

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 6, 2022**

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. Bill Kays, Township Assessor  
**Citizens:** Craig Yeager, Paul Pugh, Sherri Woods, Mark Woods, Kathy Gonidoviz, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kimmey, Lisa Broda.
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: May 2, 2022 Board meeting: *Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 Board meeting as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$522,097.80; **Receipts:** \$59,752.54. **Expenditures:** \$66,099.13; **New General Fund Balance:** \$515,751.21; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$252,352.40; **Receipts:** \$6,537.20; **Expenditures:** \$7,801.90; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$251,087.70; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$186,923.40. ***Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Butts requested that "Millage Rate" and "Sewer Agreement with Dowagiac and Egle" be added to New Business. ***Motion by Butts to approve the amended agenda. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** none
9. **Public Comments: Chris Kimmey:** Chris Kimmey of Davis Lane said he was speaking in favor of the proposed Mill Pond Special Assessment District to Control Weeds (Milfoil). He said it was the "right thing to do environmentally;" that it would help increase the property values of those on the water; it will cost more to fix the problem in the future; he wants to keep the "legacy" of the "lake" (Mill Pond); **Sherri Woods:** Sherri Woods, president of the Mill Pond Improvement Association, said that the Association had turned in property owner signatures holding 55% of the land mass.
10. **A. Building Inspector:** Six Building Permits (includes one Demolition Permit) were issued in May for \$736.00.  
**B. Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.  
**C. Electrical Inspector:** One Electrical Permit was issued for \$160.00.  
**D. Mechanical Inspector:** Five Mechanical Permits were issued for \$1,025.00.  
**E. Plumbing Inspector:** No Plumbing Permits were issued.  
**F. Assessor:** Butts said the July Board of Review meeting will be held on July 19, 2022 at 1:30 P.M.  
**G. Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said there had been 3 burials and a couple of lots had been sold in May. He said a large sassafras tree needs to be taken out (it is in the middle of a grave site) at a cost of about \$700.00. ***Motion by Fusko to approve removing the large sassafras tree at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***  
**H. Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that Volinia Township is on board with the Cost Recovery process after he and Craig Yeager had attended one of Volinia's Board meetings to explain it as well as how the Wayne Fire Board is spending contract payments from the Volinia Township Board.  
**I. Blight Inspector:** No report had been received. ***Motion by Maley to accept the Fire Board report. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***  
**J. Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said he has heard that the property the a-frame sits on has been sold.  
**K. Zoning Violations: Dewey Lake St.:** Butts and Fusko had both received calls today inquiring about purchasing the property on Dewey Lake St. where a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camper is located which is in violation of the township's Zoning Ordinance. Both Fusko and Butts explained the limited legal uses of the property. One of the people said the news about the property was on Facebook; **M-51:** Butts said the business is staying within the Zoning Ordinance guidelines.  
**L. Planning Commission:** Butts said the Planning Commission meets Thursday, June 9. He said Craig Schmidt has sent the members three samples of ordinances on regulating Short Term Rentals.  
**M. Zoning Board of Appeals:** The Zoning Board of Appeals met June 2 and after considerable discussion voted to grant the two variances applied for.  
**N. Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich said that things continue to run smoothly. He said that the number of patrons coming to the library is going up with the decrease in Covid restrictions. Reich said that small bills for past construction or needed enhancements continue to come in.  
**O. Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts went over the times on the two reports that had come in. He said that the ambulances are very busy.

- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had turned in a very thorough written report. Fusko said she has taken many complaints concerning Dust Control. She said that citizens have been told by someone at/in the Road Commission that it is the Township's fault for poor quality of Dust Control or the lateness of the application. She has contacted the Road Commission and has been told that the applications will begin on June 20. Fusko requested that the Board purchase a color printer. Griggs said that he will look into purchasing a quality color printer. **Motion by Fusko that Griggs get a color printer for Board use not to exceed \$800.00. Support by Maley. Motion carried.** Fusko said the summer tax newsletter will be going to the printer soon. She asked the Board members to go over the draft copy to see if they see any errors that need to be corrected. She said that the State is getting very strict about people claiming Principle Residence Exemption.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich pointed out the need for a budget amendment in the Cemetery budget. **Motion by Fusko to move \$300.00 from the Cemetery Improvements line item to the Cemetery Operating Supplies line item. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
- R. **Supervisor:** Supervisor: Butts reported the following: (1.) the Road Commission will be paying ½ of the bill for Dust Control this year; (2.) gave a report trimming and spraying of brush MEC will be doing this year; (3.) Griggs will be putting information on the website concerning assessing which is a part of AMAR; (4.) the township now has two County Commissioner Districts; (5.) the Board of Commissioners passed an ATV ordinance.
- S. **Township Website:** see Supervisor reports
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said a meeting was held on May 24. He reported that the Pokagon Band is constructing a meander off Peavine St.
10. **Payment of Bills:** **Motion by Griggs to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
11. **Old Business:**  
**ARPA Funds:** ARPA funds were deposited into the General Fund and then a portion was put into the Fire Fund to cover appropriate spending.
12. **New Business:**
- A. **Fire Works Permit for Twin Lakes:** The Twin Lakes Improvement Association has applied for a Fire Works Permit for July 2. Butts noted that the required paperwork has been submitted. **Motion by Butts to approve the Fire Works Permit for the Twin Lakes Improvement Association. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
- B. **Proposed Weed Control Special Assessment District:** Reich had reported that the Mill Pond Improvement Association had turned in petitions which they believed represented 55% of the land mass which would be required to pay for a special assessment to kill milfoil in the Mill Pond. The petitions were given to Bill Kays to determine the validity of the petitions. Kays was present and explained the process he had used to arrive at a just conclusion. Kays said that the facts showed that the petition percentage of the proposed land mass was actually 50.7%. The resolution that had been passed by the Township Board in 2021 required signatures of 51% of the land mass. There was discussion of the findings of Kays and he answered questions from the floor. Sherri Woods, the president of the Mill Pond Association, asked for a copy of Kays' calculations. Kays said that he would e-mail them to Woods. It was pointed out that new petitions could be turned in next year.
- C. **Resolution to Set the Millage Rate for 2022:** **Motion by Reich to adopt Resolution R-22-06-01 to set the 2022 millage rate at .8564. Support by Fusko. Roll call vote: Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, the resolution was passed unanimously.**
- D. **Agreement Between Wayne Township, the City of Dowagiac and EGLE:** Butts said the township's attorney said the sewer agreement between Wayne Township, the City of Dowagiac and EGLE needs major revisions and needs to be rescinded. **Motion by Butts to rescind the sewer agreement between Wayne Township, the City of Dowagiac and EGLE. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
13. **Public comments:** none.
14. **Adjournment:** **Motion by Griggs to adjourn. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**  
 The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk