

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, via phone to give report and not vote on any matters, Rita Goul, Present. Carol Coyle, Present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mary and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT: Darcie Shelagowski, CPA from Berthiaume & Company, Saginaw, Michigan

Darcie presented the Financial Statement for budget year 07/01/2022-06/30/2023. Darcie explained the Road Fund was moved from a major fund to a minor fund. Noted was the M-30 water project was paid off last year and only one year left on the assessment roll. Darcie stated the Township has over \$1,000,000.00 on deposit with the credit union. Stated the FDIC covers \$250,000.00. Darcie stated the MI CLASS pays a higher interest rate and would be a good place to put some of the money. At this time, the Treasurer has already moved some of the money. Darcie also noted there were only 4 GJE to be done for the end of the year. What this means, is the monthly board reports have been accurate and the Township can be assured the money is being spent where and how it was designated. Darcie also thanked Chuck and Carol for their assistance and hard work in getting the audit information to her in a timely and organized method. Overall, the Township is in good standing with a healthy outlook.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Easement – FOIA – There was a FOIA submitted to the assessor about an easement at the end of Richmond Drive. The FOIA is being addressed and an answer should be coming soon.
2. Snow Removal Bid – A bid was received from Howden's Landscaping for snow removal at the Township Hall, Fire Hall and Cemetery. Question if there was a price increase from last year. The answer was not readily available. The Fire Hall is to be plowed when 1 or more inches of snow falls and salted with each plowing. The Township Hall will be the same. The Cemetery will be plowed when 3 or more inches fall. Motion to use Howden's by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll call vote: Dan, YES, Mary YES, Carol YES and Rita, YES. Motion Carried.
3. ARPA – Update – There was an ARPA meeting on October 9th. Discussion on the feasibility of putting in Pickle Ball Courts at the Park. It was noted that Darlene Thompson, **Cathie Kisser** and Wendy Faber have been doing work on getting quotes together and they will continue to work on getting information together. David Yahr said the Park had discussed this and they are in favor of the Pickle Ball courts with their main focus on getting Disc golf up and going. Questions

on what the residents thought about Pickle Ball? Information on Facebook sites, indicates an interest in establishing the courts. Darlene and Wendy will continue working on gathering information. The next topic discussed was to purchase some type of fire-resistant storage for election documents, as well as, Township documents. Rita presented the cost of safes and the fact they are also water tight. Carol would like to meet with Brian to see what it would take to convert the existing storage room into a fire-resistant area to allow for greater storage. Discussion on the pros and cons of both ideas. Topic was tabled until further research can be one. Carol will do additional research and get back to ARPA with suggestions.

4. Craft Show – The Craft Show was successful despite the weather not cooperating.
5. Midland County Road Commission – The MCRC sent out a letter (copy on file in the Clerk’s office), stating the need to change the way the cost of brine will be charged to the Township.
6. Committee Appointment – Rita reminded everyone the committee appointments for 2024 will take place in December. Please let her know of your interest/intent to be on any committee.

CLERK’S MINUTES: The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, October 9, 2023. (a complete copy of the Board packet on file in Clerk’s office). A motion to approve the minutes with one addition, by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances. He noted the low balance in the Solid Waste Fund. Explained this is due to Solid Waste Taxes are paid on the winter bill. The Chapel & Cemetery Fund money was moved from the General Fund invested in MI CLASS. There should be a higher rate of return and minimal risk with the change. The Fire Department cash account was decreased and that money was invested in MI CLASS. Again, this should yield a higher rate of interest with minimal risk. Chuck will get with Dave Rothman, (the person in charge of the Lakeshore Project) to see if there is an opportunity to invest some of money in the Lakeshore Fund in MI CLASS. This would help offset the deficit that had been previously discussed. Also, Chuck will see if there might be a possibility to pay down on the loan agreement. A motion to **accept and file the Treasurer’s report** was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion from the board. Roll call vote: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried.
2. The Bank Reconciliations were addressed with one outstanding check that will be replaced. This was for a Pavilion Rental Refund that was never received by the renter.

