

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

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

4/15/2015 REGULAR MEETING

Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 8:00 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

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Kam Washburn

County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activity and votes taken by the County Commissioners, including:
The County Parks and Greenspace Commission did not qualify for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant they had applied for. The intention of the grant application was for seeding land surrounding the west side of Motz Park (to the south of the lake). The County will likely be funding part of that initiative.

The State of Michigan requires each Township to have land-value maps. The County now has the capability to create these maps, at minimal cost to the Townships. The maps, when completed, will be on file with the Township Assessor and available for public view upon request.

The County has received grant funding to have additional Sheriff Deputy Patrol; primarily for holidays.

The County has nearly finalized its health insurance plan. It looks like an approximate 3% increase in cost over last the last contract.

Washburn is in favor of the County providing the Conservation District with more funding. The County currently supports the Conservation District at \$5,000. Washburn would like to see an increase in the next budget.

Drain Commissioner Phil Hanses presented the Drain Report to the County Commissioners. Hanses may be looking to add part-time employee to his staff, as his office is getting busier.

APPROVAL OF 2/18/2015
MEETING MINUTES

The reading of the 3/18/2015 meeting minutes was waived. Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

REVIEW OF THE
AGENDA

Bunn added Clerk-C. Cemeteries

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Ferguson contacted Burr Fisher with the Fisheries and Wildlife Service regarding updates to the proposed wind energy conversion system in Essex Township, specifically in light of the established lakes at Motz Park, and the effect on migratory bird patterns. He was advised that the best way to determine impact on birds and bats is to conduct a post-construction study performed. Fisher also suggested having the construction permit require such a study. Ferguson also contacted the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division, and was advised the DNR is no longer conducting environmental reviews due to funding cuts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George reported the General Fund balance is \$142,551.94. She reviewed income and expenditures since the last meeting. Bunn motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

CLERK'S REPORT

Bunn reported on expenditures #5446-5454 and income since the March meeting, and reviewed the general ledger for the fiscal year.

Cemeteries

Bunn reported she has sold two spaces in the Lowe cemetery, and contracted to have a foundation poured by James Bancroft. She also reported a burial in the Sowle Cemetery is planned for Saturday, April 18 at noon. The burial is for a decorated veteran, and Bunn will have a flag and holder on site for the burial.

Election

Bunn motioned to appoint Pam Snyder (Republican-Chair), Jack Anderson (Republican), James Cleaver (Democrat), Mary Ellen Pung (Democrat), Sharon Pung (Democrat), and Tammy Wainright (Democrat) as Election Inspectors for the May 5, 2015 Special Election. Cleaver, M Pung, S Pung and Wainright will work half-day. Motion supported by Wardin. MPC.

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
CCRC Road projects and
contracts

Wardin, Ferguson and Gavenda met with the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC) to discuss this year's proposed road projects. They learned the Township's share of the Findlay Road Bridge project will be \$75,000. Bunn contacted Dan Armentrout, Director of Engineering for CCRC, and he said the Road Commission is agreeable to the Township spreading payments over several budget years. After review and discussion of the proposed road projects, the Board agreed there is a couple of pressing maintenance issues in the Township, and while there is not money to complete all projects with the bridge construction imminent, the Board wishes to complete as many as possible. Bunn motioned to sign a contract for:

Chip Seal of McIntosh Road (.75 miles) \$6,000
Brush and foliar spray throughout Township \$5,840
Findlay Road Bridge payment \$33,160
George supported the motion. MPC.

Clinton County Planning
Commission ordinance
clarification/amendment

The Clinton County Planning Commission is trying to clarify language in the Clinton County Zoning Ordinance, regarding the Agricultural Homestead Lot portion of the ordinance. The largest change to the ordinance would be in regards to a reduction in the minimum parcel size for a historically agricultural associated single-family dwelling to be divided from the agriculturally productive portion of the property. The parent parcel would not be allowed to be less than 20 acres, under the new language. The current ordinance stipulates the parent parcel cannot be less than 40-acres. The Board does not see any problems with the proposed amendment, but would like to consult Essex Township Assessor Beth Botke for her recommendation. Wardin will contact Botke.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Ferguson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk