

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.
(It is to be noted that all five Board members have been vaccinated and that masks were worn because Cass County is one of ten counties in the State with a high number of new COVID cases.)
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Craig Yeager
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Griggs
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Butts noted that the printed minutes listed Beth Pompey as having attended the meeting which was not the case. ***Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Board Meeting as corrected. Supported by Maley. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$416,242.32; **Receipts:** \$12,097.66; **Expenditures:** \$33,840.65; **New General Fund Balance:** \$394,499.33; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$262,663.74; **Receipts:** \$19,642.43; **Expenditures:** \$975.67; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$281,330.50; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$174,371.17. ***Motion by Butts to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Butts requested that Snow Plowing Bids be added to Old Business and that Item C: Letter from Bruce Gant and Item D: North Red Hill Club be added to New Business. ***Motion by Griggs to approve the Amended Agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
8. **Guest Speaker:** There was no Guest Speaker.
9. **Public Comments: Fred Laylin:** Laylin inquired as to why Russ Cross was being allowed to have a doublewide on the sales lot on his property. Butts went over the history of the discussion he had with Cross and the agreement he had reached with Cross as to the fact that the doublewide will be moved soon.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** There was no current report.
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no current report.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Three Electrical Permits were issued for \$533.00
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued for \$650.00
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** One Plumbing Permit was issued for \$115.00.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that Kays had issued one Land Division permit. Butts said that he has one person who has agreed to serve on the Board of Review and a possible alternate. He said there is no news on the process of training for Board of Review members.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had been one transfer of a burial plot and one cremation burial.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that the tanker was back in service after an extended period of maintenance. He said that a tour of the department was given to a small group of home schooled students and that some of the firemen will be going to Kincheloe School on November 5 to make a presentation on fire safety.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** The report that came with the bill was gone over. A pier that had been built on a road end is going to be torn down. Pompey asked for permission to proceed to Court on a case on 68th St. ***Motion by Reich to proceed with the 68th St. blight case as requested by Pompey. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*** Butts agreed to speak to Pompey about the process that had been established on how a case is to be taken up by Pompey—on orders by the Supervisor after he has substantiated a complaint made by a Board member or a private resident.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said there is still no news on the building or property.
 - K. **Zoning Violations: M-51:** Butts said that he had stood firm with our attorney and did not accept the outdoor storage of vehicles or parts of vehicles. He said that the managers agreed with the township the morning of the hearing; **Hatch St. Tiny House:** Butts said that the tiny house has been "red tagged" and that the owner has agreed to move it off the property.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is in December. The Michigan legislature is in the process of approving short-term rentals.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** no news
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich said a few items need to be completed on the building expansion/renovation. He said that more and more patrons are coming in as Covid cases decline.

- O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts went over call numbers and times. He said that ALL ambulance services are under extreme stress due to shortage of trained personnel, rising costs and more and more government restrictions, rules and regulations.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko explained her written report. In other items: (1.) **Truelove Property:** said that the Heather Truelove blight case costs had been added to the property's tax bill. (2.) **Bank Name Change:** the TCF Bank has been purchased by Huntington Bank with the name change to take place; (3.) **Credit Card for Township Purchases:** went over the information on getting a credit card for township purchases. **Motion by Reich to follow Fusko's recommendation on getting credit cards for township purchases. Support by Maley. Motion carried.** (4.) **Newsletter:** went over the newsletter contents; (5.) **Banking Philosophy:** explained her banking philosophy which all the Board members agreed with; (6.) **Resolution to Set the Last Day to Pay Property Taxes:** **Motion by Fusko to pass Resolution R-21-1-01 to set the last day to pay property taxes. Support by Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Butts declared the resolution adopted.**
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich said no budget amendments are needed this month.
- R. **Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: (1.) he was offered a 2020 plat map book at a reduced rate (due to late publication) by the Conservation District. **Motion by Fusko to purchase a plat map book. Support by Maley. Motion carried;** (2.) he had attended the quarterly 911 meeting.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said he is finished with all the items he has been sent.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said no meeting is scheduled.
- 11. **Payment of Bills:** Butts said that the Fire Department bill for the air compressor bill should be \$115.00, not \$115.09. **Motion by Maley to pay the list of corrected bills. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
- 12. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Roads:** Butts said that all the road work is complete.
 - B. **Siding & Roof:** There was no news.
 - C. **Snow Plowing Bids:** The ad was in the Dowagiac newspaper requesting a bid to plow snow at the Township Hall/Fire Station. Bids will be opened at the December
- 13. **New Business:**
 - A. **Road Trip with the County Road Commission:** Butts said the Road Commission offered November 11 or 15 starting 1:00. The Boards first choice was November 11.
 - B. **Spending Options for APR Funds:** Butts went over the legal options to use the APR funds. Butts suggested the township contact Yeo & Yeo to get the guidelines on accounting for lost revenues due to Covid. (APR funds can be used to replace lost money.) **Motion by Fusko to contact Yeo & Yeo to get the guidelines on accounting for lost revenues due to Covid. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
 - C. **Response to Letter From Bruce Gant:** The Board had received a letter from Bruce and Linda Gant concerning the property taxes on their "guest house." Reich had forwarded the letter to the Township's attorney for her to suggest a response to the letter from the Gants. The attorney had sent a proposed response which all the Board members had a chance to read. **Motion by Maley to authorize the Board's attorney to send the letter she had written to Mr. and Mrs. Gant. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
 - D. **North Red Mill Club School:** Butts had received a call from the group that is using the old North Red Mill School building for 4H concerning repairs that are needed on the building. There was discussion about what should be done. Butts will meet with a representative of the group to see what repairs are needed.
- 14. **Public comments:** There were no Public Comments.
- 15. **Adjournment:** **Motion by Griggs that the meeting be adjourned. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk