

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

June 7, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.
(It is to be noted that proper Social Distancing was observed by all present and all five Board members have been vaccinated.)
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present (arrived at 7:35); Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Craig Yeager, Nancy Tabbert and Tom Jaslowski
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Maley.
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** *Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 Regular Board meeting with Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$471,475.57; **Receipts:** \$54,552.23; **Expenditures:** \$18,168.23; **New General Fund Balance:** \$507,861.57; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$256,834.02; **Receipts:** \$11.81; **Expenditures:** \$20,627.21; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$236,218.62; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$49,586.30. *Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by Maley to approve the Agenda as printed. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
8. **Public Comments: Nancy Tabbert:** Mrs. Tabbert asked if the topic "short term rentals" had been discussed by the Township Board or any of its committees. Butts said no to her inquiry but that the Planning Commission would be meeting on Thursday, June 10, and that the topic was on the agenda to be discussed. He said that the State Legislature is looking at the issue as well; **Craig Yeager:** Yeager said that his neighbor directly to the north of his property on the east side of the road continues to have a lot of blight and is still parking vehicles in the road.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** There was no report.
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** The report was from March 11, 2021 and had nine Zoning Permits along with two applications for variances.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Four Electrical Permits were issued for \$646.00.
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Three Mechanical Permits were issued for \$485.00.
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** Two Plumbing Permits were issued for \$443.00.
 - F. **Assessor:** There was no report.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that he had been able to get the cemeteries all mowed and cleaned up for Memorial Day. He said that he had been able to install the new sign at South Wayne Cemetery.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 10 runs in May. He said that the ladders had been tested and that all had passed the test. Butts reported that Trisha Smith had passed Fire I training and that the graduation ceremony is this Thursday. He said that he planned to attend the ceremony. Butts stated that there had been a joint training with the Dowagiac Department last week with water supply as the main subject matter. In other business he reported that the county fire departments were going to run their booth at the County Fair this summer; the two thermal imaging cameras have arrived; the Grass Rig is back in service (the property owner's insurance company paid \$1,360.00 for damages to the truck); the firemen have planned a cookout at Frank and Marsha Butts' home on July 3 with the Fire Board and Township Board members invited to attend.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey had sent a very thorough written report of all of the open cases with an explanation of those cases that had been taken to court.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** The only open case is about the A-frame on Morton St. Butts said that he has spoken to Ed Shield, the owner, who has given him permission to get bids to demolish the house. Butts said that Deer Path, the business that has returned his calls about demolishing the building, informed him that the property would have to be inspected for asbestos at a cost of \$2,100.00 and that demolition would cost \$5,000.00. He said that Moore Excavating had given him a demolition cost of \$4,800.00. Butts said that he believed that Mr. Shields would have a difficult time paying for the total cost of the project so he will speak to him soon.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** See the Blight Inspector Report.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission's next meeting is June 10.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** A variance was granted on May 13 for a pole barn in the side yard.
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** The Ribbon Cutting on May 15 went very well.

- O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts had distributed reports for April and May. He said that the property next to the Die Cast factory has been purchased with construction to take place in the fall.
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko explained her written report. She passed out a draft of the newsletter. She said the meeting dates must be set so she can include them in the copy.
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich said the accountant from Yeo & Yeo has been in contact with him and is getting ready to begin the audit.
 - R. **Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: **(1.)** he is going over the process for the township to get the COVID19 money from the State (given to the states by the federal government); **(2.)** the township actually has two wings of The Timbers in its boundary. He agreed with the city manager to have the parking lot in the boundary instead; **(3.)** the State has taken over the regulating of gravel pits--taking more power AWAY from townships; **(4.)** the attorney for the company that has been pushing to get information on solar power regulations in the township said that the cost set to decommission solar farms is too high; **(5.)** said that he has been receiving a lot of complaints about the condition of Davis Lane.
 - S. **Township Website:** Griggs said that he continues to work to bring it up to date.
 - T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said there was a zoom meeting on May 14 which contained a lot of historical information.
11. **Payment of Bills: *Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***
12. **Old Business:**
- A. **Dust Control:** Butts said that the Township has not received any information as to when applications of the liquid will begin.
 - B. **Siding & Roof:** Butts said that Martin Buckland has not given him any firm recommendations for work on the roof.
 - C. **Rudy Road Drain:** Butts said the road above the drain continues to sink.
 - D. **Barking dogs on Flanders St.:** there have not been any new complaints.
 - E. **Printer Ribbon:** Butts said that the printer for the emergency siren at Twin Lakes is working.
 - F. **Phone System:** our phone system is now run by MEC.
 - G. **Credit Cards to Pay Taxes:** Fusko went over the information she has received from the County Treasurer, some township treasurers and the company she is recommending to use for the new process. ***Motion by Reich to start accepting credit cards to pay property taxes through the company All Paid. Support by Maley. There were questions by Griggs during the discussion. Motion carried.***
13. **New Business:**
- A. **Project/Derby Car Ordinance (See the minutes from last month for the discussion about the proposed ordinance.): *Motion by Frank L. Butts to adopt ordinance O-21-06-01 on Vehicle Storage and Repair. Support by Frank H. Maley. Roll call vote: Frank L. Butts, yes; Kurt E. Reich, yes; Judith Anne Fusko, yes; Frank H. Maley, yes; James K. Griggs, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the ordinance adopted..***
 - B. **Township Phone Number on Comcast Bills:** Butts said that Comcast has asked if the Township wants to have its phone number printed on the bills it sends out. ***Motion by Reich to have the Township's phone number printed on Comcast bills. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
 - C. **Resolution R-21-06-01 to set the Township's Millage Rate:** Butts said that the County Equalization Department has sent us the millage rate of .8607. ***Motion by Griggs to approve Resolution R-21-0-6-02 setting the Township's millage rate at .8607. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***
 - D. **Meeting Dates Calendar:** Fusko presented the Meeting Dates Calendar she had prepared. There was discussion about when to hold the Board meeting if the holiday was to be observed on the Monday of the regular Board meeting date. Two options had been used in the past—on the Tuesday after the holiday or on the Thursday after the holiday or election (to give the Clerk more time to prepare for the election and then the Board meeting). ***Motion by Maley to have the Board meeting on the Tuesday after Independence Day and after Labor Day—July 6 and September 7. Support by Butts. Motion carried.***
14. **Public Comments:**
15. **Adjournment: *Motion by Griggs that the meeting be adjourned. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk