

Rita Goul, Supervisor
Carol Coyle, Clerk
Chuck Hudler, 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 MEMBERS: Dan Mieske Present, Mary Letts, Present, Chuck Hudler, Present, Rita Goul, Present. Carol Coyle, Present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda, as written, was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: Rita acknowledged the passing of Starleen Eddy, the Treasurer for 16 years and sympathies to the family.

1. Tree in front of the Township Hall – The tree has been removed and still waiting for the grinding of the stump. No bill will be paid until the work has been complete.
2. Blight Discussion – Rita asked for direction on how to pursue blight in the Township. There have been several complaints about a particular area and letters have been sent from the Supervisor's office. The blight continues within the Township. Rita asked the Township Board for recommendations on how to proceed. Chuck offered his thoughts that we need to pursue enforcing the ordinances as written. It was suggested to get the Township Attorney involved to see what steps should be initiated to address the blight issue. Motion by Carol and supported by Chuck to have Rita contact the attorney to discuss what options the Township has to enforce the Blight Ordinance. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck **YES**, Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES***. Motion carried.
3. Township Hall Shelter – Rita explained the need to establish a resolution that would allow the Township Hall to be used by the residents in an emergency. The resolution should include how long a resident (s) would be able to stay. Rita said someone would have to be on-site during that time. Discussion for this to be a short-term stay up to 48 hours. Rita will look to see if there is a resolution available to serve as a guide to write a resolution for Hope Township. This would be a "no pets allowed" emergency center.

CLERK'S MINUTES: The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Sunday, February 11th, 2024. (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk's office). A motion to approve the minutes as written by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:

1. Chuck presented the Bank and Investment Balances. He noted the reconciled amounts match the bank balances. Chuck pointed out the Solid Waste balance is now becoming positive as winter taxes are coming in. A motion to **accept and file the Treasurer’s report** was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion from the board. Roll call vote: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.
2. The Bank Reconciliations were prepared by Chuck and reviewed by Rita. Chuck highlighted points of interest for discussion. Cathie Kissler will look into the outstanding check from and October pavilion rentals.
3. Point & Pay – There were 3 point & pay in the month of January.
4. Budget Amendment – The six- month review of the budget was completed. Chuck explained some of the revenue changes were due to moving the ARPA money into to correct accounts and the disabled veteran exemption. After a detailed accounting of recommended changes, a motion by Mary and supported by Dan “to amend the 2023-2024 budget to reflect the approved changes was made.” No further discussion. Roll call vote: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck YES, Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING BILLS:

1. Payment of Bills: In the Board packet was a copy of the bills from the General Fund, Fire Fund, Road Fund, Tax Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Water Fund and Lakeshore Fund. Carol noted the higher bill for the Solid Waste and credit will be received next month. Motion to pay the bills by Chuck and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan, YES, Mary, YES, Chuck, YES Carol, YES, and Rita, YES.* Motion carried.
2. Budget vs. Expense report was not provided at this time.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability report for the Township was provided. No questions from Board members.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Brian Solomon was present. Brian and Rita had met with the Midland Community Foundation and were encouraged by the information received. They also met with a grant writer to aid in the process of writing grants for funding of the new Firehall. Brian had come directly from work and will provide run numbers for last year and February. Brian encouraged residents with concerns about the response times to get in touch with him

PARK COMMISSION: David Yahr that lots of people have been using the Park. Propane will need to be refilled. Cathie Kissler added the Farmers Market will start June 1st and run every Thursday. The Rent – A -Spot, Sell What You Want day will be June 15th. The annual picnic will be July 20th. The Jamboree is scheduled for August 10. Decorated Christmas trees will be set up in the park. Additional information will be provided later.

PLANNING: Next meeting will be March 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

CHAPEL/CEMETERY: Floyd reported the furnace has been fixed. Asked to have flags ordered so there will be enough when the time comes to place the flags. Hope Fellowship Sunday will be April 4th at 2:00 pm. The topic presented will be the crash of flight 67. It will be the 66th anniversary of the crash

TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY: Dan reported there were 2 Electrical, 2 Mechanical permits for January.

WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bob Kelley was present and all is quiet.

ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION: The next meeting is in May. There are two culverts on Saiko Road to be fixed prior to the road being paved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Water update – Chuck and Ron Thompson will be working on this in the near future.
2. Lakeshore update – Chuck presented to the Board and Brian about the possibility of borrowing money from the Fire Funds to pay-off the Lakeshore loan. The prepayment would offset the projected shortfall of almost \$14,000.00. There was discussion between the Board and questions from the floor that were answered. It was recommended to have the township attorney approve this before moving forward. Also, Brian Solomon expressed a concern about the loan and potential impact on the ability to get grants for the new fire hall. It was decided to table the decision until the March meeting. Chuck and Rita will be looking into this further.
3. Election Reimbursement – Still waiting on the August election, AV Ballot drop box and Camera/recording system reimbursement.
4. Cemetery Lot Sale – Resident was contacted twice to see if she was still interested in purchasing a lot on a payment plan. Carol is still waiting to hear back from the resident.
5. Police Report Number for Park incident – Carol asked David Yahr is he had the number from the October police report. David will provide that to Carol

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution to Commit Funds – Chuck explained that Midland County had purchased the past election equipment for the townships. This equipment will be outdated before the 2028 election and will need to be replaced. The County thought the cost would be around \$50,000.00. After reviewing the Fund Balance from the audit report, Chuck explained the Township could “commit” the monies to cover the purchase now and have it set aside. After discussion, Resolution 02-13-2024 was offered up by Carol and supported by Chuck. (copy on file in Clerk’s office). No additional discussion. Roll Call: Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**. Motion carried.
2. Resolution for Abandon Property – Chuck explained how this Resolution works. Motion to adopt the *Resolution for Certification of Abandoned Property for Accelerated Forfeiture Act (Public Act 132 of 1999)* was made by Chuck and supported by Carol. Roll Call: Dan, **YES**, Mary, **YES**, Chuck, **YES** Carol, **YES**, and Rita, **YES**. Motion carried.
3. Stump Removal in Cemetery – Two written bids and one verbal bid for the removal of the tree stump were presented. After review and discussion, a motion by Mary and supported by Rita to

use Dan Andrick to do the work was made. Roll Call: *Dan*, YES, *Mary*, YES, *Chuck*, YES *Carol*, YES, and *Rita*, YES. Motion carried.

4. Bids for wallpaper removal and painting of township hall – Three bids were gathered for the removal of the wallpaper/wall repair and painting of the Township Hall. Rita asked to have this tabled until next month.
5. New Township Hall – Chuck asked if it was too late in the process to add on a new Township Hall to the Fire Hall? Decided the process was too far along and didn't want to jeopardize what has been done to date.
6. MCTOA – Meeting for the Midland County Township Officials Association will be March 7th at the Ingersoll Township Hall. If anyone is interested, please send in your RSVP.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Nothing from the floor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm was made by Rita and supported by Mary. No additional discussion. All in favor 5. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:52 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Coyle, Clerk