

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, absent; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Four members of the public (David Davis, Tom Kaslowski, Craig Yeager, Tammy Yeager) were present.
Press: none
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:** May 4, 2023 Board Meeting: ***Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Board Meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$428,249.36; **Receipts:** \$57,780.13; **Expenditures:** \$21,390.29; **New General Fund Balance:** \$464,639.20; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$319,479.45; **Receipts:** \$1,416.96; **Expenditures:** \$542.07; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$320,354.34; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$294,707.61. ***Motion by Butts to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
7. **Approval of Agenda:** ***Motion by Griggs to approve the amended agenda. Support by Fusko Motion carried.***
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** County Commissioner James Lawrence gave a report listing major programs the county is/may be working on: A. applying for a RED Grant with the funds to be used to put up senior housing on property owned by the Cas County Medical Care Facility; B. the Cass County Transportation Authority may seek a millage for fund to operate on; C. Broad Band mapping to identify areas needing internet accessibility; 4. Reunification Day with the courts working to reunify families that have been split due to illegal activities or actions by the courts.
9. **Public Comments:** none
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** Butts said that five Building Permits had been issued in the month of May..
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Five Electrical Permits were issued for \$1,097.00.
 - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued for \$725.00. One Plumbing Permits was issued for \$376.00.
 - F. **Assessor:** There was no report
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had been two cremation burials. He said that all of the veterans' flags had been put in before Memorial Day. The Board members said that there have been many compliments about how good the cemeteries look.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Yeager said that there had been nineteen runs in May. He said that more firemen are needed. Yeager said that a "Burning Ban" is in effect. There was a lengthy discussion about what Robert Owen can do for the Fire Department—especially at fire scenes. It was decided to table the matter until the July meeting and that the insurance agent will be contacted about the issue before the meeting.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** No report had been received.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** the Morton St. a-frame is currently in probate after the death of the owner. Butts said that the daughter of the former owner has voiced interest in building a new home on the property after the a-frame is torn down.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** Davis is still looking into a reported violation involving a camper located on the north end of O'Keefe St. that is being lived in by two or three individuals.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The consultant hired by the County Planning Commission is supposed to attend the township's Planning Commission meeting on June 8.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No new variance applications had been taken in.
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said the library continues to operate well.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts had distributed a report to the Board members.
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. In addition to her written report she went over the good rates being offered on investments.
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich said that there will not be an August election and that the County Transportation Authority may add a transportation millage request to the Presidential Primary election taking place in February. He said that the Cemetery budget needed to be amended as the Operating Supplies line item was over its budgeted amount. ***Motion by Judith Fusko to reduce the Cemetery Improvements line item by \$800.00 to \$4,200.00 and increase the Operating***

Supplies line item by \$800.00 to \$1,600.00. Support by James Griggs. The motion to amend the Cemetery budget was carried unanimously.

R. **Supervisor:** Supervisor Butts said: (1.) that he had taken a valid complaint concerning a road end being blocked by people running a short-term rental; (2.) that the MTA is working to hold the line on the State taking power away from to local municipalities to regulate sand and gravel operations.

S. **Township Website:** Griggs had no news to report.

T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that no meeting has been scheduled.

10. **Payment of Bills: Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**

11. **Old Business:**

A. **ARPA Funds:** There was a discussion of how to protect the remaining ARPA funds from the federal government taking back the funds not yet spent. There was a consensus to Commit the funds to certain projects that has been under consideration in the recent past. **Motion by Butts to commit the remaining RPA funds to road work, working on the Township Hall, and purchasing Scott air bottles for the Fire Department. Support by Maley, Motion carried.**

B. **Siding for the Township Hall:** There was a discussion led by Griggs on how to repair the lower portion of the building's siding that was being damaged by rain and snow. Griggs passed out a picture of where new siding would be put to take care of the decomposition of the lower siding all around the building. Griggs said that he has seen different siding components to fix the siding problem and the siding on the hose tower that was failing. There was consensus to have Griggs look for replacement siding for the Township Hall/Fire Station.

12. **New Business:**

A. **Resolution R-23-06-01 to Set the Millage Rate for 2023: Motion by James Griggs to adopt Resolution R-23-06-01 Setting the Millage Rate at .8564. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call Vote: James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had been adopted.**

B. **Resolution R-23-06-02 Allowing the Collection of a 1% Administrative Fee on Property taxes: Motion by James Griggs to adopt Resolution R-23-06-02 Allowing the Collection of a 1% Administrative Fee on Property taxes. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: n James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had been adopted.**

13. **Public Comments:** none

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 P.M.