

**.WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**March 6, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.  
**Citizens:** Two members (Jim Lawrence & Craig Yeager) 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 Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** **February 6, 2023 Board Meeting:** *Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Board Meeting as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*  
**February 20, 2023 Budget Work Session:** *Motion by Butts to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 Budget Work Session as printed. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$453,380.03; **Receipts:** \$47,063.50; **Expenditures:** \$23,845.17; **New General Fund Balance:** \$476,598.36; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$298,869.15; **Receipts:** \$80.16; **Expenditures:** \$2,875.57; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$296,073.74; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$346,950.43. *Motion by Maley to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.*
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Reich said that an invoice for \$1,539.39 for propane gas for the Fire Department had arrived today and asked that the invoice be added to the list of bills. Griggs asked that a bill for about \$76.00 for toner be added to the list of bills. Butts requested that the reappointment of Dee Dee Luke to the Cemetery Committee be added to New Business, Item D. *Motion by Fusko to approve the amended agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
8. **Guest Speaker(s):** County Commissioner Jim Lawrence spoke. He thanked everyone for their support. Lawrence then said that there is much to learn in his role as a County Commissioner and that all the commissioners and the county does has been a "real eye opener". He listed the several committees he has been appointed to. Lawrence said that people should not hesitate to call him if they have a question or need help concerning a problem with the county.
9. **Public Comments:** none
10. **Reports:**
  - A. **Building:** There was no report from Saunders, however, Butts said that a new home is going up on Gage St..
  - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
  - C. **Electrical Inspector:** One Electrical Permit was issued for \$376.00.
  - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Two Mechanical Permits were issued for \$335.00. One Plumbing Permit was issued for \$363.00.
  - F. **Assessor:** Butts reminded the Board of the March meetings of the Board of Review. Reich said that Assessor Kays had asked that the Board approve the funds needed to mail all property owners their assessment notice. *Motion by Fusko to approve the funds needed by the Assessor to mail the assessment notices. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.* Butts said that Brad Ruminer, the alternate to the Board of Review, will probably be needed to serve as Joe Van Tuyle may not be able to attend the meetings.
  - G. **Cemetery Report:** Tammy Yeager, Cemetery Manager, gave a report for 2022. She said four plots had been transferred, one lot had been sold, 26 plots had been sold (24 to one family), there had been eight full burials and seven cremation burials, the revenue for sales and burials totaled \$11,050.00, one tree had been removed, and Craig had cleaned up all the cemeteries after each major storm. Yeager went on to report that one full burial and one cremation burial had taken place this past January.
  - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that Captain Cody Davis had successfully completed the Fire Fighter Instructor class. He said there had been thirteen runs in January and that two of those had been structure fires. He said that in one case a six year old daughter had awakened her parents to a fire in their home. Butts said that four fire departments had gone together to apply for a Fire Fighter Assistance Grant for \$190,000.00 to pay for new Scot Packs and bottles. The grant is a 5% matching grant from the federal government.
  - I. **Blight Inspector:** Beth Pompey was present and gave a detailed report of the open blight cases and how they are being handled—including those that have gone before a judge or are about to.

She described the homeless problem in the townships she works for and in the county in general. She said the judges are reluctant to enforce ordinances that ban living in campers if the family or person will become homeless if the ordinance is enforced.

- J. **Unsafe Building(s):** Butts said Saunders is working to get the Morton St. a-frame condemned.
- 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 next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for March 9.
- M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Butts said one request for a variance is in the process of getting it scheduled for the public hearing.
- N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said the library continues to operate well. He said that he had asked Matt Weston, the library director, what could be done about him missing meetings due to problems with his leg and prosthesis. Reich said Weston had offered a zoom meeting or having a conference call over the phone. The disadvantage is that Reich would not be able to vote on motions. Reich said he was very encouraged by the help Weston had offered.
- O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said he had received reports for December and January and had provided copies to the Board members.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko had another excellent written report. She said that tax payments have picked up recently alleviating concerns she had expressed about the number of tax bills not yet paid. Fusko reviewed township meetings about placing commercial solar panels on farm ground in Van Buren County near Decatur (and close to the northeast corner of Wayne Township).
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich said that there will be two school elections (Cassopolis and Dowagiac) on Tuesday, May 2. He said two budget amendments are needed this month. The first amendment is needed on the Pest Control line item which will go over by \$23.00. **Motion by Judith Fusko to reduce the Building Maintenance line item by \$25.00 (to \$975.00) and increase the Pest Control line item by \$25.00 (to \$625.00). Support by James Griggs. Motion carried.** Reich said the second amendment is needed on the Building Inspector's Office Supplies line item which will go over budget by over \$1,800.00 to pay the bill from Cloud Permit, Inc. **Motion by Frank Butts to take \$2,000.00 from the General Fund and add it to the Building Inspector's Office Supplies line item (to \$2,600.00). Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Frank L. Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Anne Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James K. Griggs, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, the Supervisor declared the motion to amend the budget had passed.**
- R. **Supervisor:** Supervisor Butts reported as follows: (1.) election laws are changing due to the passage of the three propositions; (2.) he completed the Boundary Survey.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said that he is working on creating a link on the township's website to the Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said there had not been a meeting and none have been scheduled.
- 10. **Payment of Bills:** **Motion by Fusko to pay the list of bills with the addition of the invoice for \$300.00 from the County Road Commission for trash pickup. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
- 11. **Old Business:**
  - A. **ARPA Funds:** Spending the ARPA funds will be discussed at the Budget Work Session on February 20.
  - B. **Road Report:** Butts said the Road Commission had completed work on Dutch Settlement where vehicles had gone through the steel barricades by raising the barricades and adding three cement barriers.
- 12. **New Business:**
  - A. Resolutions:
    - 1.) **Resolution R-23-03-01 Budget Adoption: Motion by Frank Maley to adopt Resolution R-23-03-01, adoption of the General Fund Budget. Support by James Griggs. Roll call vote: Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.**
    - 2.) **Resolution R-23-03-02 Supervisor's Salary: Motion by Judith Fusko to adopt Resolution R-23-03-02, raising the Supervisor's salary. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.**
    - 3.) **Resolution R-23-03-03 Clerk's Salary: Motion by Judith Fusko to adopt Resolution R-23-03-03, raising the Clerk's salary. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.**

- 4.) Resolution R-23-03-04 Treasurer's Salary: *Motion by Judith Fusko to adopt Resolution R-23-03-04, raising the Treasurer's salary. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*
- 5.) Resolution R-23-03-05 Trustee's Salary: *Motion by Judith Fusko to adopt Resolution R-23-03-05, raising the Trustees' salary. Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*
- 6.) Resolution R-23-03-06 Meeting Dates: *Motion Frank Maley to adopt Resolution R-23-03-06 Setting the Meeting Dates of the Township Board. Support by Frank Butts. Roll call vote: Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*
- 7.) Resolution R-23-03-07 Support for MEC Getting a Grant to Provide High Speed Internet Service: *Motion by Kurt Reich to adopt Resolution R-23-03-07 Supporting MEC's Application for a Grant to Provide High Speed Internet Service to Customers in their General Service Areas. Support by Frank Maley. 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, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*

Butts went over the Memorandum that had accompanied the information from MEC that said the Township would financially support the cost of the project to provide High Speed Internet to the 39 properties in Wayne Township that would be given a High Speed Internet connection. There was a lot of discussion about the Memorandum and including its costs and whether or not it was legal to help individuals in such a way. ***Motion by Griggs to reject the Memorandum of Agreement because: the ARPA funds were already committed to other projects; it was a misuse of funds to help individuals; it was unknown how many of the residents in the targeted area needed or wanted High Speed Internet. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***

**B. Reappointment of De Dee Luke to the Cemetery Committee: *Motion by Fusko to reappoint De Dee Luke to the Cemetery Committee. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***

**13. Public Comments:** A. Butts thanked Griggs for bringing in the indoor/outdoor bulletin board; B. Tammy Yeager has agreed to MC the Firemen's Recognition Dinner.

**14. Adjournment: *Motion by Maley to the meeting. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk