

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 3, 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: Craig Yeager, Brad Ruminer, Lisa Broda, & Sheriff Richard Behnke
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 December 1, 2021 Board Meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report:** **General Fund Balance:** \$421,931.68; **Receipts:** \$12,550.27; **Expenditures:** \$17,468.26; **New General Fund Balance:** \$417,013.69; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$252,401.43; **Receipts:** \$13.80; **Expenditures:** \$2,493.93; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$249,921.30; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$487,509.20. *Motion by Butts to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.*
7. **Approval of Agenda:** *Motion by Maley to approve the Agenda. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.*
8. **Guest Speaker:** The Guest Speaker was Sheriff Richard Behnke. The main topics he spoke about were: (1.) the theft of catalytic converters is on the rise—even from vehicles parked in store parking lots; (2.) the high number of alcohol related vehicle accidents in the county; (3.) he has a staffing shortage. Interested people can apply online as long as one has a high school diploma.
9. **Public Comments:** **Lisa Broda:** Broda, a resident of Twin Lakes, was very upset that her pier had been taken away from her deeded access. She said that she had not been warned about the action by either the township or Zoning Solutions of Michigan. Broda said that her pier had been located in that spot for fifty-five years. She requested the name of the person who had complained about her pier and the address where notification had been sent. Supervisor Butts asked Broda for a copy of her pier permit. He said that her off-lake status did not give her permission to have a pier. Butts said that a person cannot obstruct other people from getting to the lake water.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** With the death of Don Herter, Scott Saunders has agreed to take over the position of Building Inspector full time. *Motion by Fusko to hire Scott Saunders to the position of Building Inspector. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*
 - B. **Zoning Administrator:** There was no current report. Mark has been helping with Building Permit questions.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** No Electrical Permits were issued.
 - D. **Mechanical Inspector:** Six Mechanical Permits were issued for \$1,150.00.
 - E. **Plumbing Inspector:** No Plumbing Permits were issued.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that the December Board of Review had met and acted on four appeals.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Craig Yeager said that one burial plot had been sold.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Chief Butts said that there had been 12 runs in December. He said there had been 23 structure fires in 2021 and that there had been 173 runs in 2021. Butts said that the State had awarded a 50/50 matching grant for 3 inch hose to the fire department. He said that the Fire Board approved the firemen getting new jackets which can be used on ambulance runs if the Township Board concurs with their decision. *Motion by Reich to approve the firemen getting new jackets. Support by Griggs. Motion carried with one abstention by Butts.*
 - I. **Blight Inspector:** The report that came with the bill was gone over. It was reported that there are four or five campers at Twin Lakes that are being lived in.
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s): Morton St. A-Frame:** Butts said there is still no news on the building or property.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** It seems apparent that Bruce Gant has a tenant living in the house next to his. There was consensus to wait a month to watch and make sure the house is being lived in.
 - L. **Planning Commission:** Short term rentals was a big topic discussed at the December meeting. It was decided to see what the State plans on doing with the issue. (It was decided to ask the MTA if members of local Planning Commission can use the website to get info. and to learn if members receive the MTA journal.
 - 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.
 - O. **Emergency Services Authority (ESA):** Butts said that he had received reports for two months.

- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko said she had been very busy
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich pointed out the amendments that needed to be made to the budget. **(1.) Motion by Fusko to transfer \$1,650.00 from the Drain line item to the Bridge line item. Support by Maley. Motion carried. (2.) Motion by Fusko to add \$1,000.00 to Plumbing Permit income and \$1,000.00 to Plumbing Inspector Fee. Support by Maley. Judith Fusko, yes; Frank Maley, yes; James Griggs, yes; Frank Butts, yes; Kurt Reich, yes. With five yes votes and zero no votes, Butts declared the amendments carried.**
- R. **Supervisor:** Butt had received a call from Sister Lakes Cable (in Silver Creek Township) to see if Wayne Township needed broadband coverage for homes on Corwin St. Fusko had just covered that topic giving all of the different ways a household could get broadband coverage. Butts said that he had received the plat book from the County Extension Office.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs said our website will probably stay with .com
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said a meeting is scheduled for February at the Pokagon Township Hall. He said all future meetings will be held there.
11. **Payment of Bills: Motion by Griggs to pay the list of bills. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
12. **Old Business: ARP Funds: Butts said the Board will discuss ARP monies will be discussed next month.**
13. **New Business:**
- A. **Appointment of a Building Inspector:** Butts said that Scott Saunders had agreed to fill in for Don Herter while he was ill. Upon Herter's passing, Saunders said he was willing to take on the position of Building Inspector. **Motion by Butts to appoint Scott Saunders to the position of Building Inspector. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.**
- B. **Board of Review Training:** Butts said that training for the Board of Review is set for Thursday, February 10 from 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. He said that he believed one textbook was all that would be needed. **Motion by Griggs to send five people to the Board of Review training and to purchase one textbook. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
- C. **Budget Work Session:** There was a discussion about when to hold the Budget Work Session. Fusko said that the Cemetery Committee needed to hold its annual meeting before the Board's budget work session. This was tentatively set for Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 P.M. There was consensus to hold the Township Board's Budget Work Session on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.
- D. **Appointments/Reappointments:**
1. **Planning Commission (2 appointments to a 3 year term): Motion by Frank Maley to reappoint Floyd Groner and Loretta Schoff to the Wayne Township Planning Commission to a three year term. Support by Judy Fusko. Motion carried.**
 2. **Zoning Board of Appeals (1 appointment to a 3 year term): Motion by Judy Fusko to reappoint Dave Accoe to a three year term. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
14. **Public comments:** none
15. **Adjournment: Motion by Griggs to adjourn. Support by Maley. Motion carried.**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk