

WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2025

Budget Hearing Meeting called to order by Supervisor Davis at 7:30 p.m. Treasurer Fusko indicated the meeting had been published in Leader Publications for public information. The budget must be in place for Fiscal Year, beginning on April 1, 2025. Main accounts are the General Fund for the township, Fire Department general fund, Special Assessment as in Wayne Water, Board members salaries, all of which are available for public view. Trustee Griggs further explained that some times during the fiscal year, amounts may need to be adjusted and are done so with Budget Amendments, and Roll Call voting by the board members. No public comment. Motion to adjourn by Davis, Support by Griggs. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Supervisor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:38. p.m.

Attendance: David Davis, Supervisor; Judith Fusko, Treasurer; James Griggs, Trustee. Mandy Wallace, Trustee.

Absent: Kurt Reich

Citizens: Craig Yeager, Tom Langley, James Lawrence, Gary Carter & Thomas Jaslowski.

Pledge of the United States of America was led by Supervisor Davis.

Invocation: Supervisor Davis led in prayer.

Fusko made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 3, 2025 meeting, as written. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance: \$621,482.08; **Receipts:** \$41,354.25
Expenditures: \$23,769.47; **New General Fund Balance: \$639,066.86; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds) \$392,348.59; Receipts:** \$468.58; **Expenditures: \$2,779.38; New Fire Department Fund Balance: \$390,031.79 Trust & Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance \$310,301.06** Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

Agenda: Agenda Approval/Amendments: Motion to accept agenda/amendments by Davis. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.

Oaths: None

Public Comment: Our County Commissioners, Tom Langley & James Lawrence discussed some general county happenings with attendee's. Applicants for County Administrator are receiving training, to help within their community, to be of encouragement, and support to residents. Mr. Jaslowski was wondering about permission being granted to ride snowmobiles on public roads. It was shared that the DNR is in charge of those permissions.

Reports:

Building Administrator: None

Zoning Administrator: None

Electrical Inspector: One permit - \$170.00

Mechanical Inspector: Three permits - \$424.00

Plumbing Inspector: One permit - \$216.00

Assessor Report: Board of Review met March 10, 2025. Kays said a two-year study was made of properties assessed and sold show results indicating the increases in the following: Agricultural 18%; Commercial 11%; Residential 16%; with a 5% overall annual increase.

Cemetery Mgr. Report: The Grounds Keeper Contract was amended to read that Craig Yeager would receive \$500/mo for 11 months, & the balance of the contract in the 12th month. A motion was made Davis, Support by Griggs. Motion carried.

The Cemetery Committee met on February 4, 2025 and decided on a fee increase for Saturday burials. Discussion on repaving the asphalt drive & estimates are being received. Discussion about 2 1/2 acres that are being farmed now, may be needed for cemetery expansion. A shed is being considered. David Accoe was reappointed to the Cemetery Committee for a 3 year term, via a motion by Davis. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.

Fire Board Report: Chief Yeager reported 7 calls for February. Fire trucks were serviced and bills submitted and paid. Two men are out on medical leave & Cody Davis is continuing training classes. No cost recovery to report. Ice rescue training is completed with Decatur.

Blight Report: Discussion regarding blight on McKenzie for clean up. Commission Lawrence informed the board that it was already cleaned up.

Unsafe Building: None

Zoning Violations: None

Planning Commission: Reminder of March 13th meeting. Supervisor Davis has been invited to come early to the Planning Commission meeting to comment on future projects.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None

Dowagiac District Library: None

Emergency Services Authority: Supervisor reports a contract with Wayne, Silver Creek, Volinia, North Pokagon, and City of Dowagiac is coming forthwith. This will be known as:

Ambulance District. Basic operating functions and accounts are being put in place. They are meeting again March 25. A motion was made by Fusko, to enable Davis to sign the contract. Support by Davis. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Written Report: Treasurer Fusko is preparing to download the tax base to the County Treasurer. Reported that taxes on two parcels were recently paid on line. The F-65 has been filed and auditor is coming May 27, to do the 2024-2025 audit, and she is currently working on a credit card policy. Budget Amendments presented and motion by Fusko to make amendment changes. Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: None

Supervisor: Supervisor Davis reported that finally, the Liberty Mutual WC Insurance is in the correct category and paid for 2024-2025. He shared a report called "**Communications**" that details police activity in Wayne Twp. He has had opportunity to observe the workings of surveillance cameras placed around the Cass County area to enable law enforcement to find violators more quickly and was excited about their potential. The portable camera project is called: "Flock."

Township Website: Trustee Griggs reports continued updating on website & installing router.

Payment of Bills: Motion to pay bills as listed by Griggs. Support by Davis. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Roads: Proposals were presented by Cass County Road Commission for work on: **Ball Road, Dewey Lake Street, Twin Lakes Road to Glenwood Road, Graham Street to Township Line of Van Buren.** This would be gravel work.

New Business: A request from Advanced Communications & Data (ACD) which asked for a renewal to extend the expired Metro Act, on January 5, 2025, was discussed and motion made by Griggs to renew the permit. Support by Davis. Motion carried.

Resolution: R25-03-01 Resolution to Establish Township Official's Salary

A motion to increase Trustee salaries to \$3,900 annually made by Davis. Support by Fusko. Motion carried. Roll Call: Davis, Aye; Fusko, Aye; Wallace, Aye; Griggs, Aye. Absent: Reich Nays: None

Resolution: R25-03-02 A Resolution to Set the Meeting Dates & Time of the Wayne Township Board for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 A motion by Fusko to accept meeting dates & time. Support by Davis. Motion carried. Roll Call: Fusko, Aye; Davis, Aye; Wallace, Aye; Griggs, Aye. Absent: Reich Nay: None

Resolution R25-03-02 A Resolution to establish a General Appropriations Act for Wayne Township; to define the powers and duties of the Wayne Township officers in relation to the administration of the budget; and to provide remedies for refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements of this ordinance. A motion to establish a General Appropriations Act was made by Griggs. Support by Wallace. Motion carried. Roll Call: Griggs, Aye; Wallace, Aye; Davis, Aye; Fusko, Aye. Absent: Reich. Nays: None

Purchase of a portable scanner, capable of double-sided scanning, was discussed and following discussion, a motion was made by Davis for the purchase, with a limit of \$500. and to task Trustee/IT Griggs with the purchase. Support by Wallace. Motion carried. Chief Yeager asked that Supervisor Davis attend the next Fire Board meeting as his guest. Chief Yeager would like to have the township phone not to ring into the fire department if at all possible and vice versa. Trustee Griggs will look into the matter.

With no further questions or discussions, Supervisor Davis closed the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol M Reich
Deputy Clerk
Wayne Township