

# Essex Township

## Clinton County, Michigan

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

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### 12/16/2015 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

Township Assessor Beth Botke, County Commissioner Kam Washburn

### VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS County Commissioner Kam Washburn

Washburn reported the County Commissioners committee on Personnel and Finance has voted to appoint Rex Ferguson to the Clinton Transit Board.

The Commissioners are planning to renovate the Green Haven juvenile retention facility in St. Johns. The renovations will cost approximately \$1 million. Washburn also reported that the State of Michigan is considering legislation that would increase the age considered to still be juveniles from 17 to 18. This will substantially increase the number of individuals serviced by this facility.

The Commissioners have purchased a new tile camera to be used by the Drain Commissioner. The camera is available to Townships and municipalities to rent if needed.

Two-thirds of the remonumentation project (which sets corners of the Townships for surveyors) is complete. Phil Hanses will take over the completion of this project. This program is funded by the State.

The State has passed road funding legislation. The plan will increase road funding to Townships approximately \$500,000 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, another \$500,000 in 2017-2018, and if there is any increase in the subsequent years, the funding will come out

of the general fund, and will need to be voted on by the legislature at that time. This means a more than 14% increase in roads funding to the Township in 2016-2017.

Township Assessor  
Beth Botke

The December Board of Review is complete. They reviewed two Principle Residence Exemptions. The minutes are filed.

Botke has measured all but one new construction in the Township. She is almost finished converting the Township to paperless filing..

APPROVAL OF  
10/21/2015 MEETING  
MINUTES

The reading of the 10/21/2015 regular meeting minutes was waived. George moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Supported by Ferguson. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

REVIEW OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed. Property guidelines were added to New Business.

TRUSTEES' REPORT  
Website

Ferguson recommended the Township consider a new website manager and **website** designed in the new fiscal year. Ferguson has been maintaining the website with software that has become obsolete. While it is still working, he thinks it would be beneficial to consider hiring a professional, or at least invest in new software in the coming fiscal year.

Cell tower

Ferguson reported that a 150' cell phone tower has been approved to be constructed on the Bengal Township property on M-21. The new tower should positively impact cell coverage throughout Essex Township.

CCAA meeting

Gavenda attended the Clinton County Ambulance Authority meeting, and reported the CCAA employee handbook is on hold as a few items are reviewed. Also, ambulance costs will rise per ride for patients. This is due mainly to raising mileage on trips.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the general fund balance is \$72,572.16. She reviewed income and expenditures since the last meeting. Ferguson moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bunn reviewed the general ledger for the fiscal year and reviewed checks #5546-5575.

Cemetery

Dean Leavitt has notified Bunn that his company does not wish to continue opening and closing graves for the Township. Bunn and

Wardin will continue to look for someone else. Leavitt has indicated he will continue until a replacement is found.

Elections

2016 elections will be held:  
March 8 – Presidential Primary  
May 3 – General election  
August 2 – State Primary  
Nov 8 – General Election

Bunn informed the Board she will be moving out of the Township in the spring or early summer 2016. She is looking for a new Deputy, who may be interested in continuing in the Clerk position for the remainder of her term, through November 2016. She will also consult with Michigan Townships Association to verify regulations for appointment. **Ferguson motioned to approve the Clerk’s report, supported by George. MPC.**

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT  
Townships Association  
meeting

Wardin attended the Clinton County Township Association meeting, and their 2016 meeting dates will be January 14, April 12, September 15, and November 17. Wardin will ask if the Association would want Essex Township to host the April 12 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS  
Federal Poverty Guidelines

The Board reviewed the Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2016. Bunn motioned to utilize the federal guidelines:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1 --	\$ 11,770
2 --	\$ 15,930
3 --	\$ 20,090
4 --	\$ 24,250
5 --	\$ 28,410
6 --	\$ 32,570
7 --	\$ 36,730
8 --	\$ 40,890

For each additional person \$4,160  
Ferguson supported the motion. MPC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Bunn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, supported by George. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held February 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Bunn  
Essex Township Clerk