

Hope Township Board Special Meeting  
Hope Township Hall  
October 11th, 2022  
7:00 pm

**Board Members present**

Rita Goul, Supervisor  
Carol Coyle, Clerk  
Starleen Eddy, Treasurer  
Mary Letts, Trustee  
Daniel Mieske, Trustee

**Visitors:**

*List with Clerk's copy*

**TOWNSHIP MEETING CALL TO ORDER:**

Township meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor, Rita Goul.

**Roll call of the Board Members:** Dan Mieske Present, Mary Letts Present, Starleen Eddy Present, Carol Coyle Present, Rita Goul Present. Quorum-Yes

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda, with one addition, by Starleen and supported by Mary. All in Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS-**

1. Pass through door handle on the hallway door has been installed.
2. Craft Sale-There was a craft and vendor sale at the Township Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Rita reported there was \$525.00 received from the rental of table space. This money will be used for work around the hall. There has been a small storage cabinet for each bathroom purchased to date. A storage shelf will be purchased to put in the furnace room for storage of cleaning supplies. Rita stated because the money rcvd from the table rental was to be used for the purchase of items for the hall, there was no rental fee paid.
3. Holiday House Decorating Contest: Rita put forth the idea of a Holiday House Decorating Contest. Possibly have an online application and set up guidelines on the decorations. Possibly have input from the community on a winner and have an open house at the Town Hall with hot chocolate and cookies to announce the winner. Discussion of the possibility of giving a \$75.00 and \$50.00 prize to the first and second place winners. Carol questioned if this could be done. Will need to look into this further.
4. Speed limit by the Fire Department and Town Hall. Rita had contacted the Midland County Road Commission to see if the speed limit in the area by the Fire Department and Town Hall could be reduced to 45 mph. The County is three years behind in the feasibility study that would be required to make this happen. The idea was tabled for now.
5. ~~Thanksgiving Dinner for Hope Residents~~, stricken from agenda.
6. November Board meeting will be at the Fire Hall as the elections will be ongoing at the Township Hall that night.
7. Toys for Tots-There is a drop box in the Township Hall for new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots drive.
8. Alternate for Board of Review-Rita introduced Tracey Coon, resident, potential for the position of Alternate for the Board of Review. The next meeting for the Board of Review will be in December. Tracey stood and would like additional information before making a commitment.

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9. Supervisor Goul reminded the members of the Board to carry the phones provided by the Township. Phones need to be answered Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00-4:00. The Township pays the members so the members need to be available by phone when not in the office.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, October 10th, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes as written with three corrections. (Laurence not spelled correctly x 2 and should have been October not September for Trunk – n- Treat) by Carol and supported by Mary.

In Favor 5 Opposed 0 Motion to accept Clerk's minutes with correction—carried.

1. Letter from the State of Michigan-The Township recvd a letter from the State of Michigan concerning lack of payment for payroll taxes in 2018. A copy of the letter was included in the Board packet. Carol explained a call has been made to the State and the penalties for unpaid taxes will be waived. In addition, it was shared with the State that it is quite possible that payroll taxes were not paid for 2019 and 2020. The auditor has been contacted and the amount the State reported is not what the Township shows. The forms and supporting documentation will be sent to the State to show what is owed, minus interest. The State will then have to review and get back to the Township on what is due. Carol will have this information to the State by Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Rita asked if the Township was supposed to collect and file payroll taxes for those 3 years. According to the State, most Townships don't have people that make enough money to withhold payroll tax. So, the Township should be ok.
2. Audit update-The audit is still in process. So far, things are going ok.
3. Election update-Absentee ballots were sent out on October 3, 2022. Additional requests are being rcvd and addressed.
4. Public Accuracy Testing-The public accuracy testing on the voting equipment will take place on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:15. The public is welcomed to observe the process.

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Treasurer's financial report was presented with the ending bank balances as of September 30, 2022. An explanation was provided by Starleen why it appears there is a deficit in the General Fund. A payment was made the last day of September and the transfer of funds took place in October. The deficit in the Solid Waste Fund is explained as the winter taxes, where the money come from for Solid Waste, has not been collected yet. That deficit will go away once winter taxes are paid.

Reported revenue of \$25,200.00 was rcvd from Billsby lumber for the trees. In addition, \$336.17 was rcvd from Parish Communication. Rita asked if this would continue under the new ownership. Unsure currently.

There were 4 point and pays for September.

Motion by Mary and seconded by Rita to **accept and file the Treasurers report as presented.**

Roll call vote: Dan YES, Mary, YES, Starleen YES, Carol YES, and Rita YES --**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ARPA update:** The last ARPA meeting was held September 28<sup>th</sup>. 1. New signs for the Township Hall and Park was discussed. There were 2 bids submitted (copies were included in the Board packets). The cost for 2 new signs would be \$4984.12. (does not include the trailer). After discussion on the need for 2 new signs and there is something else out there that would serve the purpose, it was decided to table until the November meeting.

2. One member of the ARPA committee is looking into the cost of a Pickle Ball court and GAGA ball pit for the Park and will report back next month. A resident noted there are several Grants through organizations for the GAGA ball and would be willing to assist with this when needed.

