

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 7, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.
(It is to be noted that all five Board members have been vaccinated and that masks were worn because Cass County is one of ten counties in the State with a high number of new COVID cases.)
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Craig Yeager, Nancy Tabbert, Beth Middleton-Pompey
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Griggs
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes: (A.) Ambulance Special Assessment Hearing: *Motion by Griggs to approve the minutes of the Ambulance Special Assessment Hearing. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
(B.) Minutes of the August 2, 2021 Board Meeting: *Motion by Maley to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Regular Board meeting. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$454,278.40; **Receipts:** \$8,672.00; **Expenditures:** \$50,957.04; **New General Fund Balance:** \$411,993.36; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$244,633.58; **Receipts:** \$8.89; **Expenditures:** \$1,369.01; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$243,273.46; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$82,718.83. ***Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
7. **Approval of Agenda: *Motion by Griggs to approve the Agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
8. **Guest Speaker:** There was no Guest Speaker.
9. **Public Comments:** There were no Public Comments.
10. **Reports: (Unless noted otherwise, the permits were issued the month before the meeting.)**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** There was no report.
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report. Butts said that he had consulted with Davis several times on zoning issues that are popping up in the Township—from Short Term Rentals to Tiny Houses.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Four Electrical Permits were issued for \$937.00.
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued for \$700.00.
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** Two Plumbing Permits were issued for \$556.00
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts reported that Wolverine Electric had withdrawn their application for a Land Division.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had been one full burial. He said that Kaspr Paving had the best bid to reseal the driveway in the newest section of South Wayne Cemetery. ***Motion by Butts to award the resealing project to Kaspr Paving. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 22 runs in August. He said that three firemen will be in the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 class from October thru May. Butts said that the Fire Board had approved the purchasing of five new sets of turnout gear.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey discussed the progress being made. She said she would like the Board to consider a "Noxious Weed" ordinance to make it easier for her to inspect areas that could be housing rats, snakes, etc. Pompey said Motters have made progress but are still living in a pole barn.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said that he had not heard from Moore Excavating about purchasing the property.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** The M-51 Auto Parts case is in the hands of the Township's attorney.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The next meeting is September 9, 2021 and will discuss Short Term Rentals and wording allowed on signs.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** no news
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich said the budget has been worked on without adding any full time employees.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts passed out two reports.
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko explained her written report. She said that the credit card system to pay property taxes is going quite well She reported that it is legal to put township funds in credit union accounts and if the Board approves she will be moving funds to Honor Credit Union. Fusko said that property owner had paid their water "loan" in full. ***Motion by Maley to pay the \$6,000.00 on the principal of the loan. Support by Griggs. Motion carried unanimously.***
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich said no budget amendments are needed this month and no elections are set for November.

- R. **Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: **(1.)** the census shows a loss of 76 people in the Township. This will cut Revenue Sharing payments; **(2.)** the drug takeback project in Cass County will take place on October 23; **(3.)** he read pricing changes for internet service that will be going into effect; **(4.)** 41% of County residents have been vaccinated against Covid 19.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said he continues to update the website as materials are given to him.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said there was no news.
11. **Payment of Bills:** *Motion by Griggs to pay the list of bills. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
12. **Old Business:**
- A. **Roads:** The final bills were discussed
- B. **Siding & Roof:** There was no news.
- C. **Rudy Road Drain:** Butts said the project is complete and looks great.
- D. **Cracks in Driveway and Parking:** *Motion by Reich to approve the bid from Shembarger to fill the cracks in the parking lot and driveways. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
- E. **Solar Ordinance:** The process to finalize the approval of the Solar Ordinance had not been completed. *Motion by Kurt Reich to adopt Ordinance O-21-05-01.m Support by Judith Fusko. Rollo call vote: Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank L. Butts, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Butts declared the ordinance adopted.*
13. **New Business:**
- A. **Joining Honor Credit Union:** Fusko said she had learned that it is legal for townships to have accounts at Credit Unions. *Motion by Reich to join Honor Credit Union. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
- B. **Dowagiac District Library Board Member:** *Motion by Fusko to re-appoint Mitch Billingham to the Dowagiac District Library Board for a full four-year term. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.*
- C. **Planning Commission Appointment:** *Motion by Butts to appoint Craig Schmidt to the Wayne Township Planning Commission to fill the term of Mike Behnke ending December 31, 2023.*
- D. **Fire Department Flag:** Reich said that he had been informed that the Red Line flag being flown at the Fire Department is illegal. There was a lengthy discussion about the history of the Red Line flag. *Motion by Reich to ask the Fire Board to fly an appropriate, legal flag in honor of firemen who had fallen in the line of duty. Support by Griggs. There was a discussion about such a flag which Reich offered to donate the first one flown. Motion carried.*
14. **Public comments:** none
15. **Adjournment:** *Motion by Maley that the meeting be adjourned. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.*
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk