

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
March 14, 2023  
7:00 pm

Rita Goul, Supervisor  
Carol Coyle, Clerk  
Starleen Eddy, Treasurer  
Mary Letts, Trustee  
Daniel Mieske, Trustee

**Visitors:**

*List with Clerk's copy*

**TOWNSHIP MEETING CALL TO ORDER:**

Township meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor, Rita Goul.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Carol Coyle, Present, Starleen Eddy, Present, Dan Mieske Present, Mary Letts, Present, Rita Goul, Present.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

1. Dave Rothman, representative from Four Lakes Task Force, gave an update/progress on the restoration of the four lakes. Questions from the floor were answered.
2. Bridgette Grandsen and Helen Myers from the Midland County Internet Connectivity Committee were present to share and update the Township on the broadband initiatives taking place. Questions from the floor were answered and there are informational documents available in the Clerk's office.
3. Chris Gaumer from the Midland County Equalization department presented the new Interlocal Agreement put in to place as he is new in the position. Copy of the agreement is available in the Clerk's office. Motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement by Starleen and supported by Rita. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Mary and supported by Starleen. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

1. New Board chairs have been purchased using ARPA funds in the amount for \$595.00.
2. Work on the new budget will be starting. Please have new budget proposals to the Supervisor by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members by Monday, March 13th, 2023, (complete copy of the Board packet on file in Clerk's office). Motion to accept the minutes with two additions by Starleen and supported by Dan. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:** Winter taxes are complete. The Financial report was provided in the Board packet. There were 10 point and pay. Motion to ACCEPT AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT by Mary and supported by Rita. Roll call vote: Carol YES, Starleen YES, Mary YES, Dan YES, Rita YES. MOTION CARRIED.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

1. Payment of Bills: In the Board packet was a copy of the bills from the General Fund, Fire Fund, Road Fund, Tax Fund, Solid Waste fund, Water Fund and Lakeshore Fund. Motion for payment of bills was made by Rita and Supported by Starleen. Roll call vote: Dan YES, Mary YES, Starleen YES, Carol YES, Rita Yes. MOTION CARRIED.
2. Bank Reconciliations were provided in the Board packet. Prepared by Deputy Clerk and reviewed by the Supervisor and Treasurer. Outstanding checks were noted. No questions from Board members.

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
March 14, 2023  
7:00 pm

3. Payroll Summary and Liability Report for the Fire Department and Township was presented in the Board packet. No questions from Board members.
4. Credit Card Charges- No charges in the month.
5. Budget vs. Expense report was provided and reminded everyone to review their budget. No questions from Board members.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Brian Solomon was provided information on two bids for drawings for the new fire hall. One bid was from Three Rivers for \$3900.00 and one from Spicer Engineering for \$9200.00. Will be using Three Rivers to do the drawings and grant writer assistance. This process may take 4-6 weeks to get to get the drawings. The estimated cost will be around \$2,000,000.00. Brian hopes to get all the funding through grants. The new fire hall will be located on the corner of Middle and Shearer Schearer road. The fire department is looking for more volunteers for the daytime calls. Currently, there are 17 members. A plan has been put into place where Mills and Edenville fire departments will assist with calls. There were 5 calls in February of which 4 were medical and 1 car crash.

**PARK COMMISSION:** Rita noted the Park meeting was informative and the commission should be happy the Webber family is taking an active participation in the disc golf project. David stated the bathroom will open on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget was given to the Township Board. Would like to add a furnace to the bathroom so it would be open year-round to save on winterizing it every year. The Park has a timeline for the disc golf and will be sending letters to area businesses for financial support. Instead of moving the gate at the park, there is discussion on adding a second gate. The annual picnic will be July 15<sup>th</sup>. No update on the person that damaged the grass at the park. Rita asked if they were looking a new people for lawn care. No new person at this time.

**PLANNING:** No one present and the next meeting will be April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Floyd was present and clean up at the cemetery will begin April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please have all items removed by that time. A note will be added to the website and Facebook to remind residents of the time frame. Justin Frost from Jerome Township Cemetery, gave Floyd approximately 100 old plot pins and several more that he is willing to give to Hope Township. Last year, Floyd did the "History of Hope" presentation and had 103 attendees. This year on April 16<sup>th</sup>, Floyd will do a presentation on the "Sinking of the Titanic". He will share an array of artifacts. Time is at 2:00 with limited seating at the Township Hall. Please contact Floyd at [HFAndrick@AOL.COM](mailto:HFAndrick@AOL.COM) or call him at 989-837-0870. This is a free presentation. Floyd had an article posted on how the 16 Townships got their names. He will share that with the Township.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** The February meeting was cancelled so no new permits to report.

**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelly stated no meeting this month and nothing new to report.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Dan said work being done on Monroe and Waldo. Next two meeting dates are May 4<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** ARPA update was provided by Starleen. Windows at the hall have been installed. AED's were ordered and have not been shipped, yet. An update on the insurance bond claim was provided by Carol. Final written report has not been received by the Clerk's office. Once it is received, the report will be reviewed and provided to the board. The testing of the election equipment will take place on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-12:15. Anyone interested in watching the process is welcome to come. The complaint form is now available on line to be filled out and sent to the Supervisor.

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
March 14, 2023  
7:00 pm

**NEW BUSINESS:** A new Assessor Update link has been added to the home page. Carol informed the Board of some issues at the cemetery. Discussed the need for reliable a Sexton. Cemetery fees from surrounding townships were provided. Dan Andrick and Willie Fraedenburg from Briggs contracting are available to take over the role of the Sexton. Kenny Bradfield was contacted and he would charge \$1000.00 to do the work. Dan and Willie offered up pricing and they would work together to do the opening/closing of gravesites. Motion to dismiss current sexton, Bret Witte, made by Carol and supported by Dan. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.

Motion by Carol and supported by Starleen to use Dan Andrick and Willie Fraedenburg to do the burials for Hope Township. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried. Fees were discussed with clarification for Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. All fees will be posted on the Hope Township website. The Board packet contained a copy of a mileage request form submitted by the Deputy Treasurer. The form was submitted on February 28, 2023 for mileage incurred in February (copy on file in Clerk's office). There were 5 errors on the form resulting in an overcharge to the Township in the amount of \$ 68.78. Based on the work with the bond claim, the Clerk wanted the Board to be aware of the overcharge. In addition, a corrected form was submitted on 3-14-2023 that contained errors. Clerk asked for direction on what to do. Board discussed the need for accuracy on these forms. Comments from the floor were heard. Supervisor reiterated the need for accurate documentation and the Clerk does not have to pay any reimbursement if the form is not complete/accurate.

Motion to adjourn by Mary and supported by Starleen at 9:32 pm. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Coyle