

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 three additions, was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Letters of Resignation – Rita shared the two resignation letters submitted to the Board. One was from Doug Shoffner from the Park Commission. Motion by Rita and supported by Chuck to accept the resignation of Doug Shoffner. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried. The second letter was from David Yahr to resign from the Park Commission and the Road Committee. Motion by Rita and supported by Dan to accept the resignation of David Yahr from both positions. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried. One person expressed an interest in an interim appointment to help with spring clean-up at the Park. Another resident expressed an interest in being appointed and is running for a position in the August election. Chuck made a motion and Rita supported, to appoint Bob Kelley and Amy Ginter as interim members of the Park Commission. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried. Amy will be on the ballot for the August election while Bob will remain temporary until the position is filled.
2. Letter from Resident – Rita acknowledged the receipt of the letter from a resident requesting to have the water assessment waived so she could combine two parcels in to one. In order to combine parcels, the water assessment must be paid off on one of the parcels. Discussion between the Board members took place. A motion to deny the request was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. Rita will do a follow up letter to the resident. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.
3. Blight Update – The attorney has sent a letter to the resident involved with the Blight Ordinance complaint. The resident has until April 11, 2024 to complete the clean-up. A question from the audience came up about the process of enforcing the Blight Ordinance. Rita explained the process. After April 11th, if no progress has been made on the current complaint, then court action may be taken.
4. Assessor Letter – Ron Thompson, Assessor for Hope Township, submitted a request letter to increase his pay and put a four- year agreement in place with the Township. Chuck expressed

his thoughts on how he has been working with Ron on the Water Assessment and Solid Waste Fees. Rita explained Ron has not had any increase in ten years. Rita made motion and supported by Mary, to increase Ron's salary to \$15,000.00 a year and provide him with a 4-year contract. Additional discussion included the pay increase will take affect July 1, 2024 in the new budget year. Roll call vote: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried. Chuck and Carol will draft a contract for Ron and the Township to sign.

5. March Birthdays – Rita had a birthday and there was cake for all to enjoy after the meeting.

CLERK'S MINUTES: The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, March 11th, 2024 (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk's office). A motion to approve the minutes with 2 corrections by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion Carried. Elections were completed with 320 votes recorded. There were 217 in-person and 103 absentee voters. In addition, there were 8 residents that took advantage of the early vote center.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances. He noted the reconciled amounts match the bank balances. Chuck pointed out the Solid Waste balance is now becoming positive as winter taxes are coming in. 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. Chuck highlighted points of interest for discussion.
3. Point & Pay – There were 11 point & pay in the month of February.
4. Tax Summary – The Winter Tax Season has ended. There were 11% of parcels not paid and that represents about 6.6% of the expected revenue. Midland County will make up the difference sometime in May. All delinquent taxes must now be paid to the Midland County treasurer.

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 made a motion, supported by Chuck, to pay the bills. 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 to all members. No questions at the time.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability reports for the Fire department were provided. Carol explained the Township Payroll Summary and Liability report were not available as a correction to the payroll was in process. No questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Brian stated not much new to report. He, Rita, and Carol had met with two grant writers that will be assisting in getting the grants written to provide the funding for the new fire hall. Brian reminded everyone that it is dry outside and to get a burn permit from the DNR office. If there is a "burning-ban" in place, it is ok to have a campfire that is contained. Just no brush pile burning. If there is a "red flag warning", NO burning of any kind is permitted. A meeting has been set up with the Midland

Area Community Foundation for potential grants from the Foundation. Brian will send a copy of the drawings to be posted on the Township web-site.

PARK COMMISSION: Cathie Kissler reported the walking track will have lines painted on the track to show the distance for interested walkers. This will be done when the weather permits. The doors on the bathrooms and pole barn need to be fixed/replaced/re-keyed. The bleachers need to be painted and the ship needs to be stained. Cathie will meet with Chuck/Carol to set up a procedure for holding the Park pavilion rental checks. Cathie asked the Board for a matching fund of \$1,500.00 to repair the driveway at the Park. Carol presented a commitment from the company doing the Pickle Ball Courts, to have the holes filled, road graded and skim coat of stone-crete applied for a total cost of \$3,000.00. Rod Hawkins will continue in the role of Park Caretaker. There was a motion by Chuck and supported by Dan to match the \$1,500.00 for the road repair at the Park. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried. Darlene and Cathie will make contact with David Yahr to get two benches from him. In addition, they will try to get training on how to use the camera system at the Park. Discussion on getting the doors taken care of and there was an offer of a door from Brian Solomon if it will fit. Also, the need for a spare key at the hall and some type of security key pad on the pole was discussed. Chuck and Carol will look into the net for the Pickle Ball court.

PLANNING: Nicole Kelley reported on the Planning meeting from March 6th. There was a new law put into place about energy renewal and the committee will be looking into the possible effect on a local level. There is a group of citizens trying to get the issue on the 2026 ballot. More to follow.

CHAPEL/CEMETERY: Floyd stated Dan has started the clean-up at the Old Hope Cemetery. A reminder to have any holiday items removed by April 15th. Anything left behind, will be thrown out. Hope Fellowship Sunday will be April 7th at 2:00 pm. The topic presented will be the crash of flight 67. It will be the 66th anniversary of the crash.

TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY: Dan reported there were 2 Mechanical permits for February. The next meeting will be March 28th.

WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: No one present to report.

ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION: The next meeting is in May. With the resignation of David Yahr, the meetings will be moved back to Thursdays and starting at 6:00. An alternate will need to be appointed. There were two people interested and appointment will take place in April.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Water update – Chuck and Ron Thompson are working on this and it is quite a large job to sift through old records.
2. Lakeshore update – Chuck presented to the Board and Brian the possibility of borrowing money from the Fire Funds to pay-off the Lakeshore loan. Chuck had contacted the attorney and a resolution was drafted. There are still many questions to be resolved. After much discussion, it was decided to table the resolution adoption until April.

3. Election Reimbursement –Still waiting on the August election, AV Ballot drop box and Camera/recording system reimbursement.
4. Cemetery Lot Sale – Resident was contacted twice to see if she was still interested in purchasing a lot on a payment plan. Carol is still waiting to hear back from the resident. Due to a lack of response from the resident, this item will be removed from future discussion.
5. Police Report Number for Park incident – With the resignation of David Yahr and no number provided, this item will no longer be under discussion.
6. The wallpaper removal was put on hold until other options are explored.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Carol presented to the Board about the Road Millage expiring this year. Asked if the Board thought the Road Millage should be on the August or November ballot. In addition, Carol asked if it would go back to the original 2 mills or the current rate of 1.88. With the Headlee Rollback, the amount decreases yearly. Discussion on the cost of road repairs is increasing, it would be a good idea to return to the original voted millage of 2 mills. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried.
2. Sprinkler turn on – Carol asked which program the Board wanted to use for turning on/off the sprinkler system (copy on file in Clerk’s office). There was discussion on what was included in the original bid. After several questions, it was decided to table the decision until April.
3. Phone Changes – Carol explained the issues the Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk are having with dropped calls, poor connections, and delays in receiving text messages. After discussion, it was decided to look at other options, before updating current phones, with Verizon. Carol to report back.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Nothing from the floor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:41 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk