

## DRAFT MINUTES

### WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES JULY 7, 2025

**Superviosor:** Davis called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

**Attendance:** David Davis, Supervisor; Kurt Reich, Clerk; Judith Fuisco, Treasurer; James Griggs, Trustee; Mandy Wallace, Trustee

**County Commissioners:** Tom Langley; James Lawrence

**Citizens:** Craig Yeager, Fire Chief, Tammy Yeager, Karee Klause, Vets Director, Nan Longway, Robert Longway, Dora Hetzel, Nancy Tabbert

**Pledge:** The pledge to the flag of the United States was led by Supervisor Davis.

**Invocation:** The invocation was said by Supervisor Davis.

**Recognition of Robert Longway:** Jim Griggs presented Robert Longway a plaque recognizing his 32 years of service on the township Planning Commission.

**Guest Speaker:** Karee Klause, the Veterans Director for Cass County, said that she needs help in identifying veterans in Cass County. She stressed that many veterans are in need of financial help and that by helping them the county is helped financially as well. Klause said that veterans should get verification yearly to keep up on the services they qualify for.

**Minutes:** Motion by Fusko to approve the draft copy of the June minutes. Support by Griggs. Motion carried

**Treasurer's Report: Previous General Fund Balance:** \$672,193.37; **Receipts:** \$14,352.63; **Expenditures:** \$125,679.12; **New General Fund Balance:** \$560,866.88.

**Previous Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$418,566.06; **Receipts:** \$891.24;

**Expenditures:** \$1,195.88; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$418,261.42.

**New Trust and Agency Balance:** \$175,769.20.

**Agenda Approval/Amendments:** Motion by Reich to approve the agenda as printed. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.

**County Commissioner Report:** Langley said that the new County Administrator is Patrick Jordan. Lawrence said that he and Langley are trying to get the commissioners to discuss the ambulance issue but to no avail. He said that he and Langley have started a committee to get all of the townships to work together on a solution to the ambulance problem.

**Public Comments:** Dora Hetzel asked if people who make complaints about blight are made public or if they are kept private. Fusko said that the person making the complaint can be kept anonymous if the person wishes so. Hetzel asked what needs to be done to get work done on road ends at Twin Lakes. She said that more and more people are mooring boats at road ends and in some cases shutting down the road end near their lot. Supervisor Davis said he would speak to her after the meeting. Nancy Tabbert said that the street signs next to her property have disappeared and people are using her driveway as a turn-a-round to get back to Hatch Street. Davis said he will call the Road Commission to get the signs replaced.

#### **Reports:**

**A. Building Administrator:** 9 permits

**B. Zoning Administrator:** 6 permits

**C. Electrical Inspector:** 4 permits

**D. Mechanical Inspector:** 4 permits

**E. Plumbing Inspector:** 0 permits

**F. Assessor Report:** Davis said that the Board of Review will meet on July 22, 2025 at 1:30 P.M.

**G. Cemetery Manager Report:** Tammy Yeager reported that there had been two burials and that three plots had been purchased. She said that two head stones need to be reset due to storm damage. Craig Yeager said that the owners of the lots may be able to get repairs to the head stones on their lots with payments from their home owners insurance.

**H. Fire Board Report:** Jim Lawrence said that lights in the meeting room of the Fire Department need to be replaced. Chief Yeager reported there had been 15 fire runs. He said that the pumpers had passed their ladder tests but that 1222 had failed its pump test. Yeager said that the department attended several fireworks displays and that the show at Twin Lakes was very good. He said the department will be present at Steve's Run. He said that the Dowagiac department is running a cadet training program. Yeager said the Department will work at the fire departments' food stand. He said that Volinia Church has requested the department attend one of the days during Bible School.

**I. Blight Report:** Fusko went over the report from Zoning Solutions. She stated that the township tries to work with people who are working to clean up their property. Fusko went over letters she had sent to two property owners complementing them for the beautiful condition of their homes and yards.

**J. Unsafe Buildings:** none

**K. Zoning Violations:** There was no report.

**L. Planning Commission:** Griggs reported that the June meeting had been very educational for the members. He said that the Planning Commission is working on the township's Master Plan with an emphasis on keeping the rural atmosphere in the township.

**M. Zoning Board of Appeals:** Meetings to discuss variance applications are set for July 17

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**N. Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said that a budget meeting will be held on July 15 at

**O. Emergency Services Authority:** Supervisor Davis said the Authority will be holding a meeting on the ambulance situation.

**P. Treasurer's Report:** Fusko said that summer taxes are due on September 14. She said that the county is using BSA software which is going to the cloud for its business. She said that the Register of Deeds is warning about fraud on the internet taking property owner titles.

**Q. Clerk's Report:** Reich thanked Carol for all the work she had done while he was absent.

**R. Supervisor's Report:** Davis said that he had been notified that the emergency siren at Twin Lakes was not working.

**S. Website:** Griggs said that he will be putting a list of the monthly bills on the website.

**Payment of Bills:** Motion by Fusko to pay the bills as listed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried. Davis said that he appreciated the transaction report.

**Unfinished Business:** There had not been any action on the culvert.

**New Business:**

**A. SW MI Materials:** The municipalities involved are Berrien County, Van Buren County, and Wayne Township.

**B. FOIA Fee Schedule:** There was discussion about a form the MTA has provided to Townships. Volinia Township has adopted the schedule. Motion by Reich to adopt the fee

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- C. Red Hill School Lease:** Davis said a 4H club is using the building and there is no written lease to list the rental agreement governing the rent amount and which party is responsible for repairs to the building. There was discussion about contacting the township attorney to write up a rental agreement with the sum of \$1.00 for 99 years. Motion by Davis to have the township attorney write up a 99 year long lease with a fee of \$1.00. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.
  - D. Ferrell Gas Issue:** Davis said that there has been a problem with Ferrell Gas getting the correct bill to the Fire Department and to the Township. He also said the bills have been excessive. There was discussion about switching to MEC Propane. Davis volunteered to look into switching to MEC and the cost of such a move and the fee for MEC propane.

**Public Comment:** There was no new public comment.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Davis to adjourn. Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kurt Reich, Township Clerk