

WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2025

Supervisor Davis called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Attendance: David Davis, Supervisor; Judith Fusko, Treasurer; James Griggs, Trustee. Mandy Wallace, Trustee.

Absent: Kurt Reich, Clerk

Citizens: Craig Yeager, Dora Hetzel, Tom Langley & Jim Lawrence, Commissioners, & Thomas Jaslowski

Pledge of the United States of America was led by Supervisor Davis.

Invocation: Supervisor Davis led in prayer for the meeting

A motion to accept the Minutes of the April 7, 2025 meeting, as written. Motion by Fusko, Support by Davis. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: **General Fund Balance:** \$669,080.95; **Receipts:** \$17,838.60
Expenditures: \$50,277.18; **New General Fund Balance: \$636,642.37; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds) \$382,801.73; Receipts:** \$45,092.48;
Expenditures: \$10,360.67; New Fire Department Fund Balance: \$417,533.54; Trust & Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance \$1181,978.77 Motion by Davis to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

Agenda Approval/Amendments: Moved to accept Agenda/Amendments by Davis. Support by Wallace. Motion carried

Public Comment: Commissioner Langley spoke to the completion of **"Victims Service Unit"** and an open meeting will be held at the County Building, May 15, 2025 @ 5 p.m., to present the newly established Victims Service Unit. The meeting will be held on You Tube. Interviews for County Administrator, will be held on May 15, 2025. Second interviews for two candidates, and if members have any input regarding the candidates, please contact Jim Lawrence or Tom Langley prior to the May 15, meeting, at the County Building in Cassopolis.

Reports:

Building Administrator: 3 permits

Zoning Administrator: 4 permits

Electrical Inspector: 6 permits

Mechanical Inspector: 2 permits

Plumbing Inspector: 1 permit

Assessor Report: 1 Land Division Craig Fester

Cemetery Mgr. Report: Four burials. Two cremations. Extensive storm damage at the cemeteries requiring much clean up and included the moving of a grave (including the vault). Sexton Yeager reports that the road commission may be taking down additional trees on Gage St. later this summer.

Fire Board Report: Chief Yeager reported 7 calls for April. 5 Wayne Township; 1 call for Volinia Township; 1 call for the City of Dowagiac; 1 EMS assist. Appropriations were received from Volinia and La Grange Townships. No Fire Dept bills for the month of April. Equipment is running well. Truck #1230 is having the hydraulic lift repaired next week. Cody Davis completed a class and passed testing. Two firemen will be attending pump operations training in Berrien Springs. Jim Lawrence is helping Dale Michaels, as he learns the treasurer duties for the fire department, and said a Treasurer's report will be available in June. Chief Yeager and Jim Lawrence reached out to the the firemen involved in the fatal fire last week, to assist with any need the firemen may require. They talked about having a Chaplin for these occasions, and using the newly founded "Victims Service Unit" as a resource.

Blight Report: Fusko gave a synopsis on the blight as was shared with her via Zoning Solutions, Beth Pompey. Complaints about people living in campers, and should Zoning Solutions approach and start the process of removal? After discussion, the WTB decided not to have Zoning Solutions contact people because WTB wants to speak with owners and know circumstances prior to Zoning Solutions becoming involved. Fusko asked for a current bill which was submitted and paid in May bills. Court judgments are being awaited for on other properties. A discussion of Wayne Twp. Ordinances, including the posting of the Ordinances on the township website, deal with size of homes, lots and spaces; this information would preclude the tiny houses and campers being located on spaces not suitable. A "Dump Day" for Wayne residents will be set for September 6, 2025, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., to further facilitate removal of blight

Unsafe Building: None

Zoning Violations: None

Planning Commission: Trustee Griggs indicated he has a phone number and now can call the creator of the Master Plan, for help. No other news.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Preparing a variance for Shane & Mandy Wallace

Dowagiac District Library: Fusko said she attended the open house for the resignation of Matt Weston as Director of the Dowagiac District Library. It was very nice and Mr. Weston is planning on a hiking trip along the Northern United States.

Emergency Services Authority: Supervisor Davis reports "**Northwest Cass Ambulance District.**" now exists. Continued negotiations with SMCAS are being productive and a meeting is scheduled for this week. On May 20, @ 4 p.m., an open meeting will be held at City Hall, Dowagiac, for further information. A contract is hoped for by June, 2025.

Commissioner Lawrence said plans are being developed for a **Cass County Ambulance Service**, independent of township ambulance services.

Treasurer's Written Report: Treasurer Fusko shared the confidential Foreclosure Listing from the County and it was determined Wayne Twp. was not interested in any of the properties. A packet was presented covering the USDA Rural Development and she explained the report to new board members and attending residents. A revenue sharing report is included in member packet. 1st Source Credit Card charged a \$39.00 late fee. After discussion, Griggs made a motion to authorize the treasurer and clerk, to pay to the credit card statement upon arrival, prior to WTB meeting. Support by Wallace. Motion carried. Budget Amendments were needed to properly detail the categories on Craig Yeager's check. Motion by Fusko to create the detailed line items via amendments. Support by Griggs. Motion carried

Clerk Report: None

Supervisor: Supervisor Davis talked about Open Meetings information which details items that should be implemented in township offices. Minutes from board meetings need to be completed in a timely fashion and available to the public, on our website and in our office. A "draft" copy of the minutes will be forwarded for display on the website and in the office, along with directions for residents who wish to comment on the minutes. A form for residents to fill out and give to the clerk, for inclusion at the next board meeting, is available in the Hall office. The number of days to accomplish the display is (8) eight days for "draft" and (5) days for final "approved" minutes, following the township board meeting. MSU Extension offers zoom classes, free of charge, and has a schedule and description available at:

events.anr.msu.edu/frc25 Davis attended a **911 Authority** Meeting last month and basically it was an informational and a "think tank" meeting. The Authority meets quarterly. ARPA money is all spent but requires continued reporting and Supervisor Davis met with Dr. Butts, Wayne Township's previous Supervisor, and together they transferred the information to the

ARPA required destination, and Supervisor Davis is now able to manage the account. Nothing new on the gravel pit application in Volinia Township. Hiring a lawyer has slowed the process as he becomes informed. Supervisor Davis had previously sent a detailed letter to him explaining the impact of the proposed gravel pit, with regard to Wayne Township, and emailed him again, and is awaiting a response. An Open Meeting will be held at the Cass County Road Commission on May 13, 2025, at 6 p.m., for any who would like to attend.

Township Website: Trustee Griggs reports continued updating on website & installing router. He reports that 231 unique users in the past 30 days; 167 visitors. General discussion ensued regarding compliance requirements by 2027, some in 2026, and hosting services.

Payment of Bills: Motion to pay bills as listed by Fusko. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Roads: Contracts from the County Commission arrived and a motion was made to by Griggs to pay Contract # 25-15-05 Sealcoat (Dorchester) & Contract# 25-15-11 Fogseal (Dorchester) Support by Fusko. Motion carried. A request for fireworks permit for 4th of July at Twin Lakes was submitted. A motion by Fusko to grant the request. Support by Wallace. Motion carried. Discussion on the L4029 form, yielded a decision to table any action until the June Board Meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Wallace. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol M Reich
Deputy Clerk
Wayne Township