

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 7, 2022

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
(It is to be noted that all five Board members have been vaccinated and that masks were worn because Cass County is one of ten counties in the State with a high number of new COVID cases.)
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: see attached list
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:** Reich said that the minutes were not yet complete
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$417,013.69; **Receipts:** \$96,118.14; **Expenditures:** \$31,935.49; **New General Fund Balance:** \$481,196.34; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$249,921.30; **Receipts:** \$10,014.20; **Expenditures:** \$1,014.35; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$258,921.15; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$255,954.55. **Motion by Griggs to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
7. **Approval of Agenda: Motion by Griggs to approve the Agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
8. **Guest Speaker:** none
9. **Public Comments: Sherri Woods:** Woods, the president of the Mill Pond Association, requested that a Special Assessment District be created for the parcels that have any shoreline on the Mill Pond to stop the spread of Millfoil to preserve the life of the Mill Pond; **Veronica Kenrich:** Kenrich presented a study on how to restore waters affected by Millfoil; Woods said that a mailing had been sent to all of the shoreline property owners and that fifty-four of the people support setting up a Special Assessment District to collect funds to rid the Mill Pond of Millfoil. **Richard Servis:** Servis said that the state and federal governments should help pay to fight invasive plants. Butts described the steps that need to be followed for a Special Assessment District to be set up.
 - A. **Building Inspector:** There was no report.
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no report.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Three Electrical Permits were issued for \$611.00.
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued for \$696.00.
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** One Plumbing Permit was issued for \$282.00.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that the Board of Review will be traveling to Kalamazoo for training.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Tammy Yeager, Cemetery Manager, reported that one lot had been sold and that there had been two burials.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 11 runs in January. He said that there will be more training with the City of Dowagiac in the future. Butts reported that Cody Davis has been appointed to the position of Training Officer. He said that contracts for hose and ladder testing have been approved. Butts said that the Fire Board wants \$1,000.00 per fireman from the ARPA money.
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** The report that came with the bill was gone over. There was consensus to wait until Spring to move forward on the Glenwood Road property that has been complained about.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said there is still no news on the building or property.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** The property of Bruce Gant that appears to have an illegal tenant will continue to be observed.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** Reich is contacting the MTA for services offered to members of the Planning Commission.
 - M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** no news
 - N. **Dowagiac District Library (DDL):** Reich had passed out portions of the library's Board packet to Board members. He said that things are running smoothly.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts said that there had not been a quorum at the last meeting.
 - P. **Treasurer:** Fusko said she had been very busy collecting taxes. She said that there has been difficulty registering for the SAM number which expires February 22.
 - Q. **Clerk:** Reich went over several of the jobs he has been working on including the Workmen's Comp. audit and completing all of the federal and state tax reports. He said that the Workmen's Comp. audit may result in a large bill because the Building Department members do not have their own workmen's comp. contracts.
 - R. **Supervisor:** Butts reported the following: **(1.)** the City of Dowagiac is asking for a report of the number of gallons of water the Township Fire Department is taking to fill its tanker or fire trucks;

(2.) the National Drug Take-Back Day April 30; (3.) the three furnaces serving the Township Hall and Fire Station have been serviced.

S. **Township Website:** Griggs continues to update the website.

T. **MEANDRS:** The meeting is February 8

10. **Payment of Bills:** *Motion by Maley to pay the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*

11. **Old Business:**

A. **ARPA Funds:** Butts read over some of the rules of using the funds. He said that the first report of spending is April 1.

B. **2022 Roadwork:** Different projects for 2022 were discussed. Re-graveling all of the gravel roads at Twin Lakes was given serious consideration because of the 50/50 match policy of the Road Commission.

12. **New Business:**

A. **Resolution R-22-02-01:** A resolution saying that the Township Board opposes establishing a Charter Township: *Motion by Judith Fusko to pass Resolution R-22-02-01. 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.*

B. **Resolution R-22-02-02:** A resolution Setting Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines: *Motion By Kurt Reich to pass Resolution R-22-02-02. Support by James K. Griggs. Roll call vote: Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James K. Griggs, yes; Frank L. Butts, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*

C. **Resolution R-22-02-03:** a resolution to adopt the 2018 State Plumbing Code: *Motion by Frank L. Butts to pass Resolution R-22-02-03: Support by Frank Maley. Roll call vote: Frank L. Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes; Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James K. Griggs, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Supervisor Butts declared the resolution had passed.*

D. **Cost Recovery Resolution:** Butts said that the Township Fire Board is in support of passing the Cost Recovery Resolution. The main advantage of the resolution is that funds will be raised to help fund the fire department. He said that the company Fire Recovery USA would collect money from the property owner's insurance company. 78% of the funds will go to the township fire department and 22% would go to Fire Recovery USA.

E. **Alternate to the Board of Review:** *Motion by Butts to appoint Brad Ruminer to the Board of Review as the Alternate. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*

F. **Fireman Appreciation Dinner:** Butts announced that the Fireman Appreciation Dinner would be either April 23 or 30 depending on when the sorority could cater it.

13. **Public comments:** none

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk