

DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP

November 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order on November 11, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Duplain Township Hall by Supervisor Bruce Levey with the following board members present; Bruce Levey, Richard Bates, Amy Bowen, Dennis Baese and Robert Ladiski.

VISITORS: Dawn Levey, Kam Washburn, Mark Holley, Diane Bates, Doug Sturgis and Sandra Frink.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America after which there was a moment of silence to honor fallen veterans.

A motion was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski to approve the agenda as presented Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk R Bates read the minutes of the October 14, 2020 regular meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer A Bowen read the General Fund Financial Report with a combined balance of \$144,231.23. A motion to approve was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski.

Treasurer A Bowen informed the board that the CD balance is \$13,113.51. A motion to approve was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski.

Treasurer A Bowen read the Emergency Fund (Money Market) Report with a combined balance of \$111,049.02 and the Checking Account balance of \$1,322.00. A motion to approve was made by D Baese and supported R Ladiski.

Treasurer A Bowen read the Tax Account Report with a balance of \$5,040.77. A motion to approve was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski. All motions above carried unanimously.

VISITING OFFICIALS: N/A

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters were received from Charter Communication, Michigan Department of Treasury, Clinton County Department of Equalization and Michigan Township Association.

SHERIFF REPORT: N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor B Levey informed the board that he has been in contact with agent John Johnson of Burnham & Flower, the townships' insurance company regarding liability coverage on the Elsie Bridge and at this time there is still no coverage. Photos of recent work on the bridge to prohibit pedestrian traffic on the bridge have been submitted to the risk assessor. Talks will continue to determine just what the township has to do to qualify for liability coverage. Also Trustee D Baese informed the board that work is being done on Sevy Road and Supervisor B Levey stated that he has checked on Chandler Road and it seems to be in good condition.

A motion was made by R Ladiski and supported by D Baese to nominate newly elected Clerk Sandra Frink to be Notary Public for Duplain Township. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk R Bates informed the board that the installation of an updated chart of accounts has been completed which brings the Duplain Townships' budget up to the Michigan Department Treasury required standards.

Discussion took place on the surveying issue between the Duplain Church of Christ and adjacent land owners. Supervisor B Levey will check with the Michigan Township Association regarding the townships liability. Input was received from Clinton County Commissioner K Washburn and Assessor Dr. Mark Holley on possible action and the possibility of the affected land owners to work out a solution between their selves. At this point it is still a work in progress.

Treasurer A Bowen is working with Danette Cramer to transfer finances and maintenance costs from the Friendship Park to Duplain Township.

NEW BUSINESS

D Baese representing the Elsie Fire/Rescue Department informed the board that there were 3 fire runs in October, 55 runs year to date and 10 rescue runs with 189 year to date runs. Also that the audit has been completed and all is well.

Clerk R Bates gave a report on the November 3, 2020 General Election stating that there were 1336 ballots cast of which 577 were absentee ballots and 759 walk ins equating to a 75.3 % participation rate of township qualified voters. The presidential results were Trump 852 votes and Biden receiving 451 votes. All incumbent board members were reelected with Sandra Frink being elected to Duplain Township Clerk replacing retiring Clerk R Bates. All proposals passed and there were 18 same day voter registrations. Walk in traffic was steady throughout the day which meant that over 500 absentee ballots were tabulated after the polls closed at 8:00 PM. The move to the American Legion Hall was well received by the voters giving them ample space to practice physical distancing and after all the ballots were tabulated and the Epoll Book balanced we closed out and left the building at 1:30 AM on November 4th. Clerk R Bates delivered the Duplain Township election results to the county by 2:00 AM on the 4th and was informed that everything was acceptable.

Supervisor B Levey informed the board of external lighting issues with the library and that he will investigate to determine if the bulbs need replacing or if there is other issues requiring work to be done by an electrician.

Treasurer A Bowen will work with the newly elected clerk Sandra Frink to complete the required documentation for her to be added as an authorized signer at Journey Federal Credit Union for Duplain Township accounts and to remove Richard Bates as an authorized signer. Sandra Frink will begin her term on November 20, 2020. Clerk R Bates informed Clerk S Frink that all township office equipment and supplies currently at the Bates' home office will be turned over to her prior to November 20, 2020.

A motion was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski to accept Scott Cunningham as the Clinton County Designated Assessor. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski to have the whole township board attend classes offered by the Michigan Township Association for a flat rate of \$350.00. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk R Bates will facilitate.

Trustee R Ladiski asked about the repairs to the Duplain Township markers damaged by a storm earlier this year and was informed that Supervisor B Levey will contact the previous contractor to determine if he is still going to do the work and if not he will seek alternatives from a monument company to see if they can recommend someone to do the repairs.

Clinton County Commissioner: K Washburn commented on the present conditions at the county level on the current COVID19 pandemic stating that of last week there were 16 deaths in Clinton County. 64 lap top computers have been purchased as county work is being done remotely by several employees. Inmates at the county jail are being guaranteed and trials are being temporarily delayed due to Covid 19. The budget has been completed and accepted stating that Clinton County is in excellent financial condition. As a side note Clerk R Bates stated that he was concerned that he was the last clerk to deliver election results to the county but K Washburn informed the board that the last clerk to deliver their results took place at 8:00 AM so I wasn't the last one.

Assessor Dr. Mark Holley informed the board that township property owner's taxable values will increase 1.4% and that next month poverty exemptions will be considered. It is possible that the Board of Review will meet in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane Bates stated that she was pleased and relieved that on the Monday before the election Clerk R Bates received a call from the Clinton County Sheriff informing him that there will be a presence of law enforcement in the area on election day and that if there are any issues to call 911 and someone will respond in minutes.

A motion was made by D Baese and supported by A Bowen to amend the budget by transferring the following amounts from 101-102 Unallocated Balance to the following accounts listed: \$200.00 to 215-702 Clerk Wages, \$200.00 to 191-727 Printing & Publishing, \$2,000.00 to 191-802 Election Wages. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills in the amount of \$29,661.10 were presented by Clerk R Bates and a motion to pay the bills as presented was made by D Baese and supported by A Bowen. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by D Baese and supported by R Ladiski to pay the Elsie Fire Department \$1,500.00 from the Emergency Service Fund for runs 20-051, 053, 054. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer A Bowen presented a copy of the Duplain Township Newsletter for the boards' perusal and input before it is published containing contact phone numbers and current email addresses. Everything is correct and it was accepted.

There was a brief ceremony celebrating the retirement of Clerk Richard Bates and Deputy Clerk Diane Bates after sixteen years of service.

There was no further business so a motion to adjourn was made by D Baese and supported by A Bowen. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM, November 11, 2020

Richard Bates
Duplain Township Clerk