

**Essex Township - Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
April 21, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Supervisor Carla Wardin, Trustee James Gavenda, Trustee Mark Winsor, Treasurer Kathy George, Clerk Lori Conner

Visitors: Assessor Beth Botke, Commissioner Kam Washburn, Jim and Ida Bancroft, Bonnie Hale, Doug Riley

Call to Order: Township Supervisor Carla Wardin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Beth Botke, Township Assessor

- Currently completing second phase of CAMA Data Standards.

Kam Washburn, Clinton County Commissioner

- Covid cases are increasing throughout the county and vaccinations are being administered at Smith Hall.
- Clinton County is project to receive 14.5 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan to address Covid related issues.
- Clinton County will reup the local state of emergency.

Doug Riley, Community Development Director

- Reviewed Clinton County's comprehensive plan and future land use maps.
- Essex continues to be primarily zoned agricultural.
- Development is strong in Essex Township and there are currently no enforcement cases.

Jim and Ida Bancroft, Cemetery Maintenance

- Removed winter flowers and grave blankets from cemeteries.
- Three historical cemetery account books were donated to the township's records.

Bonnie Hale, Cemetery Manager

- Monitoring dead tree branches and will send pictures to Carla of trees that require trimming.

Minutes of March 17, 2021 Meeting: Gavenda moved to approve the meeting minutes; supported by George. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Gavenda:

- The Maple Rapids Fire Department (MRFD) has hired two new fire fighters.

Treasurer's Report:

- The general ledger for the period 3/1/21 – 4/15/21 was reviewed including checks #7095 – 7118.

- Checking balance is \$158,625.44.
- Tax checking balance is \$7697.42.
- CD Balance is \$6730.52.
- Newsletter article ideas include: road projects, new fire department hires, cemetery rules.
- Wardin moved to accept the treasurer's report, supported by Winsor. MPC.

Clerk's Report:

- Budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were reviewed.
- Conner moved to reallocate \$5.00 from Assessor: Supplies (account 257-752) to Assessor: Contract Compensation (account 257-801); supported by Wardin. MPC. (FY Budget 2020-2021).
- Cemetery pricing updates:
 - o Jim Bancroft will open and close infant graves at the same price as cremation burials. Openings to be 16" X 24" or less.
 - o Multiple cremation burials will be charged base rate of one cremation burials plus \$50 recording fee for each additional interment in same opening.
- Wardin moved to accept the clerk's report, supported by Gavenda. MPC.

Supervisor's Report

- 2021 road project contracts were signed and include:
 - o Brush Spray
 - o Gravel: Findlay Road (Lowe to Island), Maple Avenue (Hyde to Island), Mead Road (Forest Hill to Wacousta), Wacousta Road (Colony to Stone), Hyde Road (Forest Hill to Essex Center)
 - o Culvert on Wacousta Road between Colony and Stone
- Total cost of road work is \$100,740.10. Cost share from the road commission is \$35,854.04.
- Three applications of brine are scheduled at a cost of \$37,308.30.
- Essex Township anticipates receiving money from the American Rescue Fund, but is waiting for official notification.
- Roads millage is set to expire in 2022. Tentatively plan to include millage request on primary election ballot, August 2022.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Gavenda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m, supported by Winsor. MPC. The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be held June 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Conner, Essex Township Clerk