

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

March 19, 2025 @ 7:30pm

Members Present: Supervisor Eric Verlinde, Clerk Tim Karasek, Treasurer Kathy George, Trustee Jacob Klaus, Trustee Israel O'Boyle

Visitors: Zach Rudat- Clinton County Commissioner, Beth Botke- Assessor, Jody Smith- Clinton Transit, David Smith.

Call to Order: Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:31pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Zach Rudat- Clinton County Commissioner

- Now livestreaming County Commission meetings.
- Discussion on changes in liability insurance rates on the fairgrounds.
- LEAP (Lansing Economic Advancing Partnership) tanking about not renewing Clinton County partnership.
- Recently adopted a lower decibel threshold for nighttime wind farms.
- No definitive action on new jail plans.

Beth Botke- Assessor

- Board of Review for Essex Township had 14 petitions.
 - o 12 tracts by same individual stayed the same
 - o 1 recapped for family transfer
 - o 1 denied, Board felt they were accurate.
- Assessed value:
 - o '24 - \$153,640,400
 - o '25 - \$170,788,400
- Taxable value increased from \$81,251,936 to \$85,330,450

David Smith

- Discussion on \$100 million St. Johns School Bond Proposal. Urging voters to move to a sinking fund.

Jody Smith- Clinton Transit

- Microtransit running in the City of St. Johns, fifty cents per ride.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of the February 19, 2025 Board Minutes.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Tim Karasek: **MCU**

Additions to the Agenda:

1. Cemetery
2. Bittinger drain assessment.

M. Jacob Klaus, S. Kathy George. MCU

Trustee Report: Jacob Klaus

- Still running through CAAS bylaws.
- Proposed \$15 to \$16 per household increase in assessment.

Treasurers Report: Kathy George,

- Review of Transaction Detail Report.
- 2024 Tax Report: Tax season went well. 97.9% paid their taxes on time.
- Wind and Solar: Appeal of the MPSC interpretation still up in the air.

M. Tim Karasek, S. Isreal O'Boyle: Accept the Treasurers Report as presented. MCU

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek,

- Discussions on financials.

MOTION: Move \$1280 from 567-704 to:

567-920- \$30.00

567-928- \$1250.00

Move \$90.00 from 101-704 to 101-915.

M. Kathy George, S. Eric Verlinde MCU

MOTION: Amend the 2025-2026 proposed budget as follows:

445-958; \$3000

567-920; \$475

M. Kathy George, S. Eric Verlinde MCU

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Kathy George: Accept the proposed budget as amended. MCU

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Israel O'Boyle: Accept the clerks report as presented. MCU

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- Discussion on 2025 Road Projects totaling \$157,193.14

MOTION: Accept the 2025 road improvements as presented with a total of \$137,433.14 expenditure and a Road Commission cost share of \$41,797.86.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Kathy George. **MCU**

- Tri County Homeworks requested a letter of support for the Bead Grant Internet Program.

- Discussion on the Bittinger Drain Assessment.

MOTION: Accept the \$13250 bid from GrassMasters to contract for cemetery lawn and maintenance for 2025.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Tim Karasek. **MCU**

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

1. Motion to transfer \$20,000 from the proposed 2025-2026 Budget from account 446-960 to a new income line item entitled "Roads and Bridges Fund".

M. Kathy George, **S.** Eric Verlinde. **MCU**

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 8:56pm.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Tim Karasek. **MCU**

Next Meeting April 16, 2025 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk