

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, absent; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: Four members of the public were present.
Press: none
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:** April 3, 2023 Board Meeting: **Motion by Butts to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2023 Board Meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$519,604.22; **Receipts:** \$11,134.23; **Expenditures:** \$102,489.09; **New General Fund Balance:** \$428,249.36; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$294,694.34; **Receipts:** \$41,291.73; **Expenditures:** \$16,506.62; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$319,479.45; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$292,932.71. **Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Butts asked that parts D. and E. be added to the agenda—D. for Boat Launch on Little Twin and E. for Colby St. work. **Motion by Fusko to approve the amended agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** Katie Multhauf, the Economic Development Manager of Market Van Buren (for Cass and Van Buren Counties) said her job is to bring more business and industry to Cass and Van Buren Counties and to hold onto the current businesses that are already there. She said there are a large number of grants for start-up and current businesses and for training new employees. Multhauf said her task is to get the word out about what is available for business and industry and how to get it.
9. **Public Comments:** none
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** There was no report.
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Four Electrical Permits were issued for \$570.00.
 - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued for \$745.00. No Plumbing Permits were issued.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that nothing has been submitted for weed control on the Mill Pond.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that there had been one sale.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Yeager said that there had been seventeen runs in April. He said that three pumpers had been tested. Yeager said that the firemen and the Fire Board are planning a recognition dinner for retired Chief Butts. It was announced that Cody Davis had been named Fireman of the Year at the Firemen Recognition Dinner.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey provided a written report on the blight cases she is currently working on.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** the Morton St. a-frame is currently in probate after the death of the owner. Butts said that the daughter of the former owner has voiced interest in building a new home on the property after the a-frame is torn down.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** Davis is still looking into a reported violation involving a camper located on the north end of O'Keefe St. that is being lived in by two individuals.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission had met and had revised the Short-Term Rental ordinance again. Once the ordinance is completed it will be sent on to the County Planning Commission for their comments/recommendations. There was no news on working with the County Planning Commission for a new Master Plan.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Two variance applications were heard on April 20—James Mosier and Randy Nowacki. Both had been approved.
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said the library continues to operate well. He said that there had been a special meeting concerning an item on the County Board of Commissioners' agenda which would allow the Board of Commissioners to control the content of the libraries in Cass County. There was a lot of uproar by the librarians (including the State Library) in the county and the public. The commissioners took the item off their agenda.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said that Pride Care had provided a run-time report which he had provided to each Board member. He said that the quarterly meeting had been held and that Pride Care announced that it will continue to provide coverage to the western portion of its coverage area.

- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. She passed out a draft of the summer newsletter and asked each Board member to look it over for errors—especially telephone numbers.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich reported that 222 voters had voted in the school election (Cassopolis and Dowagiac) held on May 2. He said that of the total voters 137 were absentee—overall a very poor turnout. Reich said that two ballots had arrived after the election and that they must be held onto for two years and then burned—without ever having been opened. He said that there is still the possibility of an election in August (for the County Transportation Authority). Reich said that clerks around the state are concerned about how to implement the 9 days of early voting approved by the voters last year.
- R. **Supervisor:** Supervisor Butts reported that Tami Stewart of the Equalization Department had sent paperwork out to all of the municipalities in the county asking for the millage totals that are going to be sought for on the winter tax bills. He then went over numerous items that he had worked on in the past month.
- S. **Township Website:** no report
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said that there has not been a meeting but that one is in the works.
10. **Payment of Bills: Motion by Fusko to pay the list of bills. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
11. **Old Business: ARPA Funds:** Butts reported that he was able to submit the required report on ARPA funding early! He said that he has spoken to a contractor about revamping the lower part of the siding. The contractor has agreed to start the work before the end of the summer. Fusko said that she would like to get a large amount of the ARPA funds spent sooner rather than later. There was a discussion about road funding. **Motion by Fusko to use ARPA funds to pay the June 1 Road Work payment. Support by Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With four yes votes and zero no votes, Butts declared the motion had passed. (Trustee Griggs was absent from the meeting.)**
12. **New Business:**
- A. **Tax Reverted Properties:** A letter from the County Treasurer had been received telling the Township of tax reverted properties that the township could have for the back taxes and putting the property to use for the good of the public—such as a park. **Motion by Fusko to decline the county's offer. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
- B. **Fire Works Permit for the Twin Lakes Improvement Association:** Butts said that the Association had turned in all the required paperwork including liability insurance, Hold Harmless Agreement and application for the permit. **Motion by Reich to grant the Fire Works Permit To the Twin Lakes Improvement Association for July 2. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
- C. **Fire Works Permit for Todd Bounds:** Butts said that Bounds had submitted all the required paperwork for a Fire Works Permit for July 1. **Motion by Frank Maley to approve the Fire Works Permit for Todd Bounds. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
- D. **Boat Launch on Little Twin Lake:** Butts reported that the County Road Commission is putting in gravel to make the road end better for people to put their boats into the water.
- E. **Colby St.:** Butts said that the County Road Commission had removed the old pavement and paved Colby St. just past The Timbers employee parking lot.
13. **Public Comments: Thomas Kaslowski:** Kaslowski said that three people are now living in the camper (which has no running water) he has been complaining about for the past several months. He also asked if there could be two houses on one forty-acre parcel. The answer was no—but there could easily be a land division of the parcel which would allow one house on each of the new parcels.
14. **Adjournment: Motion by Maley to adjourn the meeting. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.