

WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2025

Supervisor Davis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Absent: Kurt Reich

Citizens: Craig Yeager and Dora Hetzel

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

Invocation: Trustee Wallace led in prayer for the meeting

Fusko made a motion to accept the Minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting, as written, including the Minutes for the Budget Hearing held on March 11, 2025. Motion by Fusko, Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance: \$639,066.86; **Receipts:** \$59,432.11

Expenditures: \$29,418.02; **New General Fund Balance: \$669,080.95; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds)** \$390,031.79; **Receipts:** \$466.43; **Expenditures: \$7,696.49; New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$382,801.73; **Trust & Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance** \$156,194.03 Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Wallace. Motion carried.

Agenda Approval/Amendments: Moved to remove "Oaths" & approve by Supervisor Davis. Support by Fusko. Motion carried

Public Comment: A guest commented on the website being more informative with minutes, dates, and times of the Township Board meetings. She is a communication out-source for residents at Twin Lakes and others, and would be glad to help with information distribution. She was furnished with a listing of the 2025-2026 board meeting dates, and times from the deputy clerk.

Reports:

Building Administrator: None

Zoning Administrator: None

Electrical Inspector: Six permit - \$1,778.20

Mechanical Inspector: Four permits - \$756.00

Plumbing Inspector: None

Assessor Report: Board of Review met March 10 & 14, 2025. Supervisor Davis reported that there were twelve (12) inquiries: 7 requests granted; 2 clerical; 1 commercial expense; 1 storm damage; and 3 reductions were granted. A land division occurred for Marlene Sammons.

Cemetery Mgr. Report: No sales. No burials. Two cremations scheduled for May. Storm damage occurred in South Wayne, North Wayne and Gage cemeteries. A new foundation will be required at South Wayne. Clean up is taking place in all the cemeteries.

Fire Board Report: Chief Yeager reported 14 calls for March for Wayne Township; 6 calls for Volinia Township; 2 Decatur assists; 2 calls for LaGrange Township. Recognized Chief Yeager for his second year of service as Fire Chief of Wayne Township.

Blight Report: Dewey Lake referred to Building Inspector Saunders.

Unsafe Building: None

Zoning Violations: None

Planning Commission: At the March 13th meeting, officers were elected same positions as 2024. Discussion of the Master Plan continued. A PDF being compiled from old C/D to be added to the website. Posting to the website in conjunction with Cass County is done. Work progresses.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None

Dowagiac District Library: None

Emergency Services Authority: Supervisor Davis reports a contract with Wayne, Silver Creek, Volinia, North Pokagon, and City of Dowagiac was signed on 3/25/2025 to establish: **Northwest Cass Ambulance District.** Life support services available 24/hours, using 911 for access. The ambulance will be housed in Dowagiac. Continued discussions with SMACUS to increase outreach is being held on April 28, 2025, at 4 p.m., at the Dowagiac City Hall, **Treasurer's Written Report:** Treasurer Fusko reported that the Winter Taxes are transferred to the County Treasurer's office and all is in balance. No reports from the blight enforcement team. New cemetery brochures are available at the treasurer's window. The Township will be granting agreement for the removal of land from PA16. A request was submitted by Ceres Farms LLC for the removal of 2 parcels: 14-150-002-006-11 & 14-150-001-009-00. The board has no control over this process; it does need to agree with the submission. Motion by Fusko to approve. Support by Griggs. Motion carried. Fusko commented that the budget is now completed.

Clerk Report: None

Supervisor: Supervisor Davis attended a March 31, 2025 meeting at the Road Commission with ongoing gravel pit discussion. Gerald Fisher, a lawyer representing the Planning Commission, recently hired, was helpful and does require additional information in several areas. Supervisor Davis was able to later email him with the concerns of Wayne Township residents', along with the road costs for the utilization of hauling heavy transports of gravel. A May 13th meeting is scheduled for continued discussion. Open meeting. Supervisor Davis has been appointed Township Government Representative and will be on the 911 Authority, and the first meeting is April 16, 2025.

Township Website: Trustee Griggs reports continued updating on website & installing router. He reports that 243 unique users in the past 30 days; 182 visitors. Trustee Wallace expressed concern that the website needs to carry more updated and more comprehensive information, & easier to find information. The web is being much more extensively used in this culture. She volunteered if she could be of any assistance, please call on her. We discussed the posting of the Board Minutes within 10(10) days of the meeting as a "watermarked draft" so residents can read them. Once approved, at the next monthly meeting, they will be posted as well.

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

Unfinished Business: Roads: Proposals were presented by Cass County Road Commission-Contract: #25-15-01; 25-15-02; 25-15-03; 25-15-04. This would be gravel work. Motion made by Fusko to approve all four contracts for gravel and pavement marking, \$61,085. Support by Wallace. Motion carried Further discussion about Fosdick St. for seal coat and fog seal which determined Supervisor Davis will look into the cost and feasibility for a future meeting. Purchase of a portable scanner, capable of double-sided scanning, was discussed and it was decided to try to make our printer scanners operational.

With no further questions or discussions, Supervisor Davis closed the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol M Reich
Deputy Clerk

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WEB SITE SUBMISSION**

Wayne Township