

**Essex Township - Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
August 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee James Gavenda, Trustee Mark Winsor, Clerk Lori Conner

**Visitors:** Assessor Beth Botke, Commissioner Kam Washburn, Cemetery Manager Bonnie Hale, Glen Feldpausch

**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:**

Glen Feldpausch, Essex Township Resident

- Solar energy companies have been contacting area land owners in an effort to rent land to construct solar facilities.
- Expressed concern that large solar farms could disrupt the efficiency of current agricultural land use.

Beth Botke, Township Assessor

- Board of Review met on July 20, 2021
  - o 14 petitions were reviewed (1 veteran exemption, 7 principal residence exemptions, 6 qualified ag exemptions)
- L-4029 is complete for Essex Township

Kam Washburn, Clinton County Commissioner

- Liz Braddock is the new director of the Mid-Michigan District Health Department.
- Clinton County is investigating ways to spend American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. County buildings are being inventoried to determine work that may be covered.
- A Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant has been awarded to Motz Park to be used to improve parking and accessibility on the west side.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Adoption of L-4029 to be added to new business.

**Trustee Reports:** None

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The general ledger for the period 6/1/21 – 8/9/21 was reviewed including checks #7148 – 7179.
- Checking balance is \$110,048.73.
- Tax checking balance is \$100,532.46.
- CD Balance is \$6730.52.

**Clerk's Report:**

- Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was reviewed.
- An election is to be held on November 2, 2021. On the ballot are two millage renewal proposals for Fulton Schools. Election to be consolidated with Fulton Township.
- Gavenda moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by Winsor. MPC.

**Supervisor's Report:**

- The mausoleum in Sowle Cemetery was vandalized. A name plate was damaged and will be replaced with an existing plaque from an unused vault. Mark Winsor and Bonnie Hale to coordinate repairs.
- ARPA funds have not yet been allocated but will need to be earmarked by 2026.
- The Briggs Library Board will have an open township seat beginning in January of 2022. Briggs is looking for members from either Essex or Riley Township who would be willing to serve a four year term.
- Next application of brine is scheduled for September 2. All other scheduled road work is complete. Gavenda noted Essex Center Road may be in need of extra brine.
- Solar energy facilities were discussed and ordinances from Bengal Township, Dallas Township, and Clinton County were reviewed. Wardin to contact township lawyer and area township supervisors for guidance.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Wardin moved to accept the L-4029 as presented by Botke, supported by Winsor. MPC.

**Adjournment:** Wardin adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held October 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Conner, Essex Township Clerk