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:**

The township meeting was called to order at 6:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor, Rita Goul.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Dan** Mieske Present, Wendy Faber, Present, Rita Goul, Present, Chuck Hudler, Present, Carol Coyle, Absent. We have a Quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda, with one addition, was made by Chuck and supported by Rita. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:**

1. April Birthdays – One birthday in April
2. Blight Update – Supervisor, Rita Goul, has submitted pictures to the court which indicate that little to no progress has been made to clean up the property. The next court date is Monday April 14, 2025. We will await the judge’s decision.
3. Grant Writing Class - Supervisor, Rita Goul, attended a grant writing class that was provided by Delta College. The cost of this class was covered by the Fire Department as several of the grants being worked on support their operation. Rita indicated that there are currently no large grants available to assist with the construction of the new fire hall. There are grants available to assist with firefighter training and turnout gear. She will be working to submit grant requests for these activities. We have received a $300,000 grant commitment from the Gerstacker Foundation, which is contingent on the Township obtaining the remaining funds for the construction of the fire hall. We are still waiting for the notification from one grant and plan on submitting another grant request to the Midland Foundation.
4. Water Agreement with Mills Township – In our meeting on February 11, 2025, we discussed a resolution which would allow three parcels in Mills Township to hookup to the Water District #1 water line that was installed and paid for by Hope Township. This resolution would allow the 3 parcels that have a water line available in the street in front of the property to hook up to city water if an application for hookup is approved by both Mills and Hope Townships and a benefit fee is paid to Hope Township.

The resolution was approved by Mills Township at their last meeting. A motion was made by Chuck to approve the water hookup resolution. The motion was seconded by Dan. No additional discussion. A roll call vote was taken: Dan - **Yes,** Wendy - **Yes**, Rita - **Yes**, and Chuck – **Yes**. Motion carried.

**CLERK’S MINUTES:** The Board packets were distributed to all board members on Monday, April 7th, 2025 (a complete copy of the Board packet is on file in Clerk’s office). A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Wendy and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. 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. In addition, he reviewed the money that was moved from several Funds operating cash into the Michigan Class accounts. He also noted that an additional Michigan Class account was established for the Cemetery to ensure the separation and management of the Matthews’ Donation funds from the cemetery operating funds. A motion to **accept and file the Treasurer’s report** was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion from the board. Roll call vote: *Dan -* **YES**, Wendy - **YES**, *Rita -* **YES** *and Chuck -* **YES**. Motion carried.
2. The Bank Reconciliations were prepared by Chuck and reviewed by Rita. Chuck indicated that there were no unusual items to discuss.
3. Tax Update – The 2024 tax collections are complete. The Township had approximately 8% of the taxes that were not collected, which are now delinquent. The Township is reimbursed by Midland County for all delinquent taxes, which should be received in the coming weeks. Midland County bares the burden of collection on the delinquencies.

Chuck also indicated that he has balanced out all the Tax Accounts to ensure that all monies collected were paid out to the appropriate entities.

1. Point and Pay – There was one credit card payment made in March.

Chuck also informed the board that the movement to the BS&A on-line payment process is progressing and will be ready for the 2025 Summer Tax collections. The move to BS&A on-line payment from Point and Pay is being done to reduce the fees charged to the residence for credit card payments. BS&A on-line payments only cost the residence 2.5% for the transaction amount plus a $0.50 cent per transaction fee. This is less than the 3% fee charged by Point and Pay and will result in a reduction in the fee paid by the residences for any transaction greater than $250.00 dollars.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

1. Payment of Bills: In the Board packet was a copy of the bills from the General Fund, Fire Fund, and Tax Fund. Chuck made note and explained a couple expenses. Rita made a motion, supported by Dan, to pay the bills. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan -* **YES**, Wendy - **YES**, Rita – **YES**, and *Chuck -* **YES**. Motion carried.
2. Budget vs. Expense report was provided to all members. The budget was reviewed and discussed with recommended changes to the budget noted. (A copy is on file in the Clerk’s Office). Resolution 2025-04-08 was read aloud. A motion to amend the budget, with recommended changes, was made by Rita and supported by Dan. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan -* **YES**, *Wendy* - **YES**, *Rita* – **YES**, and *Chuck -* **YES**. Motion carried.
3. Payroll Summary and Liability reports were provided for the Township. No questions from the Board.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Brian stated he did not have much to report. He didn’t have the call information available for the month of March at this time.

**PARK COMMISSION**: Amy Ginter was present to give the Park report. The park was opened on April 1st and the bathrooms were unlocked. The date for the Park Jamboree has been changed. It is now Saturday July 19th, 2025, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. They are in the process of getting bids for additional Stone Crete to fill several potholes in the driveway and turnaround. There is a Park Cleanup Day scheduled for April 12th starting at 10:00am to 2:00pm. It should take as much time to clean the park as the previous years and the maintenance team kept the park in good condition all last season. Volunteers are requested. Bring shovels, rakes, and gloves if you can. The Park will host their first Easter Trunk Hop on Saturday April 19th. The event will be from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Anyone may join in the fun and bring treats for the children. There will be an Easter Bunny (Mark Ginter) available for pictures with the children. Amy requested the Township Board approve the purchase of some new swings and hardware to replace ones that are missing. She requested approval of up to $500 dollars. A motion to approve the purchase of new swings and hardware was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. Roll Call: *Dan -* **YES**, *Wend*y - **YES**, *Rita* - **YES**, and *Chuck -* **YES**. Motion carried. The park has sold 37 cement parking stops at $25 each. Thirty will be sold to the Clio Youth Baseball and Softball organization on April 12, 2025. The Park did receive an offer to purchase disc golf baskets. The offer was for all the baskets for $2,000. This offer was declined.