Chuck also addressed the credit risk issue that Darcie spoke about earlier. Chuck had contact Midland County Treasurer to see how they handle their accounts that have a balance over the FDIC amount of \$250,000.00. Most government agencies and non-profit institutions are in the same place. Because of this, Chuck had moved money into MI CLASS. They have the lowest risk with a greater rate of return on investment. In addition, Chuck brought it up there will be some budget revisions that will need to be approved at the next meeting. It is a good idea to keep current with the budget and revisions that need to be completed. Rita questioned if there would be an increase

in budget requests? Not at this time, simply moving money within departments so the “owner of the department” has an better idea of expenditures.

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 to pay the bills by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, , Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.
2. Budget vs. Expense report was provided. Rita reminded everyone to watch their budget. No additional questions from Board members.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability report for the Township was provided. Carol noted there was a mistake with the two new people. ADP had been contacted and corrections were made at no charge to the Township. No questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Brian Solomon reported Frontline will be doing annual maintenance on the Fire Trucks and the amount should be within the amount budgeted, unless something unusual is found. A Fire person has retired because of a move out of the area. Would be welcomed back. Looking for a credible grant writer to help with the new Fire Hall. Rita will contact the Midland Area Community Foundation to set up a meeting. Brian reminded everyone to have your chimneys cleaned before starting up for the winter. There were 7 calls for September. 5 Recues, 1 car accident and 1 tree down. Brian asked if someone could look into get some type of AV system for the hall to share meetings with the public.

PARK COMMISSION: David Yahr presented the report for the Park Commission. Disc golf update – Keith Good is scheduled to do some clearing in the woods on October 11th. He will move branches and David will burn in the winter. No word from John Marsh at this time. Cement pad will be installed in the spring with a completion target date of October 2024. Hopefully sooner but time will tell. Trunk or Treat will be October 28th from 2:00pm-4:00pm. The poles along the driveway will stay the way they are for now. Darlene is working with Wendy Faber to look into the possibility of Pickel Ball at the Park. David has requested of the Township Board, a memorandum of understanding on the Park Board Roles and Responsibilities. Rita explained she has a call in to the attorney to help with getting this information. The desire if for both boards to start working together for the betterment of the community.

Woodside Park would like to thank the Midland Area Community Foundation-The Midland Area Community Foundation exists to cultivate the power of giving within our community, support long-term transformation, and help ensure all residents thrive-Building our livelihood grant for \$8,000.00 to our projects. Using the funds from the grant, the park was able to insulate the concessions stand/bathroom building and add a new furnace to this building. The updates will allow Woodside Park to use the building as an emergency storm shelter for residents. Thank you again for the support. Stala Jordan, Woodside Park.

Hope Township Board Meeting
Hope Township Hall
October 10th, 2023 7:00 pm

PLANNING: A meeting was held to approve the changes in the Zoning Ordinance for Forestry and Waterfront set-backs. Motion to approve the ordinance with corrections, by Dan and supported by Carol. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

CHAPEL/CEMETERY: Floyd has contacted Samaritan **Carey Plumbing and Heating** and they are coming October 16th to service the furnace, in the Chapel, for the winter. 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. There is no charge to attend.

TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY: There was 1 Electrical, 7 Mechanical, and 4 plumbing permits last month. Next meeting will be October 26th.

WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bob Kelley reported the canals on Wixom Lake will be inspected to see what needs to be done. On October 12th, the FLTF will be holding a webinar. On October 18th, work is being done on M-30 bridge and traffic will be detoured. Approximate time frame is two weeks.

ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION: Dan reported all road work has been completed. The culvert on North Meridian will be fixed and paid for by the MCRC and not a charge to the Township. The round about on Waldo Road is now complete and be careful when entering the area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery Ordinance should be available for the November meeting.
2. Water update – Rita explained the questions raised earlier about the Water Project has not been forgotten and will be worked on when Chuck gets caught up in his new role.
3. Lakeshore update – Covered earlier.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Sanford Historical Society left information about the new Santa House in Sanford. Anyone wanting to donate, please see the flier left with Rita.
2. Cathie Kissler is working on the new valances for the kitchen in the Township Hall

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: No new business. Motion to adjourn by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk