

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 4, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, Russ Cross and Jo Ann Vander Weele
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Griggs
4. **Invocation:** Trustee Maley gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes: (A.) September 7, 2021 Board Meeting: Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 Board Meeting as printed. Supported by Maley. Motion carried. (B.) February 1, 2021 Board Meeting: Motion by Butts to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Board Meeting as printed. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$411,993.36; **Receipts:** \$58,625.44; **Expenditures:** \$54,376.48; **New General Fund Balance:** \$416,242.32; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$243,273.46; **Receipts:** \$22,012.26; **Expenditures:** \$2,621.98; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$262,663.74; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$162,436.08. **Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Butts requested the following topics be added to the agenda: Township Board credit card; Mill Pond request to set up a Special Assessment District to kill Milfoil; consider a Noxious Weed Ordinance; requesting bids for plowing snow at the Township Hall/Fire Station. **Motion by Griggs to approve the Amended Agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
8. **Guest Speaker:** There was no Guest Speaker.
9. **Public Comments: Russ Cross:** Butts said that he had spoken to Russ Cross (who was present) about a complaint he had received from Fred Laylin concerning a used modular Cross had for sale on his property. Cross said that the modular had been sold and would be removed shortly. Cross issued a complaint that Laylin had about 15 unlicensed vehicles on his property next to his (Cross') property.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** Three Building Permits were issued in August for \$234.00; Seven Building Permits were issued in September for \$1,960.00
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** One Zoning Permit was issued in August for \$30.00; Seven Zoning Permits were issued in Sept. for \$210.00
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** One Electrical Permit was issued for \$166.00
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Three Mechanical Permits were issued for \$620.00
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** No Plumbing Permits were issued.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts discussed the issue of BOR member certification and how it will be done—in person, zoom, etc. He said MTA wants an in-person training in the winter.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had not been any activity. There had been one transfer of a burial plot.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 16 runs in September.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey discussed the progress being made.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said that he still had not heard from Moore Excavating about purchasing the property.
 - K. **Zoning Violations: M-51:** a meeting of attorneys to discuss a settlement is in the works; a 5th wheeler is being lived in in Glenwood; Hatch St., a "tiny house" on a lot making two homes on one parcel
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is in December.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** no news
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich said the budget has no new full time employees
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** no news
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko explained her written report. Summer tax collection is completed. She said 25 taxpayers used a credit card to pay. Fusko said she is purchasing CD's from Honor Credit Union.
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich said no budget amendments are needed this month and no elections are set for November.
 - R. **Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: (1.) the Township's share of ARPA is two payments of \$136,000.00; (2.) Covid has gone up in the County resulting in masks being required in meetings; (3.) the cracks in the asphalt have not been filled yet; (4.) (This is a note from the Clerk: Butts reports on numerous calls he takes from residents and non-residents that he deals with. There are too many to record—what a BUSY Supervisor!)

- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said he continues to update the website as materials are given to him.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said there had been a meeting on September 27.
11. **Payment of Bills:** *Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
12. **Old Business:**
- A. **Roads:** The only work left to be completed is stripping. *Motion by Fusko to send a letter to Jeff Van Belle, the County Drain Commissioner, thanking him for the excellent job done on the Rudy Rd. drain. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
- B. **Siding & Roof:** There was no news.
13. **New Business:**
- A. **Credit Card for Township Related Purchases:** Butts said that the Board should look into having a credit card to pay for township related purchases. He said that reimbursing a board member for purchases they paid for with their own credit card could look suspicious to the public. There was discussion about the pros and cons of getting a credit card. Fusko volunteered to look into the legal aspects of such a move.
- B. **Mill Pond Association Request:** Butts said that the Mill Pond Association has contacted him concerning the Township setting up a Special Assessment District with collecting funds to pay a company to apply a chemical(s) to kill Milfoil in the Mill Pond. He described different scenarios of how the township could proceed and/or how the Mill Pond Association could proceed. Butts also went over what the cost for such a project could amount to.
- C. **Proposed Noxious Weed Ordinance:** The Board discussed the Noxious Weed Ordinance that Beth Middleton-Pompey had asked the Board to pass to make it easier for her to inspect properties with tall plant-life. Board members voiced concern that the ordinance would be very hard to enforce and could be over used in the future. *Motion by Griggs to not consider a noxious weed ordinance. Support by Maley. Motion carried..*
- D. **Snow Plowing Bids:** *Motion by Butts to advertise in the Dowagiac Daily News to get bids for plowing snow at the Township Hall/Fire Station. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.*
14. **Public comments: Craig Yeager:** Yeager said that his neighbor has cleaned up his property enough so he is no longer parking junk cars in the road.
15. **Adjournment:** *Motion by Griggs that the meeting be adjourned. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk