

**WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Supervisor Butts called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.
2. **Attendance:** Frank Butts, present; Kurt Reich, present; Judith Fusko, present; James Griggs, present; Frank Maley, present.
Citizens: David Davis, Allen Middaugh, Craig Yeager, Mandy Wallace, Korie Blyveis, Michael Laylin, Lois Koel and James Lawrence
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge to the United States flag was led by Trustee Maley.
4. **Invocation:** Supervisor Frank Butts gave the invocation.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** May 6, 2024: Township Board meeting minutes: ***Motion by Maley to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Board meeting. Support by Griggs. Motion carried.***
6. **Treasurer's Report:** General Fund Balance: \$610,245.64; Receipts: \$53,321.44; Expenditures: \$80,140.03; New General Fund Balance: \$583,427.05; Fire Department Fund Balance (includes Sinking Funds): \$343,650.88; Receipts: \$45,041.87; Expenditures: \$1,004.27; New Fire Department Fund Balance: \$387,688.28; Trust d Agency Accounts (Property Taxes, Special Assessment, and Fire Escrow) Balance: \$131,395.39. ***Motion by Butts to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
7. **Agenda:** Butts requested that Township Cleanup be added under Old Business. ***Motion by Fusko to adopt the amended agenda. Support by Maley. Motion carried***
8. **Guest Speaker: (1.) Korie Blyveis, Cass County Conservation District (CCCD):** Korie gave an update of activities carried on by the CCCD. She said there is not enough money to pay for personnel needed, especially administrators. Blyveis said that Tracy Wesaw is working on conservation. **(2.) County Commissioner Jim Lawrence:** Lawrence concentrated his remarks on the pay of County employees. He said there is a growing attitude of anger about salary differences between departments and individuals. He said a wage study is being conducted at a cost of about \$20,000.00; **(3.) Michael Laylin, Republican candidate for Drain Commissioner:** Laylin introduced himself and spoke about the need for a stronger County Conservation District—with a larger budget.
9. **Public Comments: David Davis:** Davis, whose property was in the direct path of one of the tornados, remarked on the amount of help that community members who had not been hit by the tornados offered. He said that Wayne Township is a great place to live with many caring residents.
10. **Reports:**
 - A. **Building Inspector:** Butts said that six Building Permits had been issued so far. He told Reich that many more permits would be coming as the insurance companies contacted him.
 - B. **Zoning Report:** There was no report from Mark Davis.
 - C. **Electrical Inspector:** Thirty-two Electrical Permits were issued for \$4,544.00.
 - D/E. **Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector:** Four Mechanical Permits were issued and no Plumbing Permits had been issued.
 - F. **Assessor:** Butts said that there was no report from the Assessor.
 - G. **Cemetery Report:** Yeager said that one plot had been sold.
 - H. **Fire Board:** Jim Lawrence spoke for the Fire Board. He thanked George LaPorte for his many years of service to the Fire Department. He reported that he had been chosen as Chairman of the Fire Board with Joe Van Tuyle as Vice Chair and Mike Watts as Treasurer. Chief Yeager said that there had been twenty-eight calls in May and that seventeen of those were tornado related. He said that thirteen agencies had helped at Twin Lakes with the damage including the house fire which no one could get to because of blocked roads. Yeager said it was amazing that no one was injured by the tornado damage.
 - I. **Blight:** Judy said there was no report due to the tornado. She said she would like to take a webinar on Blight put on by the MTA. The cost is \$25.00. (It was approved with the Payment of Bills.)
 - J. **Unsafe Building(s):** Butts said that about ten homes at Twin Lakes need to be condemned by Saunders.
 - K. **Zoning Violations:** Butts said that he and Saunders decided to allow people to rebuild their homes even if over 50% had been destroyed (the Zoning Ordinance does not allow the repair if over 50% destroyed) if they would use the same footprint.

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- L. **Planning Commission:** There will be a regular meeting on Thursday, June 13.
- M. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** There are two variance applications in the works right now. Reich said the two hearings will take place on June 27 at 7:00 and 7:30.
- N. **Dowagiac District Library:** Reich said that finances are good. He said a patron had sent a letter to the Library Board complaining about how her autistic son was treated by certain staff members. Reich said there may be a closed session of the Board to discuss the issue.
- O. **Emergency Services Authority:** Butts said the biggest project is trying to come up with a contract with SMCAS for ambulance services.
- P. **Treasurer:** Fusko provided an excellent written report. She said that the Microsoft Office software subscription is expiring. There was a discussion about the need for Fusko to have this software. ***Motion by Butts to purchase the software for Microsoft Office not to exceed the price of \$200.00. Support by Maley. Motion carried.*** Fusko said that the township (and other surrounding townships) has received a request from the City of Dowagiac to put a lien on a piece of property on M-51 for non-payment of a water bill. The lien would be placed on the summer tax bill. There was considerable discussion about whether the township should be put in this position. There was consensus to seek advice from our township attorney.
- Q. **Clerk:** Reich said the big issues coming up are the Primary Election on August 6 and the General Election on November 5. He said that elections have become more complicated by the rules such as “perm” applications and “perm’ ballots. He said that his deputy is handling the issues so far. Reich said there is training to attend for these elections both from the County Clerk and the Secretary of State.
- R. **Supervisor:** Butts: **(1.)** spoke about the Osborn Drain; **(2.)** said we had received a letter from the County Treasurer offering the township a parcel(s) of tax reverted property. ***Motion by Fusko to send a letter to the County Treasurer informing her that the township does not wish to have any of the tax reverted property. Support by Griggs. Motion carried;*** **(3.)** said that the Council on Aging has asked for a spot on the July agenda to speak about the August election millage renewal it is seeking; **(4.)** thanked everyone for all the help given after the tornado that went through Twin Lakes and other township property—including other Road Commissions and first responders.
- S. **Township Website:** Griggs continues to put in updated articles from Board members.
- T. **MEANDRS:** Maley said he is working to get the dates of future meetings changed from the first Monday.
10. **Payment of Bills: *Motion by Maley to approve the list of bills. Support by Fusko. Motion carried.***
11. **New Business: Air Conditioning Unit and Heating Unit: *Motion by Reich to accept the bid from Rohdy’s Heating and Cooling for a new Air Conditioning Unit and a new Heating Unit not to exceed \$13,000.00. Support y Fusko. Motion carried.***
12. **Public Comments: Corey Belvis:** said she had forgotten to mention the program to aid farmers and tree farmers in her report earlier in the meeting.
13. **Adjournment: *Motion by Griggs to adjourn the meeting. Support by Maley. Motion carried.***
The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 P.M.
- Respectfully submitted by Kurt E. Reich, Wayne Township Clerk