

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, as written, was made by Chuck and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

1. September Birthdays – None Reported.
2. Blight Update – A verbal agreement has been reached with the Stark Road property owner. The property owner has until December 1, 2024. A complete judgement order is on file in the Clerk's office.
3. Committee Changes - Rita noted committees will be changing in December and the Board will be looking for people to fill the vacancies. There is a sign-up board at the hall.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals - The ZBA met on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to review a variance request submitted from Brian Johnson owner of Tri-City Electric. The affected property is located at the corner of Stark and Shaffer Roads. A complete copy of the decision is on file with the Supervisor. A "special use" variance and a set-back variance was granted. The Planning Committee will be meeting in October and the plans for the business (if submitted) will be reviewed at that time.
5. Township Hall - The painting has been completed. The Township has hoped the painter would return and take care of concerns that had been expressed.
6. Lakeshore Easement – The easement between Lakeshore and Thomas Shores is still up for discussion. The residents on Lakeshore asked the Township for assistance in getting this resolved. The Township attorney was contacted. The residents of Lakeshore have decided to not go to court due to the cost of defending the case. The Township board again stated their concern for the health and safety of the residents within the two subdivisions, if the easement were to be blocked from being able to access the area. There are two residents that may pursue getting the easement added to their deeds through the court system. No court date has been set at this time.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, September 9th, 2024 (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk's office). A motion to approve the

minutes from the August 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting as written, was made by Mary and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances as of August 31st, 2024. Those balances were reconciled with the Bank statements that were prepared by Chuck and reviewed by Rita. 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. Tax Update – Summer taxes are being collected with a steady flow of payments. Residents have until Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> to pay their taxes without a penalty. The office will be open on Monday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm
3. Point & Pay – There were four Point & Pay for the month of August. Chuck stated the software company the Township uses, BS & A, is offering a new program to pay your taxes using their system. Chuck will look further into this option to see if this is a better option for the residents.

**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 the checks that were “out of the ordinary”. One for the insurance rate increase for the Fire Department. One for the water payment that is due October 1<sup>st</sup> and the last two for the legal fees to get a settlement on the blight complaint. Chuck made a motion, supported by Rita, 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. There will be a final report provided when the accruals and audit adjustments are complete. Carol noted the State Revenue was showing a negative balance. One of the two outstanding payments from the State was received the first of September and it was higher than anticipated. The last one should be received in October. The budget showed a couple of areas that were out of balance and discussion on why that was so took place. Chuck explained the budget could be reviewed with adjustments made next month or wait until January. After discussion, it was decided that Chuck and Carol would work on the budget adjustments for the October meeting with proposed changes to be reviewed.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability reports for the Township and Fire Department were provided. No questions at this time.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Rita introduced Catherine Sias, Grant Writer for the Fire Department. Brian Solomon reported there were 22 runs for August, 12 medical, 1 tree down, 4 mutual aid, 3 downed wire, 1 personal injury, and 1 public assist. Brian explained the increase cost of the insurance for the fire vehicles. Both trucks were under insured and if one needed to be replaced, the cost could be close to one million dollars. The turnout gear will need to be replaced and the current cost for that is about

Hope Township Board Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
September 10, 2024 7:00 pm

\$4,500.00 per person. Brian will look into an equipment/gear replacement grant to help cover that cost. Brian emphasized the millage helps to support the Fire Department operations.

**PARK COMMISSION:** Cathie Kisser reported for the Park Commission. The pavilions have been painted and look great. The Trunk and Treat will take place at the Park on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm. More to come on the Christmas Trees in the Park. An Easter Egg Hunt will take place the Saturday before Easter. The signs for the bathrooms will be updated to reflect male, female and family. Maintenance is getting caught up with a special thanks to Dennis Goul and Bob Kelley. At this point, Cathie turned the pickleball fencing question over to Rita. The quote for the fencing around the pickleball court was not accurate as the measurements sent to the company was not accurate. When Jacobs Valley Fencing came out to start installation, it was noticed the amount of fencing requested was not enough to provide fencing around the entire court. The additional cost to complete the job would be \$2,080.00. Rita asked if the money should come from the Tree Fund. Chuck noted the General Fund has the money to cover the additional cost. A motion was made by Rita and supported by Dan to cover the additional cost from the General Fund. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried. Bob Kelley stated the entrance to the courts would be on the north side of the court. Cathie Kisser will be contacting Jacobs Valley Fencing to have them finish the job. The bathroom locks have all been fixed.

**PLANNING:** Nicole Kelley said the next Planning meeting will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm. At the ZBA meeting, Nicole had requested a copy of the site plans from Tri-City Electric to be presented to the Township Board at tonight's meeting. She had reached out to remind the owner and as of tonight, September 10<sup>th</sup>, she has not received any revised plans.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Floyd Andrick reported the broken pipe at the chapel has been fixed. A bill has been sent to Howden's Landscaping to cover the cost of the repair as it was damaged last winter. Floyd offered an apology to the Board for the work that James Lange did at the hall. Floyd had highly recommended James, as Floyd has worked with James for 25 years. He will reach out to James one last time to see if he is willing to come and listen to the concerns of the Township Board. On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, as a fund raiser for the new Fire Hall, Floyd will do a presentation on the Building of the Midland Hospital. It will take about 35 minutes. Then, Brian Solomon will do a presentation for the proposed new Fire Hall. When Brian is done, soup and salad will be served by the Township Board and Fire Department. Floyd will then do a presentation on the History of Hope. Please contact Floyd at 989-837-0870 or by email at [hfandrick@aol.com](mailto:hfandrick@aol.com). More to come.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** Dan reported the following permits were issued. Building, 5; Electrical, 3; Mechanical, 5; Plumbing, 1, Mechanical 4, and no water. Next meeting is September 26th, at 5:00 pm.

**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelley stated mowing has begun in Billings Township and working their way down the lake. Spraying has begun for weeds and Bob has been in contact with Paul Hausler to ensure the fish habitat will not be affected. The next meeting will be September 26th 6:00 pm at the Billings Township Hall.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** The chip and fog seal projects will be done next year as they were missed on the schedule. The price will be the same next year unless the cost is lower. Carol asked what would happen if there is additional damage to the roads not completed, who would be responsible for the repair? Dan will meet with Art Buck to discuss this and get back to the Board. Dan will ask to have it in writing that the cost will remain the same next year for the projects quoted this year. The next meeting will be January 9th at 6:00 pm.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Water update – Chuck reported one new benefit fee for the current budget year. A question from a resident about last year’s growth. Chuck said there were approximately 6-7 new connections in the last budget year. The money is put in the correct account and if possible, an additional payment on the loan, will be made. Chuck has gone through old receipts, old deposit tickets and information available for now. Rita informed everyone present, that since she has taken office, the records are on file of who has paid the benefit fee. Chuck will work with Ron Thompson to try to get up to date record from the previous years.
2. Phone Update - Nothing to report
3. FOIA requests x 2 – Both have been answered. One was for a copy of the contract for current trash pick-up provider and the other was for a piece of property on M-30.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. L 4029 for Approval – Carol provided a copy of the L 4029, millage rate request, for the next year. This is something done every year and needs to be signed by the Supervisor and Clerk and submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Rita and supported by Dan to approve the L 4029 as presented. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**.* Motion carried.

Resolution for Grant Writing for the Fire Hall – Resolution 2024-09-10 was presented to the Board. This gives Rita permission to write the Grants for the new Fire Hall. A motion to allow Rita to write the Grants for the Fire Hall was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Residents from Birchwood Shores were present to ask the Township for assistance with another resident in their neighborhood. The police have been involved and some items are going to court. In the meantime, the residents are asking for assistance with any ordinances that may be in place through the township. A formal complaint has been received by the Board and review will begin. Rita reassured those present, this will be taken seriously and followed up on, if there are any ordinance violations. The Board expressed a sincere apology to the residents that they are being affected.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:21 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk