

Essex Township - Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
June 17, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee James Gavenda, Trustee Mark Winsor, Treasurer Kathy George, Clerk Lori Conner

Visitors: Assessor Beth Botke, Commissioner Kam Washburn, Jody Smith, MaLissa Shutt, Rex Ferguson

Call to Order: Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

MaLissa Schutt and Jody Smith, Clinton Area Transit System

- Distributed literature regarding Clinton Transit.
- Outlined Clinton Transit's vision, response to Covid-19, and services.
- The August 4th Primary Election includes a millage proposal for Clinton Area Transit System.

Township Assessor Beth Botke

- Board of Review will meet Tuesday, July 21.
- Principle Residential Exemption deadline has been extended until July 1.
- Petitioners have until August 31, 2020, to file 2020 Property Tax Appeals with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Clinton County Commission Kam Washburn

- Update on Clinton County's response to Covid-19
 - o In March the board voted to declare a local state of emergency to qualify for aid.
 - o Fairgrounds have been closed. Motz Park remains open.
 - o Many county workers continue to work from home and county buildings, including jail and courthouse, are being sanitized daily.

Minutes of April 15, 2020 Meeting: Gavenda moved to approve the meeting minutes; supported by Winsor. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Line item "Treasurer's Report: D. Tax Roll" was added.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Gavenda:

- Ambulance runs are down.

Treasurer's Report:

- The general ledger for the period 4/1/20 – 6/5/20 was reviewed including checks #6367 - 6409.
- Checking balance is \$167,941.22.
- Tax checking balance is \$1100.20.
- CD Balance is \$8531.78.

- GovPayNet service for tax payments is set up and ready to use. Link to be added to website.
- Mercantile and Huntington bank fees compared.
- Gavenda moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Winsor. MPC.

Clerk's Report:

- Year to date budget was reviewed.
- Yearly contribution of \$4000.00 to be made to Maple Rapids Library.
- Absentee voter applications being sent to all Michigan voters by the state.
- Personal protection equipment needed for August and November elections. Winsor to investigate Plexiglas dividers.
- No opening and closing fees to be charged for cremains encased in headstones and sealed by monument company.
- George moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Supervisor's Report

- Insurance to be renewed with Burnham & Flower Insurance Group with no changes.
- Brine was applied to roads on May 11th. Additional applications in July and August if needed.
- Forest Hill bridge under construction. Police presence increased on detour and Mead Road to address speeding.
- Jack Anderson fixed lock on mausoleum door in Sowle Cemetery.
- Ferralls Tree Service removed fallen tree limb in Sowle Cemetery.
- Ferralls scheduled to fix additional tree damage in cemeteries
- Dan Lowe cut tree limb in Sowle Cemetery that fell during wind storm.
- Fence in Lowe Cemetery damaged by fallen tree. Wardin to contact Troy Bancroft to ask permission to do repairs since fence is on property line.
- Jim Bancroft cut and cleaned up tree limb that fell in Beech Cemetery.

Old Business:

New Business:

- An application for a variance has been submitted to Clinton County Planning and Zoning by Adam Baudoux (ZC-02-20 VR). Applicant is requesting an 8' variance to the side yard setback (where 20' is the required minimum side yard setback) to add on a mud room that would connect the existing detached garage to the existing house. The property is located at 5642 N. Lowell Road. The township board has no objection to the variance.

Adjournment: Wardin adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held August 26, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Conner, Essex Township Clerk