**PLANNING:** No report. The next Planning Meeting will be May 7, 2025 at 6:00pm.

**CHAPEL/CEMETERY:** Floyd stated Dan has started the clean-up at the both Cemeteries. They have already filled the dumpster twice with winter holiday items. Dan will be installing two new One-Way signs at the new cemetery. Floyd has purchased a new flag for the cemetery, but he is waiting for the high winds to stop before putting it up. Floyd and Dan have taken it upon themselves to maintain the Amish Cemetery located on Bombay Road. There are approximately 34 graves starting as early as 1909. Floyd will continue to maintain the cemetery as long as he is physically able.

**TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY:** Dan reported there were 1 mechanical, 2 plumbing, and 1 electrical permits for March. The next meeting will be April 24th, 2025.

**WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD:** Bob Kelley indicated that during last month’s meeting they discussed the progress of the mowing of trees and the funds remaining for the established project plan. Bob indicated that, in his opinion, John Marsh is doing a great job. They also discussed how to attack the Phragmite that is spreading within the lake basins. This is of particular concern as it spreads very fast, can grow to 20 feet tall, and can survive in deeper depths of water. The next meeting will be May 22nd, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Billings Township Hall.

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMISSION:** The next meeting is May 1st, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Township Hall.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. New Phone – New phones have been obtained for the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Fire Chief. We will receive credit on our bill for the sales taxes paid as we are tax exempt.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Precision Lawn Care – Sprinklers at the Township Hall are maintained by Precision Lawn Care. The Clerk will contact Precision to schedule the startup and coordinate with Dennis Goul.
2. Cyber Security – Chuck and Carol were approached by VC3, a system security and networking support company, regarding our system security for the Township. VC3 presented the services they provide. We have scheduled a meeting with SAMSA, our current system security and networking provider, to discuss the services currently being provided and to determine if we have any system security exposure. We will report back to the Board the results of these meetings, and any recommended changes, if any.

**BUSINESS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

1. Lori Childs, Township resident asked if we need more gravel for the parking lot on the Northside of the Township Hall where a large amount of water is collecting. Dan Andrick indicated that he will be addressing this issue by re-grading the Stone Crete that has been pushed out by the snowplow.
2. Tony Smith of 1263 E. Curtis Rd., Hope, Michigan, addressed the Board regarding several issues concerning the neighbor, Brian Jackson, located at 1281 E. Curtis Rd., Hope, Michigan. Tony provided a timeline of events (available in Clerk’s Office) regarding various altercations and eradicate behavior that have occurred with Brian Jackson since he and his wife, Alex, purchased their home in August of 2023. He also indicated that Mr. Jackson has constructed a fence that may exceed Township zoning codes, has installed an orange construction/snow fence between their properties, and has placed a large flag that reads “Fuck You” with a middle finger towards his house. He has also put up 2 metal signs, one that reads “my neighbors are jackasses”. Pictures of the signs and fences were provided to the Board by Tony for viewing. Tony requested the Hope Township Board update their ordinances to prohibit displaying signs of this nature in yards. It was also indicated that the home located at 1281 E. Curtis Rd., Hope, Michigan is currently In Probate as the original owners are deceased.

Many other neighbors on E. Curtis Rd. addressed the Board concerning altercations, issues, and eradicate behavior of Brian Jackson, located at 1281 E. Curtis Rd., Hope, Michigan. The following neighbors were in attendance and expressed concerns:

Jeanne & Bill Brushaber – (former owners of 1281 E. Curtis Rd.)

Butch Strait – 1602 E. Curtis Road

Pat Swartzmiller - 1602 E. Curtis Road

Tim Marsh - 1567 E. Curtis Road

Jean Rowley-Smith – 4402 Shock Rd., Beaverton (Mother of 1281 E. Curtis Rd.)

Glenn Smith – 4402 Shock Rd., Beaverton (Father of 1281 E. Curtis Rd.)

Terrah Johnson – 1736 E. Curtis Road

Randy Wilkie – 1739 E. Curtis Road

JoAnn Willkie – 1750 E. Curtis Road

Pat Murphy – 1397 E. Curtis Road

The Board indicated to the residents in attendance that zoning codes cannot include the restriction of signage on residents’ property due to court rules that protect this under the 1st amendment of freedom of speech. This Board can investigate whether the wooden fence complies with Township Zoning Codes, once a formal complaint is filed with the Township.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm was made by Rita and supported by Chuck. No additional discussion. All in favor 4. Opposed 0. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:44pm

Respectfully submitted.

Wendy Faber, Trustee and Chuck Hudler, Treasurer