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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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda, with two additions, was made by Chuck and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

1. ARPA – Update – Hold until contractor could arrive to provide an explanation of the bids.
2. Pine Tree – Three bids were received for the removal of the tree, grinding the stump, replace soil and grass seed. (copy of all three bids are on file in the Clerk's office). After discussion between the Board members, it was decided to go with K. Bradfield excavating. He resides within the Township and was a few dollars less than the other 2 bids. Motion to use K Bradfield was made by Mary and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.
3. The Board of Review training dates are out and a copy of the dates was given to Wendy Faber. All people on the Board of Review must take the training and Rita requested a copy of the names, email address, and date to attend from the members.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk's office). Treasurer Chuck noted the packets did not contain the reconciliations and Treasurer's report as there was a difficulty in obtaining the statements from Wildfire Credit Union. 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.

1. Furnace Follow-Up – The Chapel furnace was repaired using Extreme Heating and Cooling. After obtaining bids from 3 other companies, John from Extreme performed the work for less than half of other quotes. In addition, he fixed a potential issue with the air conditioner and changed the pipes outside the building.
2. Cemetery Lot Sale – An individual called and wanted to purchase a cemetery lot that contained 2 spaces and wanted to put the purchase on a payment plan. The Lot certificate would not be turned over until paid in full. After discussion among the Board, it was moved by Rita and supported by Chuck to allow the purchase for a cemetery lot on a payment plan. The contract

will be drawn up and signed by the individual and the Clerk. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.

#### **TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances. He noted the negative balance in the Solid Waste Fund. Solid Waste Taxes are paid on the winter bill and once those come in, the balance in the account will change. Chuck noted there has been an increase in the interest earned for the Water Special and Lakeshore from moving funds to Michigan Class where a better return is obtained on investment. Chuck will continue to work with Isabella Bank on the Lakeshore debt to see if there is a way to decrease the shortfall on the amount due at the end of 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, Chuck YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.
2. The Bank Reconciliations were prepared by Chuck and reviewed by Rita. The balances matched what was reported in the cash report. Chuck asked Park representative Cathie Kissler if she would be able to follow up with the one outstanding check for a pavilion rental refund from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
3. Point & Pay – There were 3 point & pay in the month of December. 2 were over the phone and one online. Chuck let the public know, the cost of using a credit card to pay taxes falls on the taxpayer and not the Township.

#### **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 Chuck and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, 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. No questions from Board members.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Brian Solomon was present and reported there were 15 calls for December. He will have the YTD totals for the Board in February. Brian is still looking for grant writers. Brian asked who owns the Fire Barn Building. Rita will look into who actually owns the building. If it was paid for with tax money through the millage or funds from other sources. Rita will check with Midland County to see if they have anyone available to assist with writing Grants.

**PARK COMMISSION:** Cathie Kissler reported the Park Commission held their meeting, January 2, 2024. There was discussion during that meeting about the possibility of having to move some of the disc golf baskets due to safety concerns. The Farmers Market will start June 1<sup>st</sup> and run every Thursday. The Rent – A -Spot, Sell What You Want day will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. The annual picnic will be July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Jamboree is

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7:00 pm

scheduled for August 10. Additional information will be provided later. There was an adult locked in the bathroom and 911 was notified to get the person out. The bathroom doors will now be locked for the winter.

**PLANNING:** Next meeting will be March 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Carol reported that Dan Andrick has burned the brush pile at the old cemetery and did so at no charge to the Township.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** Dan reported there were 5 Electrical, 3 Mechanical and 2 plumbing permits in December. There will be an online program developed for people wanting to apply for permits to save a trip to Midland Code Authority. A fee will be applied for using the service.

**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelley was present and the next meeting is Thursday, January 11th at 6:00 pm, Billings Township Hall.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** The Road Advisory Commission presented the recommendations for road work for 2024. The first road addressed was **Saiko Road from 5 Mile Road to Middle Road**. The cost estimate is approximately \$197,990.80. A motion from Rita and supported by Chuck to pave the above road was made. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried. The next road discussed was to **gravel Hull Road from 5 Mile Road west 400 feet**. The cost would be approximately \$5,968.42. After discussion a motion to do the Hull Road gravel was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried. The next road was **Curtis Road from Middle Road west, ½ mile**. The original bid was for drainage work and gravel. After discussion from Board members, a motion to only do the drainage work this year to see if there is an improvement before doing the gravel work. A motion was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried. By not doing the gravel work, it was decided to look at roads that needed to have Chip/Fogseal work done. The goal is to preserve the roads for a few more years without having to do a total reconstruction. The roads discussed were **Baker Road from Stark Road to Dublin Road** at a cost of \$32,000.00, **Hull Road from Hope Road to 5 Mile Road** at a cost of \$16,000.00 and **5 Mile Road from Hull Road to Shaffer Road** at a cost of \$16,000.00. A motion was made by Rita and supported by Chuck to Chip/Fogseal these three roads. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried. Chuck will provide Dan an updated estimate of what will be coming in from Winter Taxes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Water update – Chuck and Ron Thompson will be working on this in the near future.
2. Lakeshore update – Covered earlier.
3. Election Reimbursement –Still waiting on the August election, AV Ballot drop box and Camera/recording system reimbursement
4. DYMO label printer – One was purchased for the Clerk’s office at a decreased cost than earlier presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Poverty Exemption Policy was presented. Motion from Rita and supported by Dan to accept the policy as written. (a copy of the Policy is on file in Clerk's office). No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.
2. Potential for floor repair – Carol noted a resident suggested the floor be looked at for possible need of additional support and there seemed to be a lot of bounce in the floor.
3. FOIA – Carol shared she had received a FOIA request and the procedure is in process and deadlines have been met.
4. Deputy Clerk – A Deputy Clerk has been named and Chuck stated he is looking for a Deputy Treasurer.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Lori Childs brought it up to the attention of the Board that a rental in December violated the contract and wondered if she was to keep the deposit. There was alcohol on site and that is prohibited. Carol made a motion that was supported by Chuck to not refund the deposit. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried. James Carl, resident, asked for an update on the complaint against 5590 N. Stark Rd. There are 3 structures with people living in them on one parcel. Rita will have to contact the Township Attorney as nothing has been done from the letter she sent in December. John Marsh and David Randall were present to discuss the Pickleball bids. The new bid was slightly higher than previously stated as additional ground work has to be done. The new bid included an additional 6" of sand and 3" of gravel to help with drainage and heaving of the ground. The additional cost would be available from the General Fund. A motion from Chuck and supported by Carol to proceed with the Pickleball courts at a cost of \$40,240.00 with most of the money coming from ARPA. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk