

Hope Township Board Meeting
Hope Township Hall
August 9th, 2023 7:00 pm

Rita Goul, Supervisor
Carol Coyle, Clerk
Chuck Hudler, 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: Dan Mieske Present, Mary Letts, Present, Chuck Hudler, Present, Rita Goul, Present. Carol Coyle, Present. Please welcome the new Treasurer, Chuck Hudler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda with one change made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Rita gave an update on legal issues that were discussed with the attorney. Several harassing calls and emails had been received by township officials. A letter was sent to one resident, the police were notified about a second call and the township is in compliance with respect to the third issue. The board members had been made aware of the three issues.
2. There were questions raised surrounding the water bond and the status of that account. The Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk are still looking into the full report before responding to the questions raised. Water District #1 has been contacted and officials will continue to work on getting answers.
3. The credit card policy needed to be amended to add the new Treasurer's name to the account. A copy will be provided to all the people holding credit cards for the township. Motion to approve the credit card policy was made by Chuck and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. Roll call vote: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.
4. MCTOA- Rita asked to rejoin the MCTOA. There is a new person in charge and many new programs have been added. The cost is \$100.00 per year. Rita made a motion to rejoin MCTOA and Mary supported. No additional discussion. Roll call vote: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried. Rita will make the follow up call to see what needs to be done to rejoin.
5. ARPA update: The next meeting will be September 6th at 11:00 am. There is approximately \$37,000.00 left to commit by the end of the year. Chuck pointed out if the money is committed by the end of the year, there will be an increase in the State Revenue Sharing for next year.

CLERK'S MINUTES: The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. (complete copy of the Board packet on file in Clerk's office).

1. Minutes from the July 11, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Recommendations were made by Chuck and agreed to the changes. There was discussion on the word "nepotism" missing from the minutes. It was agreed to add the Township Board never accused David Yahr of nepotism. It came from a resident. Also noted by the Board that David Yahr abstained from voting on the previous caretaker.

A motion to approve the minutes with changes, by Chuck and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

2. Minutes from the July 18, 2023 board meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve the minutes as written by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances. He noted the money from the General Fund has not been moved into the Parks & Recreation Fund and the Chapel & Cemetery as approved with the new budget. Chuck also stated the Great America Chapel Fund has been closed and he will be looking at options to invest the money into a higher interest-bearing account. Probably will invest with the Michigan Class as the interest rate is a little higher and the money is easier to get to, if needed. Chuck will meet with Brian Solomon to see about investing some of the Fire Fund money. There were 4 point and pay in July.
2. After looking into the Lakeshore Improvement Project, Chuck determined there would be a shortfall of approximately \$13,000.00. The findings were verified with the accountant. Chuck reached out to Dave Rothman, from the Lakeshore Improvement Project, and the two of them will be meeting to discuss ways to reduce the shortage over the next 5 years.

A motion to **accept and file the Treasurer's report** was made by Rita and supported by Carol. No additional discussion from the board. Roll call vote: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and 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. Carol noted one additional check had been added and that was for a Park Pavilion rental refund. In addition, it was noted the voided checks that were included in the report. The checks were voided due to a printer malfunction.
Motion to pay the bills by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. Roll Call: Dan YES, Mary YES, Carol YES, Chuck YES, Rita YES. Motion carried.
2. Budget vs. Expense report was provided. One question about the insurance being over budget. Money had not been moved from the approved budget, into that account before the report was ran. No additional questions from Board members.
3. Bank Reconciliations were provided as prepared by the Treasurer and reviewed by the Supervisor. Outstanding checks were noted. One additional note, a check written out of the Tax Fund should have been written out of the Lakeshore Improvement Fund had been corrected. The check was written in July and voided on August 1st. The correction will show up in next month's report.
4. Payroll Summary and Liability report for the Township was provided. Carol noted she forgot to pay herself the cemetery pay and will make it up next month. No questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Amber Valley from the fire department, gave the report in Brian's absence. There were 9 runs last month. 7 Medical, 1 Brush Fire and 1 Accident. Brian will provide an update on the new Firehall next month.

PARK COMMISSION: David Yahr reported no update on Disc Golf. Will be meeting with Brian after August 12th, to discuss doing a controlled burn. David will be buying a flat bed trailer from his personal money to transport the mower over to Gene's for repair. The caretaker has been hired. His name is Rod Hawkins. The Midland Daily News published an article on the Farmer's Market. Looking for vendors for future Farmer's Market. David has located an individual with equipment to come in and help clear the woods. Would cost \$1500.00/day or \$900.00/half day. David will also call John Marsh to see if this is something he may be interested in giving a bid. Jamboree will be August 12th, starting at 11:00. There will be lots of events. David stated the cemetery expansion that was done in 2020, was illegal. Rita stated the Township Board will look into this.

PLANNING: Nicole Kelley reported from the August 2, 2023 meeting. There will be a Public Hearing on September 13th, at 7:00 to discuss setbacks. The next meeting will be October 4th, 2023.

CHAPEL/CEMETERY: Floyd took care of the weeds around the chapel. There will be a Hope Get Together on November 5th at 3:00. The presentation will be on the Dionne Quintuplets. Contact Floyd Andrick for further information and to sign up for the event.

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TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY: There were 4 Electrical, 1 Mechanical and 2 Plumbing permits last month

WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bob Kelly reported bids for mulching had been obtained. Mowing of the lakebeds began on August 8th, 2023. There will be a Public Hearing on September 9th, at 10:00 am. Meeting will be at the Beaverton High School Gymnasium to hear comments regarding the reinstatement of the Wixom Lake Vegetation Control Assessment.

ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION: Dan reported the scheduled ditch work will begin at some point. The culvert on Grace Court will be taken care of, just not sure when. Looking for an alternate for the Road Advisory Commission as Chuck Hudler asked to be removed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Still waiting on the State of Michigan postage reimbursement. The reimbursement from ESA has been received. The elections have been completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Carol asked to run the election workers payroll before the September date. This will allow the billing for the elections to get to Meridian Schools in a timely manner. There will be no additional fees from ADP to do the payroll. Motion by Rita and supported by Dan to allow the payroll to be ran. No additional discussion. Roll call vote: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried.
- Second quarter 941's had been filed.
- Carol asked to have any September payroll requests to be to her by September 1st.
- Sale of Township Assets. Discussion on the sale of Township assets. Rita reminded everyone that any asset that is sold, needs to come to the Township Board for approval prior to being sold.
- Insurance reimbursement. The Township received two reimbursement checks as a result of an insurance audit that reflected an overcharge/overpayment.
- Propane Bids. Carol presented written propane bids from Coyne Oil and Foster Blue Oil and a verbal bid from Stanford Oil. After discussion, Rita made a motion to stay with Foster Blue Oil and use the Platinum plan. Supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll call vote: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: David Yahr asked about the money received from the State for taxes. Chuck stated the S.E.T. money has been received and deposited into the General Fund. Last year it was approved to add \$1,200.00 of the S.E.T. money to the Treasurer's salary. The balance is to be used to offset expenses from doing the Summer Tax Collection. Warm welcome to Lori Childs who will serve as the Deputy Supervisor. Also, to Linda Deitz the new Deputy Treasurer.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm by Chuck and supported by Mary. No further discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Coyle