by Jackson. All in favor. Motion carried.



Deborah Jackson, Hope Township Clerk



Mark S. Feldpausch, Hope Township Supervisor

Date Oct 14, 2019

Status (circle one)

Tentative Minutes

Approved Minutes