

**Essex Township - Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
February 16, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Carla Wardin, Treasurer Kathy George, Clerk Lori Conner

**Visitors:** Assessor Beth Botke; Commissioner Kam Washburn, Bonnie Hale, Tim Karasek, Jim Miller

**Call to Order:** Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Visitor Statements:**

Beth Botke, Assessor:

- Assessment notices are ready for mailing. Direct mailing being considered for cost saving.
- Tentative ratios and estimated multiplies for each class of property for 2022 are as follows:
  - o Agricultural (48.48, 1.03135); Residential (45.07, 1.10939); Industrial (50.99, .98058); Commercial (48.86, 1.02333); Developmental: No change; Personal Property (50.00, 1.0000)
- Combined Board of Review to be held at Greenbush Township Hall on March 16 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and March 17 (3 p.m. – 9 p.m.)

Kam Washburn, Clinton County Commissioner

- New 911 system to be operational by March 8, 2022
- 133 businesses received funding from the small business grant program
- The Clinton County Road Commission is scheduled to begin construction on new building in April.
- Clinton County has completed its study on broadband and had 2200 responses. Limited internet capacity is area of concern.
- Some townships in Clinton County are reconsidering allowing marijuana establishments within their township.
- A group is applying for state funds to hard surface the Fred Meijer trail.
- Washburn was elected chairman for 2022 and will be retiring after this year.

Bonnie Hale

- Introduced self and outlined qualifications for the clerk position.

Tim Karasek

- Introduced self and outlined qualifications for the clerk position.

Jim Miller, Les Miller and Sons, Aggregates

- Presented grave digging services contract for renewal. Prices will remain the same, but cost to remove dirt increased from \$50 to \$75 / burial, as needed.

**Minutes of December 16, 2021 Meeting:** Wardin moved to approve the meeting minutes; supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

**Additions and Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. The following items were added to New Business: A. Cemetery contracts and B. Adoption of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Direct mailings (Line B.) was added to the Treasurer's Report. May 3<sup>rd</sup> Election (Line B.) was added to the Clerk's Report.

**Trustee Reports:** None

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The general ledger for the period 12/15/21 – 2/10/22 was reviewed including checks #7240 - 7258.
- General checking account balance: \$129,393.77.
- Tax account balance: \$160,307.11.
- Cemetery CD balance: \$6730.52.
- George will continue to mail newsletter. Botke will try direct mailing for assessing bills.
- Wardin moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Conner. MPC.

**Clerk's Report:**

- Year-to-date budget was reviewed.
- A consolidated election will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gratiot Isabella RESD has a proposal on the ballot.
- Wardin moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by George. MPC.

**Supervisor's Report:**

- Proposed budget for FY22-23 was reviewed. Cost of living adjustment being considered for board member salaries.
- The Clinton County Road Commission has determined that no bridge work is needed in 2022.
- Brine contracts have been signed for 2022. Essex Township roads will receive three applications of brine at the cost of \$37,308.30.
- Use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was discussed.

**New Business:**

- Wardin moved to accept the grave digging services contract presented by Les Miller and Sons; supported by George. MPC.
- Wardin moved to accept the cemetery lawn care contract presented by James Bancroft; supported by George. MPC.
- Wardin moved to accept the 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines; supported by George. MPC.

**Adjournment:** Wardin adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held March 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Conner, Essex Township Clerk