

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, absent.
Citizens: Four members of the public (David Davis, Craig Yeager, Tammy Yeager, Nancy Tabbert) were present.
Press: none
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Griggs.
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Frank Butts gave the invocation
5. **Approval of Minutes:** December 4, 2023 Board Meeting: **Motion by Fusko to approve the December 4, 2023 Board Meeting. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$492,566.34; **Receipts:** \$17,996.43; **Expenditures:** \$38,413.87; **New General Fund Balance:** \$472,148.90; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$334,775.24 **Receipts:** \$242.96; **Expenditures:** \$3,516.03; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$331,502.17 **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$497,293.00. **Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**
7. **Agenda:** Butts requested that Siding Report be added to Old Business. **Motion by Butts to approve the amended agenda. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** There was no Guest Speaker.
9. **Public Comments:** none
10. **Reports**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** One Building Permit was issued.
 - B. **Zoning Report:** There was no report on permits issued. Davis is working on formulating an application for Short Term Rentals.
 - 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:** Tammy Yeager said that there had been one full burial for the month, For 2023 there had been 7 full burials and 7 cremation burials with three full lots sold and four plots sold.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Yeager said that there had been 9 fire runs in December. He said that three of the fire runs were for alarms that had gone off with no fires. Chief Yeager said 18 new Scot Packs had arrived with two new oxygen bottles for each Pack with a total cost of \$157,000.00 paid for with a federal grant. Retired Chief Butts said that the new Scot Packs have many new features with a lifetime warranty on each.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** the report had been copied and one given to each Board member.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** no report
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** There was no report.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission had approved the Short Term Rental ordinance. The final step is for the Township Board to approve it and have it published by the township's attorney.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No new variance applications had been taken in.
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich had no report as he had not been able to attend the Library Board meeting due to technical difficulty with the Internet's zoom connection.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said that the two authorities had approved a second ambulance at a cost of \$902,000.00 to run two ambulances. **Motion by Fusko to support the proposed contract with SMCAS featuring two ambulances. Support by Griggs. Roll call vote: Fusko, yes; Griggs, yes; Butts, yes; Reich, yes. The motion passed unanimously with one member—Frank Maley—absent.**
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. She said that Revenue Sharing was up.
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich went over a budget amendment that is needed. **Motion by Reich to add \$4,000.00 to the Accounting Assistance line item. Support by Fusko. Roll call vote: Reich, yes; Fusko, yes; Griggs, yes; Butts, yes. With four yes votes and zero no votes (Trustee Maley was absent) the amendment was passed.**
 - R. **Supervisor:** Butts said that we have not yet received any estimates on the road work suggested

by the discussion held after the Road Tour; Butts gave a thorough report on the numerous issues he had dealt with in the past month; he said that there is a proposal on the Presidential Primary ballot to raise a small millage to fund the Dial-a-Ride system in Cass County.

S. **Township Website:** Griggs gave a brief report on the number of visitors to our website.

T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that a meeting had been held.

10. **Payment of Bills:** *Motion by Fusko to pay the list of bills with the addition of \$9,079.26 to make the final payment to the siding contractor after the contractor addresses the problems pointed out by Griggs, Butts, and Fusko. Support by Butts. Motion carried.*

11. **Old Business: Short Term Rental Ordinance:** *Motion by Butts to adopt the Short Term Rental Ordinance (ordinance # O-24-01-01) passed by the township Planning Commission. Support by Fusko. Roll call vote: Butts, yes; Reich, yes; Fusko, yes; Griggs, yes. With four yes votes and zero no votes (Trustee Maley was absent) the motion was passed.*

12. **New Business:**

A. **Board of Review Training:** Butts said that this is our year for the required training of the Board of Review members. He said that six people will take the training at a cost of \$100.00 each.

Motion by Griggs to pay \$600.00 to the Michigan Townships Association for the training of the six people attending the training. Support by Reich. Motion carried.

B. **Contract with Yeo and Yeo:** Butts said that the contract with Yeo and Yeo to complete the audit needs to be signed. *Motion by Butts to authorize the signing of the contract with Yeo and Yeo to complete the audit. Support by Reich. Motion carried.*

C. **Remove the Ambulance Assessment on a Vacant Parcel:** *Motion by Fusko to remove the Ambulance Assessment which had been put on a parcel by mistake. Support by Butts. Motion carried.*

D. **Budget Work Session:** There was a discussion of when to hold the Budget Work Session. There was a consensus to hold the Budget Work Session on February 19 at 7:30 P.M.

13. **Public Comments: Craig Yeager:** Yeager said that there is a very large pothole on Dewey Lake St.; **Jim Griggs and Judith Fusko:** Griggs said that the Court order for Allen Middaugh gave Middaugh thirty days to complete the cleanup of his property. Fusko asked that Middaugh be given an extra thirty days to finish the cleanup and that Zoning Solutions be notified of this. There was Board consensus for this.

There was a brief discussion of what items can be behind the fence Middaugh had put up in his yard.

14. **Adjournment:** *Motion by Griggs to adjourn the meeting. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 P.M.