

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 3, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.  
**Citizens:** Two members (Jim Lawrence & Craig Yeager) of the public were present.  
**Press:** none
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Supervisor Butts.
4. **Invocation:** Trustee Frank Maley gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** March 6, 2023 Board Meeting: Fusko said that the Cemetery Report section of the minutes need to be revised by taking out the sentence fragment that said non-residents were going to pay more for cemetery lots. **Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Board Meeting as corrected. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**  
March 6, 2023 Budget Public Hearing: **Motion by Maley to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Budget Public Hearing as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$476,598.36; **Receipts:** \$66,084.18; **Expenditures:** \$23,078.32; **New General Fund Balance:** \$519,604.22; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$296,073.74; **Receipts:** \$250.06; **Expenditures:** \$1,629.46; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$294,694.34; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$292,787.86. **Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
7. **Approval of Agenda:** New bills were added that Reich had not printed the checks for. **Motion by Griggs to approve the amended agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** County Commissioner Jim Lawrence spoke. He said that the commissioners are working with Market Van Buren (Lawrence noted that a change of the name to include Cass County is in the study phase) to bring more businesses and industry to Cass County. He said that he has spoken to a representative of Contec to expand their company.
9. **Public Comments:** none  
Supervisor introduced Under Sheriff Clint Roach.
10. **Reports:**
  - A. **Building:** Saunders said that he had issued two permits totaling \$945.30.
  - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
  - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Six Electrical Permits were issued for \$1,312.00.
  - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Two Mechanical Permits were issued for \$220.00. One Plumbing Permit was issued for \$308.00.
  - F. **Assessor:** Butts said the Board of Review had met and handled nineteen appeals--all of which have been completed with the appropriate letters sent. He said the members will need the State mandated training (which is every two years). Butts thanked Fusko for her extensive help the first full day of the hearings when Bill Kays could not be present.
  - G. **Cemetery Report:** Yeager said that there had been one full burial.
  - H. **Fire Board:** Supervisor Butts said that there had been nine runs in March. The Fire Board had appointed Craig Yeager as Fire Chief. **Motion by Maley to appoint Craig Yeager as Fire Chief. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
  - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey gave a full account of the Court ordered cleanup of the Harley Rose property on 68<sup>th</sup> St. at Twin Lakes. She said that the cleanup had taken five days and that it had taken nine 40 yard dumpsters to hold all of the junk around the mobile home. Pompey said that 150 tires had been hauled away along with trailers and cars (which had been hauled away by Trues).
  - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** Scott Saunders said that the Morton St. a-frame has been condemned. He said that the burned house on Meade St. is in the process of being condemned. Saunders said that he is making a list of all dilapidated properties in the township.
  - 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 individuals.
  - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission had met and had revised and approved the Short Term Rental ordinance. The ordinance will be sent on to the County Planning Commission for their comments/recommendations. There was no news on working with the County Planning Commission for a new Master Plan.
  - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** The two variance requests from March 16 had been approved. There are two more variance requests that will be heard on April 20.
  - N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said the library continues to operate well.

- O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said that he had no new incident reports and that the person who had provided them in the past had left Pride Care. He said that the next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for April 26.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. She said that she had settled with the County Treasurer on the first try! Fusko stated that after numerous attempts she had been successful in renewing the SAMS number for the township.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich reminded the Board of the two school elections (Cassopolis and Dowagiac) on Tuesday, May 2. He said that the budget for the Blight line item needs to be amended due to the large cost of the Rose Cleanup. **Motion by Butts to add \$20,000.00 to the Court ordered Cleanup line item. Support by Reich. Roll call vote: Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, the budget amendment had passed.**
- R. **Supervisor:** Supervisor Butts reported as follows: (1.) there is a MTA training for Zoning on May 18 in Kalamazoo but there is a cost to attend. **Motion by Reich to pay for up to seven persons to attend the training. Support by Maley. Motion carried;** (2.) the Hazardous Waste collection (including tires) by the County is April 26 from 3 - 6 P.M. (3.) there is a meeting of the Market Van Buren agency in June. The meeting is going to be lengthy with a catered meal so there will be some cost to attend. Maley volunteered to attend. **Motion by Butts to pay the cost for Maley to attend. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said that he has made all of the updates that were needed.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that everything had been quiet.
10. **Payment of Bills: Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
11. **Old Business: ARPA Funds:** After a lengthy discussion of possible projects there was a consensus to start with the siding repair project.
12. **New Business:** none
13. **Public Comments:** none
14. **Adjournment: Motion by Griggs to adjourn the meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

**Butts announced that the May meeting will be Thursday, May 4 due to the election on May 2.**