

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
May 9th, 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:** Resident Elgin Childs presented the Board with a list of questions to be answered at a later meeting. No further discussion.

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

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

1. An update from the Budget workshop that was held on April 22, 2023. There will be another meeting with the date to be determined. The date and time will be posted on the website and front door.
2. Metro Act—Brightspeed bought out Centurylink and requested a renewal of the contract that was held between the Township and Centurylink. Requesting a 5-year renewal. A copy of the original contract is on file in the Clerk's office. Motion to approve the renewal by Starleen and supported by Mary. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.
3. Yaeger Asphalt will be sealing/stripping the parking lot as part of the original agreement from June ~~2022~~ **2023**. A payment of half down is requested. This had been approved last year to use ARPA funds to do the project. Questions about this coming from Maintenance fund. Carol clarified that going forward, the parking lot sealing and striping would come from the General Fund but the first time was part of the original approval through ARPA. In addition, Carol asked if this could be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> to keep the entire project in one budget year.
4. Social media usage was addressed. Rita reminded everyone the purpose of the Township Facebook page was not for personal attacks/agenda. Rita requested the Board support to remove any administrator that approves posts that reflect negatively on the Township. Motion to remove any administrator from the Hope Township Facebook page that allows personal attacks/agendas by Carol and supported by Rita. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.
5. A copy of a complaint that was not on the approved form and not signed was presented to the Board. Rita reminded everyone that as a Township, no complaint can be acted on unless the proper form is submitted. Please see the Township website for the form or request one to be sent. Starleen added the property in question was a recent burn and the forms need to be filled out.
6. **CLERK'S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members by Monday, May 8th, 2023 (complete copy of the Board packet on file in Clerk's office). Minutes from the Budget meeting were reviewed with a motion to approve the minutes as written by Rita and supported by Starleen. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.

Hope Township Board Meeting  
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7. Minutes from the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve the minutes as written by Rita and supported by Starleen. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. The Bank and Investment Balances as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as prepared by the Deputy Clerk, were presented. Noted was the Tax account with a balance of \$502.30 to start the July 1 tax season. Motion to ACCEPT AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT by Mary and supported by Dan. Roll call vote: Dan YES, Mary YES, Starleen YES, Carol YES, Rita YES. MOTION CARRIED.
2. The chapel investment is up for renewal and Starleen has been in contact with the investment company as the report shows no earnings for this past year. Starleen will follow up and meet with Floyd Andrick to see how to proceed.
3. There are two foreclosures going up for auction in August. One is located at 1680 E. Baker and the other one is 670 E. Baker. Whoever purchases the property will be responsible for the clean-up, If no one purchases the properties, they will revert back to the Township and the Township will be responsible for the clean-up. Rita added the property on Curtiss Road that had burned, is in the process of being cleaned-up.
4. Starleen asked if there should be a summer newsletter to include with the tax bills. If so, the cost would be shared with anyone wanting to include information. Carol added the State does re-imburse for the summer tax collection expenses.
5. ARPA update: Reports have been filed. The next meeting is on hold to see if there will be grants available to help with internet at the park and chapel.

**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. Rita asked about the park pavilion refund. David Yahr clarified the refund would take place as it fell within the guidelines for refund. Rita asked why the mileage was so high in the Treasurer's office now that tax season is over? Starle Jordan, from the floor, noted a problem with mobile deposits. Rita encouraged her to call Wildfire and try to get mobile deposit set back up to decrease mileage cost. Rita asked why the reimbursement to the Clerk was so high? Carol explained with all the changes in the election process, the State did not have the postage reimbursement process in place at the time absentee voter requests had to be mailed. Paid for all election expense from personal account. All but \$61.00 of that check should come back from the State and the ESA that requested the election. 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. Budget vs. Expense report was provided and reminded everyone to review their budget. No questions from Board members.
3. 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.
4. Payroll Summary and Liability report for the Township was presented in the Board packet. Rita asked why the Park approved payment to the Caretaker if the majority of the job(mowing) had not been completed. David Yahr explained the caretaker does work into November so payment helps to cover that work.
5. First Quarter 941's for 2023 have been reviewed and filed by ADP.

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.

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** No one present to provide report. Question from the floor about tire drop off. Mills Township is having a tire drive and the dump is offering extended hours for the summer.

