

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Craig Yeager, Dave Davis, Tyler Augst, Scott Saunders, James Lawrence, Allen Middaugh, Joyce Wilson and Carolyn Williamson.
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:** January 4, 2024 Board Meeting: ***Motion by Fusko to approve the January 4, 2024 Board Meeting as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report:** General Fund Balance: \$472,148.90; Receipts: \$124,061.45; Expenditures: \$58,038.11; New General Fund Balance: \$540,171.24; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds): \$331,502.17 Receipts: \$15,138.30; Expenditures: \$902.41 New Fire Department Fund Balance: \$345,788.06 Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance: \$317,589.00. ***Motion by Butts to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
7. **Agenda:** Butts requested that the adoption of Resolution R-24-02-01 on Poverty Exemption Guidelines be added to the agenda.
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** County Commissioner James Lawrence said that work continues on the County Building with some demolition taking place. He reported that the County is working on a plan for spending the Opioid Settlement funds given to Cass County. Butts asked if townships could apply for some of the funds. Lawrence said there will be an application form on the County website.
9. **Public Comments: Craig Yeager:** Yeager thanked the Road Commission for patching the road where he had complained about at the last meeting. **Tyler Augst:** Augst introduced himself as the representative from the MSU Extension. He said that he is working with Government and Community as well as Vitality Education.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector: Scott Saunders:** As the Building Inspector Saunders asked the Board to approve a new Building Permit fee schedule. He explained the brackets and said that the schedule is based on the fees set by the State of Michigan. Saunders said that the fees are raised by about \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of work being done. ***Motion by Frank Maley to adopt the proposed fee schedule. Support by Frank Butts. The motion carried unanimously.***
 - B. **Zoning Report: Mark Davis, Zoning Administrator:** Davis said that a citizen wants to have a business to counsel troubled youth and use a room in her home to do this. She cannot do this, however, unless the house is zoned Commercial. She is willing to build a separate building but it would still need to be zoned Commercial.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Two Electrical Permits were issued for \$386.00
 - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Seven Mechanical Permits were issued for \$1,140.00.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said the Board of Review had approved two appeals at its December meeting. He said that the dates for the March meetings of the Board of Review have been set.
 - 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 17 runs in January. He said that the Fire Board had approved purchasing Lucas and a new laptop computer. Yeager said that he would like the Fire Board to approve the purchase of a printer like the one in the township office. ***Motion by Butts to encourage the Fire Board to purchase a printer not to exceed \$600.00. Support by Reich. Motion carried.*** There was a discussion about Lucas and Butts expressed his concerns about the cost and training for those who would use the CPR device.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** There was no report. Butts said that the township had received an estimate to clean up the property on Colby St.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** no report
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** There was no report.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission meets March 14.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No new variance applications had been taken in.
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich was able to attend the February meeting with zoom. He said

the biggest issue was over a picture in the library of an Indian being used to sell items. The local tribe is very upset and wants the picture removed. The budget is doing fine.

- O. Emergency Services Authority: Butts said that there is a meeting on February 6 at 5:30 PM. in the Wayne Township meeting room. The second ambulance will be the main topic of discussion.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. She said that January was quiet as is usual—awaiting the very busy February.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich went over a budget amendment that is needed. Reich said that he anticipates a low turnout for the Presidential Primary on February 27 due to the fact that people do not like to have to tell their political party preference plus the fact that primaries in general have a low turnout.
- R. **Supervisor:** Butts said that the group Citizens for Local Choice are working to get local control back to the local municipalities—such as the mining regulations and assorted zoning regulations such as the rules on Short Term Rentals. They are passing out petitions to get enough signatures for state-wide ballot initiative; he said that Market Van Buren is working to bring businesses to Cass County; the new siding is complete and paid for; Butts said he had received a lot of information by attending a meeting on Renewable Energy; he attended a Leaders meeting in Cassopolis.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs continues to put in updated articles from Board members and required information from the State such as information on the election.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that a meeting is being held tonight.
- 10. **Payment of Bills:** Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.
- 11. **Old Business: Roads:** Butts had shared a list of proposed road work with a list of estimates for the work. He said that the list would be discussed at the March meeting.
- 12. **New Business:**
 - A. **Resolution on Asset Management:** *Motion by James Griggs to adopt Resolution R-4-02-01 on Asset Management. Support by Judith Anne Fusko. Roll Call vote: James Griggs, yes; Frank L. Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Butts declared the resolution adopted.*
 - B. **Appointment of Deputy Supervisor:** Butts asked the Board to approve his appointment of David Davis as Deputy Supervisor. *Motion by Judith Fusko to approve the appointment of David Davis as Deputy Supervisor. Support by James Griggs. Motion carried.*
- 13. **Public Comments: Allen Middaugh: (1.)** Middaugh asked for a letter from the Township saying that the blight case against him had been closed. There was consensus by the Board that such a letter would be written; **(2.)** Middaugh asked that the meeting minutes be posted. Reich said that this had been done in the past and will continue to be done after he is informed how to do it with Windows 10. **Carolyn Williamson:** Williamson was upset about a Blight Citation that had been issued in November.
- 14. **Adjournment:** *Motion by Griggs to adjourn the meeting. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M.
Respectfully submitted by Kurt E. Reich, Wayne Township Clerk