3. Parking lot gravel and moving the gate at the Park. Discussion on the possibility of moving the gate at the Park to allow for easier access during the winter months. A verbal quote was obtained from Kenny Bradfield to do the work. Asking for \$14,000.00 to get this done. Discussion on the need to have written quotes for review ahead of the meeting. Question asked how this will benefit the Park when the Disc Golf is established or if something will need to be redone at that time. After discussion, the decision was made to table until next month.

4. Window update-Supplies have been ordered and looking at February 2023 for installation.

#### **OUTSTANDING OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

The bills from the General Fund, Park Fund, Fire Fund, and Solid Waste were distributed earlier. Motion to approve payment of the bills by Starleen and supported by Mary.

*Roll call vote: Dan YES, Mary, YES, Starleen YES, Carol YES, and Rita YES --MOTION CARRIED.*

The Board members had been given the Expense/Budget report. Supervisor Goul asked for clarification on line items that were over budget. Explanations were provided. Funds had not been moved from the ARPA to cover the Yaeger bill was the largest item. Rita asked the Board to move within the Park budget. Carol noted the request has to come from the Park and would need to come in a formal resolution to change that adopted budget. Rita reminded everyone to be aware of their budgets and curb spending if there is not money available. Chuck Hudler, Deputy Clerk stated that he and Carol Will be reviewing the Adopted Budget in January and bring proposed changes to the Board at that time.

Reconciliation on all accounts had been completed. The outstanding checks from the Fire Dept, General Fund and Park was discussed. Asked to have someone from each area address with appropriate check recipients.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Brian Solomon reported things are quiet for now at the Fire Department with only 5 runs is September. October is Fire Prevention month. There are 2 new applicants. Both will have to undergo a background testing/maintenance on the trucks.

**PARK COMMISSION:** Cathy Kissner presented the report for the Parks. Money from the trees has been ~~recvd~~ received and the purchase of the buckets for the disc golf will proceed. Cathy presented the Board with a copy of the buckets the Park voted on to purchase. The cost for 18 buckets is \$8320.00. Motion by Rita and seconded by Dan to approve the purchase of the buckets. *Roll call vote: Dan YES, Mary, YES, Starleen YES, Carol YES, and Rita YES --MOTION CARRIED.* Trunk-N-Treat will be October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00pm. Participants will be David Yahr, Doug Shoffner, Darlene Thopson, and Cathie Kissner. The Park will be closed

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November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Rita reminded them to have the water shut-off. There was questions and discussion on the tree cutting in the Park.

**PLANNING:** Nicole Kelley reported at the last meeting, Brian Hawkins resigned and would like to approve Kelly Eddy as the replacement. Motion by Dan and seconded by Rita to accept the resignation. All in favor 5, opposed 0. Motion carried. Rita informed Nicole that Planning committee would appoint the person and didn't need Board approval for a new appointment. Nicole reported the ordinances had been done. A special hearing was held in June and then presented to the Board in July for approval. Now, there is a resident requesting a change in the setbacks for property within the Township labeled as forestry. Discussion on changing the ordinance. The next planning meeting is in January and would be addressed at that time. The resident will have to pursue a variance. A request for Jennifer Salzburg to be appointed as alternate for Planning.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** There was a Civil War walkthrough at the Old Hope Cemetery on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Even though the weather did not cooperate, there was a good turnout. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a walkthrough at the Midland Cemetery called "~~Called~~ Notable Monuments for Notable People". This will be presented by Floyd Andrick. Tickets are available through the Midland County Historical Society. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the "History of Hope" will be presented at the Midland Center of the Arts. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ria and Dennis Goul, Dan and D Mieske, Dan Andrick, Carol Coyle and Floyd Andrick gathered at the New Hope Cemetery to begin the clean up and raising of the plot markers. The weather cooperated and Floyd thanked everyone for their efforts. What didn't get done that day was completed later in the week by Floyd. Samaritan Heating will be contacted to do the fall maintenance on the furnace.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** Dan was present and stated there were 4 electrical permits, 3 mechanical and 1 Water permits for September. The next meeting will be October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 at 5:00

**WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION:** Bob Kelley reported spraying was done on test plots. The next meeting will be the end of October. Has not been set, yet.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Dan reported the fall work has begun. The Midland County Road Commission will begin the gravel work on the designated roads. The work will begin in Jasper Township and work north from there. Hicks Road will be one the final roads to be done. Should be completed in the next two weeks. A resident from Hicks Road was present and voice his concern on the status of Hicks Rd. Rita reassured him the work should be completed soon He was encouraged to attend the next Road Commission meeting and voice his concern directly to them. The next meeting of the Hope Township Road Advisory is January 5, 2023.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The potential for changing the IT support has been put on hold. There was no update on the purchase of a new printer for the Treasurer's office.

**NEW BUSINESS:** NONE

Motion to adjourn by Rita and supported by Mary. *All in Favor* 5 *Opposed* 0 Adjourned at 8:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Coyle

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Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Coyle