

Essex Township

Clinton County, Michigan

Lynn Ferguson, Supervisor
Angela Bunn, Clerk
Patti Warnke, Treasurer
Rex Ferguson, Trustee
Aurelio (Hank) Zamarron, Trustee

4/16/2014 REGULAR MEETING Township Supervisor Lynn Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Maple Rapids Community Center. He began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Present: Supervisor Lynn Ferguson, Trustee Hank Zamarron, Trustee Rex Ferguson, Treasurer Patti Warnke and Clerk Angi Bunn

VISITORS Deputy Supervisor Carla Wardin, Deputy Treasurer Kathy George, County Commissioner Kam Washburn, Essex Township Assessor Greg Armbrustmacher

VISITOR CONCERNS AND STATEMENTS Deputy Treasurer Kathy George introduced herself to the Board. She gave an overview of her professional background, which includes her current position as a dental hygienist, as well as previous banking experience.

Kam Washburn County Commissioner Kam Washburn reported on recent activities and actions taken by the County Commissioners. Washburn explained that Clinton County will receive approximately \$390,000 of State of Michigan funds for road maintenance. This is part of a State roads project that will disperse \$500,000,000 to Counties for road projects. Clinton County Road Commission Director Joe Pulver has told the County Commissioners that even with the State funds, the CCRC budget is facing a \$40,000 deficit as a result of the harsh winter.

The County Commissioners voted to approve plans for improvements to the Clinton County Fairgrounds. The improvements will focus on the snack shack, fair office, a milking station in the dairy barn for demonstration purposes, and new tables for Peck Hall. The changes will be paid for with donated funds to the Clinton County 4-H.

Assessor Greg
Armbrustmacher

Assessor Armbrustmacher reported that the Essex Township Board of Review went well.

Armbrustmacher worked with Supervisor Ferguson to draft a letter to the State Tax Commission, regarding the 2013 AMAR Review. All of the changes requested by the AMAR have been completed by Assessor Armbrustmacher. He also presented a two-year contract to the Board to continue serving Essex Township.

APPROVAL OF 3/19/2014 MEETING MINUTES

The reading of the 3/19/2014 meeting minutes was waived. There being no changes or corrections noted, R. Ferguson moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Supported by Zamarron. Motion passed and carried (MPC).

ADDITIONS/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bunn asked to add Clerk; C. Audit, Warnke asked to add to New Business; E. Deputy Pay.

NEW BUSINESS Planning and Zoning Commission information

Supervisor Ferguson has acquired some additional information about the Township establishing a Planning and Zoning Commission. He will circulate the information among the Board, so they have the opportunity to become familiar with the new information before discussing.

Roads and bridges millage request

The Board discussed adding a millage request on the November general election ballot. The Clerk will prepare a resolution and ballot language for the June meeting.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT CCRC meeting

Trustee Ferguson and Supervisor Ferguson attended the annual meeting between Essex Township and the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC). R. Ferguson reported that CCRC is willing to meet with any Board member who has questions about Township roads or bridges. They also discussed the Findlay Road Bridge, and the possibility of that bridge being replaced with a new style of bridge abutment. If the new style is used, the Township's 5% local funding would be waived on the project. CCRC is conducting hydraulic studies to determine if the abutment style would work in that area.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported the income and expenditures since the last meeting. The balance in the general fund is \$114,852.83.

R. Ferguson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, supported by Bunn. MPC.

Township banking	Warnke motioned to continue using Firstbank for the Township's banking needs for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Motion supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.
CLERK'S REPORT	The Clerk reported on expenditures 5264-5273. There have been payments on two fire runs since the last meeting, and no new runs to report. Warnke motioned to approve the Clerk's report, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.
Audit	Bunn motioned to use Abraham & Gaffney; P.C. for the Township's 2012-2014 audit. Motion supported by Zamarron. MPC.
SUPERVISOR'S REPORT Improper burial correction	A burial in the Lowe Cemetery was positioned in the wrong lot. Supervisor Ferguson has been in contact with the family of the deceased, as well as the vault company and Dean Levitt, who digs graves for the Township. He is coordinating to have the remains moved to the proper space. The vault company has agreed to move the vault free gratis if they are in the area for another burial.
County drain maintenance	Maintenance on the County Drains will include cutting and trimming trees within the Township.
CAASA meeting	Supervisor Ferguson asked Board members to check their calendars, as he needs a representative from the Township at the June 19 and August 21 Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority (CAASA) meetings.
NEW BUSINESS CAASA budget review	The CAASA budget was reviewed, and L. Ferguson motioned to approve their capital outlay budget, which includes a plan to purchase a new truck, as well as other equipment. Bunn supported. MPC.
CCRC agreement on Findlay Road Bridge	The Board reviewed the CCRC's proposed bid to replace the bridge located on Findlay Road, over the Hayworth (utilizing critical bridge funds). The estimated total cost of the project is \$460,000.00, with the local share estimated at \$60,000.00. Warnke motioned to approve the agreement for improvement, project number 490.008.084001, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.
Mineral brine application	Warnke motioned to approve the CCRC agreement for mineral well brine on 54.07 miles of Township roads. CCRC will apply three applications, with a total of 216,000 gallons applied. Motion supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.

Other road projects	Other road projects were tabled, as Supervisor Ferguson has questions about the estimates, and wishes to meet with CCRC again before presenting to the Board.
Township deputies' compensation	The Board discussed the necessity of having active Deputies for the Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk. The Board reviewed the policy of other Townships in the County, and many compensate their Deputies. Warnke motioned to pay the Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Supervisor \$750 per year. Motion supported by R. Ferguson. MPC.
Transfer of funds	L. Ferguson motioned to move \$1,000 from unallocated funds to the Deputy Supervisor, Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Clerk categories of the budget; for a total of \$3,000 transferred. R. Ferguson supported. MPC.
Board transitions	Trustee Zamarron announced his intention to step down from the Essex Township Board after the 2016 election. Treasurer Warnke announced her intention to step down from her position in June. Deputy Treasurer George is training with Warnke, and is attending training sessions. Warnke expects any transitions to go smoothly.
ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business before the Board, Bunn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm, supported by R. Ferguson. MPC The next regular meeting of the Essex Township Board will be June 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Maple Rapids Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Bunn
Essex Township Clerk