

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 6, 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, present; Frank Maley, present.  
**Citizens:** Three members (Jim Lawrence, Tammy Yeager & 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: January 2, 2023 Board Meeting: *Motion by Fusko to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2023 Board Meeting as printed. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report: General Fund Balance:** \$394,303.79; **Receipts:** \$96,220.20; **Expenditures:** \$37,143.96; **New General Fund Balance:** \$453,380.03; **Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds):** \$288,826.59; **Receipts:** \$11,363.85; **Expenditures:** \$1,321.29; **New Fire Department Fund Balance:** \$298,869.15; **Trust and Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance:** \$412,603.65. ***Motion by Reich to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
7. **Approval of Agenda:** Reich said that an invoice for \$300.00 had come from the Road Commission for the annual Trash Pick-up Program and asked that the invoice be added to the list of bills. Butts requested that a resolution supporting the County Land Bank's efforts to clean up blighted properties in the county be added as New Business item D. ***Motion by Maley to approve the amended agenda. Support by Griggs. 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.
  - 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. **Considering Resolution R-23-02-01 Setting the Meeting Dates of the Board of Review:** ***Motion by Frank Maley to pass Resolution R-23-02-01 setting the meeting dates and times for the March Board of Review. 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, Butts declared the resolution had passed.***
  - B. **Fireman Recognition Dinner:** Butts said that the plan was to have the annual Fireman Recognition Dinner on April 29 and that the last step was to have the Township Board approve it. There was consensus of the Board to approve the April 29, 2023 date.
  - C. **Dust Control Contract:** The County Road Commission had sent a contract for Dust Control on all of the township's gravel roads. The Road Commission committed to pay half of the total price leaving \$11,574.80 for the township to pay. ***Motion by Fusko to approve the proposed contract with the County Road Commission for Dust Control for 2023. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
  - D. **Resolution R-23-02-02 Stating Support of the County Land Bank's Effort to Apply for Round Two of the MI-HOPE Grant Initiative:** ***Motion by Maley to adopt Resolution R-23-02-02 Stating Support of the County Land Bank's Effort to Apply for Round Two of the MI-HOPE Grant Initiative. Support by Fusko. 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, Butts declared the resolution had passed.***
  - E. **Contract for Township Groundskeeper for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024:** Fusko said that Craig Yeager had proposed the following pay for the Township Groundskeeper for a new three year contract: no increase for 2023 – 2024, a 5% increase for 2024 – 2025 and a 0% increase for 2025-2026. Fusko said that the proposal would be taken to the Cemetery Committee for their

approval. Butts stated appreciation to Yeager for the great work that he has done as Groundskeeper ever since he took over the position.

13. **Public comments:** There were no Public Comments.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Kurt Reich, Clerk