

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 1, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.  
Citizens: David Davis, Tom Jaslowski, Allen Middaugh, Craig Yeager, Kathryn Yoder, Benjamin Wallace, Mandy Wallace.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Maley.
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Frank Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** March 4, 2024: Township Board meeting minutes: ***Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Board meeting with a correction of who was elected Vice Chairperson of the Township Planning Commission whether it was Lori Schoff as printed or Judy Clark as recalled by Fusko and Griggs. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*** March 4, 2024: Budget Hearing: ***Motion by Butts to approve the minutes of the 2024 – 2025 Budget Hearing as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report:** General Fund Balance: \$574,930.17 Receipts: \$56,685.76; Expenditures: \$21,370.29; New General Fund Balance: \$610,245.64; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds): \$342,863.66; Receipts: \$1,342.90; Expenditures: \$555.88; New Fire Department Fund Balance: \$343,650.88; Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance: \$185,975.12. ***Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
7. **Agenda:** Butts requested that the contract for Dust Control and the bill for ambulance coverage be added to New Business. ***Motion by Butts to approve the amended Agenda. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***
8. **Guest Speaker:** There was no guest speaker.
9. **Public Comments:** There were no comments by the public.
10. **Reports:**
  - A. **Building Inspector:** Butts said that three Building Permits had been issued.
  - B. **Zoning Report:** There was no report from Mark Davis.
  - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Four Electrical Permits were issued for \$853.00.
  - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Three Mechanical Permits were issued for \$485.00 and two Plumbing Permits were issued for \$441.00.
  - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that thirteen appeals heard by the March Board of Review, He said that the July Board of Review will be held on July 16 at 1:30 P.M.
  - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had not been any sales or burials.
  - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Yeager said that there had been seventeen runs in March. He said that the tanker is having more serious problems as far as the engine goes. It sometimes cuts out after delivering its load of water. It has started up, but Yeager believes the engine should be checked out. The Fire Board agrees and has told Yeager to get some firm figures on fixing the engine. (Yeager said he has done some checking from repairing the engine to getting a new engine.)
  - I. **Blight Inspector:** Fusko said that the invoices are up to date. She has worked out a timetable with Zoning Solutions to get the invoices and reports in time for the monthly Board meeting. She went over the names of violators and their addresses. She said that Beth Pompey has asked the Board to approve the cleanup of the Harris property on Colby St. ***Motion by Butts to approve the cleanup of the Harris property on Colby. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*** Fusko said that there is an extreme blight problem on the Mark Hall property. There was a consensus by the Board members to table action until the May meeting. Reich said that he has hired Michael McShane to update all the Blight and Ordinance problems.
  - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** There was no report.
  - K. **Zoning Violations:** There was no report.
  - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission held elections with Lyle Springsteen elected Chairman, Judy Clark elected Vice Chairman and Craig Schmidt elected Secretary. Griggs gave a report on the recent meeting of the County Planning Commission (CPC). He said that the CPC has approved a contract with a consultant to develop a new Master Plan. Griggs said that the

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consultant spoke to the CPC and never included the townships that had indicated they wished to be a part of the process to write up a new Master Plan for both the County and the interested townships. He said that the consultant said there would be one Master Plan and acted surprised when questioned about how other municipalities would be included in the new Master Plan as had been done in the last County Master Plan. Griggs said that the consultant had spoken about an “ultra high-speed” process to write the new Master Plan which would include sending out a survey to the county residents but not addressing township plans or concerns. Griggs asked about costs for the interested townships and was answered with silence. After Griggs’ report there was little support on the township Board for the CPC’s plan of action. **Motion by Butts to decline joining the CPC’s process unless and until changes are made by the consultant to include townships in a full and meaningful way. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**

- M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Butts said that two requests for variances had been turned in. Reich said that the Public Hearings will be held on April 18 starting at 7:00 P.M.
- N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich was able to attend the February meeting with zoom. He said a letter had been received by the Board from Mr. Winchester, a strong member of the Potawatomi tribe who urged the Library Board to not remove the picture of the Indian a committee of the Potawatomis’ had requested be removed. He said that the budget is strong and that an audit report is coming soon.
- O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said that there is a meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:30 PM. in the Wayne Township meeting room. A contract with SMACAS for a second full-time ambulance instead of a 12-hour ambulance will be a major topic of discussion.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report.  
**Blight Information:** Judy went over several blight cases that are being worked on by the township and by Zoning Solutions.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich said that the new budget has just taken effect so there are no budget amendments needed.
- R. **Supervisor:** Butts said that the County Board of Commissioners is holding hazardous waste collection on the afternoon of April 24 at the County Road Commission property. He said that the township’s Short Term Rental Ordinance had been published and will take effect in 30 days from publication. Butts said that the City of Dowagiac is creating a Special Assessment District for ambulance service as Wayne Township has for over twenty years.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs continues to put in updated articles from Board members.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that a meeting is being held tonight.
10. **Payment of Bills:** Butts said that \$20,670.41 for the Ambulance Special Assessment payment needed to be added to the list of bills. **Motion by Fusko to pay the list of bills with the addition of the Ambulance Special Assessment payment of \$20,670.41. Support by Maley. Motion carried unanimously.**
11. **Old Business: Roads:** Butts said that the contracts for the previously approved road work had arrived and were now complete with the work and costs that had been agreed upon. **Motion by Butts to approve the contracts submitted by the Cass County Road Commission. Support by Fusko. Motion carried unanimously.**
12. **New Business:**
- A. **Presentation by Mandy Wallace for a Program to Encourage a Township Clean-up:** Mandy Wallace said that she and her husband, Shane Wallace, have started a business named Faithful Hauling Services and have three large and three medium sized dumpsters which they rent out. She said that their business would like to work with the township to hold Township Cleanup. Wallace proposed a cleanup in the fall on a Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. located in the township hall parking lot. She said that Shane and herself would work for \$400.00 and the township would have to have two workers present as well. Wallace detailed the costs of the project. The presentation generated a lot of questions and discussion among the Board members. Much of the discussion centered around a program the Board had several years ago where the township located a dumpster on Road Commission property off Morton St. at Twin Lakes. Unfortunately, the program had to be ended for several reasons—most centered around poor behavior of people who dumped off garbage after hours at the locked gate. It was decided to table the issue until the Board meeting on May 6.

**B. Dust Control: *Motion by Reich to approve the contract for Dust Control submitted by the Cass County Road Commission. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***

13. **Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.

14. **Adjournment: *Motion by Griggs to adjourn the meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Kurt E. Reich, Wayne Township Clerk