

Rita Goul, Supervisor  
Carol Coyle, Clerk  
Mary Letts, Trustee  
Daniel Mieske, Trustee  
Chuck Hudler, Treasurer

**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 Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 5 Opposed 0. Motion carried

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Darcie Shelagowski, CPA – Berthiaume & Company – Darcie addressed the Board and residents that were present. Darcie stated the audit for FY 07/01/2023-06/30/2024 received an “Unmodified Rating and was generally clearly stated and accepted.” This is the best rating that could be received. Darcie addressed the Major Funds and balances currently held by the Township. A special note on the Lakeshore Improvement negative ending. As the taxes are collected, the negative balance would become positive by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. One additional note on the Solid Waste Fund. The balance is decreasing and Darcie wanted to be sure there are monies coming in to cover the cost. Chuck noted the contract is coming due and the collection rates will be monitored. Lastly, Darcie stated the investment balance has been showing positive gains. The interest overall has increased from \$6,000.00 to \$28,000.00. Keep up the good work.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

1. December Birthdays – Two birthdays in December were reported.
2. Board Meeting Time Change – Rita asked the Board for input on changing the start time of the meetings from 7:00 to 6:00. After discussion, a motion to change the meeting start time to 6:00 pm was made by Chuck and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. All in favor 5 Opposed 0. Motion carried.
3. Hall Rental Increase – Rita proposed to increase the Township Hall Rental to \$100.00. After discussion, it was proposed to only raise it to \$75.00 beginning in January. A motion was made by Rita and supported by Wendy to increase the rent for the Township Hall to \$75.00 and the security deposit will remain at \$100.00. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan*, **YES**, *Wendy*, **YES**, *Carol*, **YES**, and *Rita*, **YES**. Motion carried.
4. Blight Update – Rita presented the letter from the Attorney about the blight on Saiko Road. The home owner is now in contempt of the court order from September. Rita asked how far the Board was wanting to take the case. To date, there has been approximately \$4,000.00 spent on this case. The estimate to continue is around \$3,000.00 more. After discussion, a motion was

made by Dan and supported by Rita, to stand behind the ordinance and move forward with the lawsuit. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.

5. Board of Review Training – The Board of Review training will be held at Mills Township Hall on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$20.00/person. Rita made a motion and supported by Dan, to send 4 people for training. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.
6. Committee Appointment – The following committees/positions were up for appointment: Board of Review, Planning, Road, Code Authority, Zoning Administrator, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Code Enforcement Officer. Rita provided the Board with a listing of interested people for all open positions. Each committee/position was discussed and voted on individually. The complete list and motions for each appointment in on file in the Clerk’s office.
7. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Rita wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**CLERK’S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, December 9th, 2024 (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk’s office). A motion to approve the minutes from the November Board meeting as written, was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 5 Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:**

1. Treasurer’s Report – Chuck presented the Treasurer’s report as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The ending balances were reconciled to the Bank Statements and was reviewed by Rita. It was noted the one outstanding tax check was addressed with the resident on Monday and should be cleared on next month’s statement. A motion to **accept and file the Treasurer’s report** was made by Carol and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.
2. Winter and Summer Tax Collection – The summer taxes are still being collected. Winter tax bills have been sent out and some payments have been made.
3. Tax Update – The Treasurer’s office will be open on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Chuck had received an email from a resident that had looked on the Midland County website for his tax information. The information was not there, so Chuck contacted Midland County to let them know. In addition, Chuck emailed a copy of his taxes to him. The problem has been corrected by Midland County.
4. Point n Pay – There was one Point n Pay for November. There has been a slight increase in the number of taxes being paid by credit card.

**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. A motion to pay the bills was made by Chuck and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.

2. Budget vs. Expense report was provided to all members. The budget was reviewed with recommended changes noted. (A copy is on file in the Clerk's office). Resolution 12-10-2024 C was read aloud, to amend the budget with the recommended changes, was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy, YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability reports were provided. Carol noted there were two reports included this month. One was for the Township and the other for the Fire Department.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Brian noted there were 16 calls for November. Medical – 8, Fire in the woods -1, Investigation -1, Trees/wires down -4, and Car Crashes -2. The Gerstacker Grant application was approved at the first level and had been sent on to the Gerstacker Board for review. Brian hopes to hear back soon on the status of the grant. Brian would like to have more money invested in Michigan Class. He has requested to leave about \$25,000.00 in the credit union account for now. The interest being earned through Michigan Class is greater than what the bank is offered by the credit union. Brian is continuing to look for grants to assist with the purchasing of new turnout gear. He too, would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**PARK COMMISSION:** Bob Kelley shared to get in touch with Darlene Thompson if you want to add a tree to the Park. There are 7 trees currently at the Park and this is a good start for the first year. The lights are on around the concession stand and things are much brighter there, now. There is approximately 40% propane left at the Park.

**PLANNING:** Wendy Faber announced the meeting dates for Planning will be March 5, May 7<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. The start time will be 6:00pm.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Floyd met with Al Carey from Carey Plumbing and Heating to have the furnace serviced for the winter. Dan has burned all the trees stumps and brush pile at the Old Hope Cemetery. Floyd thanked Brian for having some of the member from the Fire Department assist in serving the soup from the fundraiser.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** Permits issued for November were Building 4, Plumbing 1, Mechanical 4, and Electrical 4. The next meeting is December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm.

**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelley reported the last meeting was canceled because no quorum of members. Next meeting to be announced at a later date.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Next meeting will be January 9th, at 6:00 pm.

#### **UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Reminder that Trash and Recycle will be on Tuesdays, starting January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Deficit Elimination Plan – Chuck explained at the end of the budget on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Lakeshore Improvement was operating in a deficit from paying off the Road Improvement Bond.

This deficit triggers a request from the State Department of Treasury to the Township on how the deficit will be corrected. Carol read Resolution 12-10-2024 A that will be submitted to the Treasury Department. Chuck made a motion, that was supported by Rita, to adopt Resolution 12-10-2024 A. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried.

2. Tax Resolution – Chuck explained the tax over/under payment process. Currently, a \$1.00 over/under threshold is in place. Chuck requested that amount be increased to \$3.00. Resolution number 12-10-2024 B was read aloud and a motion to accept the resolution as read, was made by Chuck and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried.
3. Audit Report to USAD - Carol explained the yearly report to the USDA for the Water Project was completed, sent in and accepted by the USDA.
4. BS & A Tax Payment Method – Chuck explained the advantages of switching to BS & A Tax Credit Card Collection Module. There is no cost to the Township and the rate will be less for the residents. The change would not go in to affect until the winter tax collection period is completed. A motion to move to the BS & A credit card tax collection module was made by Carol and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Wendy YES, Chuck, YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES*. Motion carried.
5. Forfeiture List Request – Carol explained the State of Michigan requires a form to be filled out addressing any Property Forfeiture. Even though Hope Township has none, the form has to be submitted. Carol completed and submitted the form so the Township is in compliance.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** None

1. Motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. All in favor 5 Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk

Committee Appointments – 12-10-2024 for 2025

**Board of Review**

Diana Mieske -Yes

Amy Ginter -Yes

Mark Ginter -Alternate

Angela Aushana – Yes

Starla Jordan- No

Motion by Rita, Supported by Wendy

Motion Carried

**Planning Committee**

Wendy Faber Township Board Liaison

Nicole Kelley

Jennifer Salisbury

Kelly Eddy

Diane Vaughn

Motion by Rita, Supported by Chuck

Motion Carried.

**Road Committee**

Dan Mieske Township Board Liaison

Bob Kelley

Jay Brown

Kelly Eddy

Elgin Childs

Lisa Pomranky/William Coyle – Alternate

Motion by Rita, Supported by Wendy

Motion Carried

**Code Authority**

Dan Mieske

Motion by Rita, Supported by Chuck –

**Zoning Administrator**

Dan Mieske -

Motion by Rita, supported by Wendy

Motion Carried

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Carol Coyle Twp. Board Liaison

Nichole Kelley Planning

Tom Clark

Motion by Rita – Supported by Chuck

Motion Carried

**Code Enforcement**

Mark Ginter

Motion by Rita - Supported by Chuck

Motion Carried