

GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP MINUTES

Monday, November 18th, 2024 at 7pm

Attendance:

All board members were present.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Thelen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present. *(Note: A power outage occurred at approximately 6:45 PM at the Township Hall. The meeting proceeded with the assistance of a battery backup. Power was restored at 7:20 PM.)*

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion was made by Graham to accept the agenda as presented.
 - *Seconded by Kindel*
 - **Motion Passed**

Clinton County Sheriff's Report:

Clerk Smith provided the monthly email report to the board. The board commended the Clinton County Sheriff's Department for its efficiency. Residents are reminded that property checks are available for those away from home for extended periods.

CAAS Report:

Budget meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024. CAAS is drafting new by-laws to accommodate larger employment and operational requirements. Four rigs are currently operational and well-maintained, with plans to add a fifth in the future.

St. Johns Fire Department:

Supervisor Thelen attended a meeting with City Manager Chad Gamble and township supervisors under contract with SJFD. The purpose was to review contract details and ensure service quality. Supervisor Thelen reported the meeting was productive, emphasizing the importance of strong communication for resident safety.

Reading & Approval of Previous Months Minutes:

- Motion was made by Graham to approve the minutes as presented and dispense with their reading.
 - *Seconded by Kindel*
 - **Motion Passed**

Treasurer's Report & Approval of Invoice Payments:

Treasurer Roof presented the board members with the balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and checks numbered 14633 to 14653, along with the ACH, EFTPS, for approval and authorization of the respective payments.

- Motion was made by Clerk Smith to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payments..
 - *Seconded by Graham*
 - **Motion Passed**

Correspondence:

None

Public Comment (regarding to anything other than agenda items):

None

County Commissioner Report:

Val Vail-Shirey attended the meeting and reported on a Senate bill that proposes transferring zoning authority for gravel pit facilities and their production to state government control. Given the number of gravel companies in our county, this is an issue to monitor closely. Residents are encouraged to contact their representatives via phone or email to voice their concerns.

Vail-Shirey also announced that her term will conclude on December 31, 2024, and expressed her gratitude for the support she has received from Greenbush Township. Both the board and residents thanked her for her dedication to the county and her efforts in keeping the community well-informed.

Assessors Report:

Absent due to conflicting meetings. The Board of Review (BOR) will meet at the Greenbush Township Hall on Tuesday, December 10th.

Old Business:

Road Report:

Finalization of all road contracts has been completed. The township is currently awaiting a few outstanding invoices, which will allow the preparation of numbers for the 2025–2026 fiscal year budget.

Green Energy:

The Planning Commission voted unanimously (5–0) to deny the ESA's request for further changes to the solar and windmill applications. The commission determined that the current application is sufficient to meet the county's needs and declined to accept the proposed modifications.

Board of Commissioners Meeting:

Residents are strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting, where a battery ordinance will be on the agenda for discussion. At the last meeting, Foster & Swift announced their intention to pursue a lawsuit against the State of Michigan regarding the right for local jurisdictions to maintain control over zoning, rather than relinquishing authority to the state. Several jurisdictions expressed their willingness to support the lawsuit, both legally and financially.

- A motion was made by Graham to allocate \$250, with the potential of up to \$1,000, from the township budget to contribute toward legal services for this effort. The Amount will be paid when an invoice is received from the County.
 - *Seconded by Kindel* Roll Call Vote:
 - **Ayes: 5, Nays: 0**
 - **Motion Passed**

Election Update:

Clerk Smith reported that the November 5, 2024, presidential election was a success:

- **Registered Voters:** 1,891
- **Absentee Ballots:** 534 returned ballots
- **Military Ballots:** 4 received
- **Early Votes:** 326

Greenbush Township achieved an impressive voter turnout of at least 80%. All current board members were reelected to four-year terms and expressed their sincere appreciation to the community for their support.

Clerk Smith also commended the election officials, who managed four elections in one year. Their dedication and effort ensured the success of each election, going above and beyond expectations.

New Business:

Snow Removal Bids:

Smith LawnScapes and Clark's Landscapes were both considered for winter services.

- A motion was made by Kindel to accept the bid from Smith LawnScapes for the upcoming winter months.
 - *Seconded by Graham*
 - **Motion Passed**

Clerk Smith will contact Smith LawnScapes to provide the township's meeting dates and coordinate any additional service requirements.

Additional Public Comment:

Discussion continues regarding the concerns of retaining local control over zoning. Resident Donna Graham inquired whether the cost of maintaining local zoning authority is the primary obstacle and asked what other townships are considering on this matter. Supervisor Thelen has been in contact with various townships and suggested organizing a collective meeting to share opinions and assess whether retaining zoning control would be a suitable solution for each individual township.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Kindel
 - *Seconded by Graham*
 - **Motion Passed**

Adjourned: 8:55pm

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2024 at 7pm

Supervisor Lee Thelen

Clerk Ramona Smith