**PARK COMMISSION:** David Yahr reported the cleaning in the woods continues to get disc golf up and going. Need lots of volunteers to continue the clean-up. Work on the Park lights continues. The snow fence will be coming down but the posts will stay in place to deter driving on the grass. Wooden posts will be installed. One bid for a furnace has been obtained and the cost is a little over \$5000.00. Will look into grants to cover the cost. David is working on getting a millage together for the November 2024 ballot. The lawn mowing has begun. Had a problem with company that does work on the mowers. Discussion on looking for new people to do the work. Two companies were provided to look into. Cathie Kissner presented ~~their~~ there will be a Farmer's Market in the Park every Thursday starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. Movie in the Park will begin June 3<sup>rd</sup> and be held one Saturday a month in June, July and August. This is free and a concession stand will be open. "Rent a Spot" will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Cost per table spot is \$15.00 for a 16-foot space. Each vendor will be responsible for their own table/tent. The vendor may sell "anything that is legal to sell". August 12<sup>th</sup> will host a Summer Fun Jamboree. All of the June events are currently posted on the Township website. A resident asked if the outside faucet will be fixed. David reported, "not at this time as there has been too many issues with the water in the past." Question from Carol about the sinks/water not working as she had received a text over the weekend about the sinks not working. David is working on getting those fixed. Rita asked about disc golf and the progress. Both Rita and Carol had received email correspondence requesting help from the Board to get the project going. David said he has not heard from the residents that were helping with the project. Rita said she has and will continue to direct all correspondence to the Park as the disc golf is the Parks project. Carol asked if the resident that had committed to helping backed out, is the Park going forward with disc golf and will it be ready this fall as promised? David stated "yes, we will go forward as the baskets and items have been purchased. We will see this project through".

**PLANNING:** Wendy Faber said there are some new ordinances to work on. One is for marijuana and small grow. One is for the setbacks in agriculture and forestry. The last one is for a Dangerous Building Ordinance. No extra meeting has been scheduled at this time.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Floyd was present and the flags will be placed on the Veteran's graves this Saturday. He, Rose Ann Trylch and Dan Andrick will be doing this project to ensure all veterans are recognized. They will also be trying to repair and damaged holders they come across. Floyd asked when the repair work at the cemetery was to be completed by Billsby Lumber. David said he will get in touch with them on Wednesday. Three weeks ago, Floyd did the presentation on the Titanic. There was a good turnout for this community presentation. There was \$54.00 donated by the attendees and he added \$46.00 to donate \$100.00 to the Midland Emergency Food Pantry. He has received a thank you for the donation. There is a great need in Midland County for food assistance, according to Floyd and the MEFP. The Midland Daily News will be publishing an article on the log homes in Midland County. There are 2 in Hope Township. There will be another presentation this fall by Floyd and the subject will be determined.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** There were 2 Electrical permits. 867 E. Shoreline and M-30, Colton Storage. 3 Mechanical. 607 Shaffer Rd., 6099 N. Meridian and 7456 Uncas Drive. There was 1 plumbing permit at 6099 N. Meridian and 1 water permit at 1662 E. Hull Rd. The next meeting is May 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be an increase in the cost of all permits as voted on by the TCA last month.

Hope Township Board Meeting  
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**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelly reported from the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The results of the treatment seem favorable at this time. There will be an additional chemical added to the next round of treatment. Next meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Billings Township Hall.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Dan and Chuck Hudler attended the meeting with the Road Commission. The projects in Hope Township will begin in May. There will be a turn lane added at the intersection of Saginaw Rd and Meridian Road. A round-about is being added at the Waldo Rd-Monroe Rd intersection.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The election has been completed with less than 50 in-person voters. Thank you to all that helped in the election process. Carol gave an update on the bond claim. The Township will receive a total of \$22,097.58 from the bond claim filed in January 2023. The claims date back to 2012 and forward. A complete report is on file in the Clerk's office. A question from the floor was raised as to who's bond was this claim paid against. Carol answered the Clerk's bond. Explanation was given by bond year and amount received. Rita thanked the Clerk's office for pursuing this claim. A special thank you to Chuck Hudler for all his hard work and attention to detail. There was another outstanding claim that has been denied. This had to do with the Employee Liability Claim for the check that was written, signed by both offices and never mailed. No additional funds are expected at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. FOIA's-The Clerk has received 3 FOIA requests in the last two weeks. All three have been responded to and closed.
2. MCTOA-Starleen questioned if we needed to pay these fees as no one is going to any meetings at this time. There was discussion and Starleen said we do not have to belong. Motion by Rita and Supported by Starleen to withdraw from the MCTOA- All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn by Rita and supported by Mary at 8:15 pm. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Coyle