

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 3, 2021**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.  
(It is to be noted that proper Social Distancing was observed by all present. Also, all Board members who were present wore appropriate face masks.)
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.  
**Citizens:** Craig Yeager
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Maley.
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** *Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 Regular Board meeting with Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$526,263.37; **Receipts:** \$14,581.60; **Expenditures:** \$69,369.40; **New General Fund Balance:** \$471,475.57; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$238,793.03; **Receipts:** \$38,431.83; **Expenditures:** \$20,390.84; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$256,834.02; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$61,366.67. *Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Griggs asked that a bill from Keri Collins for \$288.00 for hosting our website be added to the list of bills. Butts asked that a check totaling \$11,202.31 for two thermal imaging cameras for the Fire Department be held until they arrive. *Motion by Fusko to approve the amended Agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
8. **Public Comments: George Tabbert:** Tabbert said that there is a big problem at Twin Lakes with illegal vehicles such as go-carts, mopeds, golf carts, etc. using the roads and not obeying stop signs or other "rules of the road." He said that he has called the Sheriff's Department and was told the township needs to have signs up that say that off-road vehicles are not allowed on as public road. Butts told Tabbert to keep calling until a deputy is sent out to speak to the offenders. Griggs questioned whether the Sheriff's deputies would even enforce the signs.
9. **Reports:**
  - A. **Building Inspector:** There was no report.
  - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
  - C. **Electrical Inspector:** One Electrical Permits was issued in April for \$267.00.
  - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Three Mechanical Permits were issued for \$364.00.
  - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** One Plumbing Permit was issued for \$160.00.
  - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that Bill Kays had approved and issued the Land Division for Wolverine Power and that Kays had approved two lot splits.
  - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said there had been three lot/plot sales and one cremation burial.
  - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 13 runs in April. He said that LaGrange had sent in their contract payment. Butts said that the department has applied for a grant to get two gas monitors.
  - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey was present and gave a very thorough report of inspections made, cases closed and cases that will probably end up in Court. She said that one problem case is the vehicle parts business on M-51 N. By a gentlemen's agreement vehicles are not to be stored outside. Butts interjected that there are many vehicles being stored outside.
  - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** The only open case is about the A-frame on Morton St. Butts said that he has not had any new contact with the owner.
  - K. **Zoning Violations:** See the Blight Inspector Report.
  - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission will held a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to regulate industrial solar panels on April 8. The members voted to send the proposed ordinance to the Township Board.
  - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** A variance had been granted for a larger pole barn than allowed in the Zoning Ordinance at the April 8 meeting/hearing. Another variance has been applied for and am public hearing will be held on May 13.
  - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich said a "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony is going to be held on Saturday, May 15.
  - O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts said the first quarter had 526 responses. The number is going up regularly.
  - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko explained her written report. She said that she uses May as a "down" time to look into possible updates in her job. Fusko said that she is looking into accepting credit cards

for tax Payments. She said that the County Treasurer is accepting credit cards as are a few (with the number going up regularly) of the townships. Fusko added that the latest revenue sharing check from the State had gone up. There was a lengthy discussion about using credit cards for tax collection.

**Q. Clerk:** Reich said he had nothing to report.

**R. Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: **(1.)** the County's tire collection takes place on May 15; **(2.)** Silver Creek Township is having a big issue over short-term rentals. He said the issue could come up here and there is nothing in our Zoning Ordinance about it; **(3.)** the County Treasurer has sent the Township a letter offering tax-reverted properties to the Township for back taxes and using the property for the public good. We have until June 7 to turn down the offer. **Motion by Maley to send a letter to the County Treasurer turning down the offer. Support by Fusko. Motion carried; (4.)**

**S. Township Website:** Griggs said that it has been quiet.

**T. MEANDRS:** Maley said there was no news.

10. **Payment of Bills:** **Motion by Fusko to pay amended list of bills. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**  
11. **Old Business:**

**A. Dust Control:** there have been several questions about when dust control is going to be applied. Butts said that the Township has not received any information since the contract was signed affirming we would participate again this year.

**B. Siding & Roof:** Butts said that Martin Buckland will be making a recommendation as to what he believes is the course of action the Township should take.

**C. Rudy Road Drain:** We are still waiting on work by the Drain Commissioner.

**D. Barking dogs on Flanders St.:** the owner of the dogs had sent a lengthy letter to Butts in answer to the letter sent by the Township. There was discussion about how the Township should respond. Butts asked the Board members to consider the possible use of conditional re-zoning what conditions might be applied to the issue.

**E. Printer Ribbon:** Butts said that the township's printer at the 911 center that is used for the siren at Twin Lakes uses a ribbon which needs to be replaced. No ribbon has been found so the printer may need to be replaced.

**F. Phone System:** MEC is continuing to help us get out of our contract with Frontier so we can switch over to MEC for our phone system resulting in a large financial savings each month.

12. **New Business:**

**A. Fire Escrow Fund:** Insurance money for the fire at the business on Atwood Rd. that cuts up meat had been received by the Township and deposited into the Escrow Account by the Fusko. Proof that the site has been cleaned up of debris from the fire has been received. **Motion by Maley to release the insurance funds in the escrow account to the property owner. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**

**B. Project/Derby Car Ordinance:** The township's Ordinance Enforcement Officer had recommended that the township adopt an ordinance that addresses a problem of a person who has a lot of unlicensed vehicles in their yard and says they are going to be fixed up for the derby at the County Fair or some other project. Butts asked the Board members to look over the two samples sent by the township's attorney to discuss at the June meeting.

**C. Fireworks Permit:** Butts said that /Todd Bounds had turned in all of the necessary paperwork to hold a fireworks display (as he has done successfully for the last several years). **Motion by Butts to approve a Fireworks Permit for Todd Bounds. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.**

**D. Solar Energy Ordinance Adoption:** The Planning Commission had worked on amending the Township's Zoning Ordinance to regulate solar energy equipment used commercially for a year. It had finally held a hearing for the public to make comments and had passed it onto the Township for its adoption. **Motion by Kurt Reich to adopt Ordinance #O-21-05-01. Support by Judith Fusko. Roll call vote: Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, the ordinance was adopted.** The next step is for publication in the local newspaper

13. **Public Comments: Larry Davis:** Davis asked who pays for Dust Control in the township. Butts explained How Dust Control had been paid for by those who wanted it in front of their home. However, due to rules being changed by the Road Commission, the Township now has Dust Control applied to all of the gravel roads in the Township.

14. **Adjournment: Motion by Griggs that the meeting be adjourned. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk