

# **EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**September 11, 2023 7:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Rob Kowalski, Clerk Korey Kripli, Treasurer Eileen Fournier, Trustee Dan Zettel, and Trustee Todd Johnson

**ATTENDANCE:** County Commissioner Brenda Simmons, Zoning Administrator Bob Clayton (absent), and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser (absent). Several residents of Edwards Township.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 14, 2023 Board Meeting, August 24, 2023 Special Meeting, and September 8, 2023 Special Meeting**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Todd Johnson, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA:**

Pat Miller stated that Jim Sheltroun should be changed to Dale Sheltroun in the August 14, 2023 minutes. Clerk corrected this error.

Richard Stillwagon stated that August 28, 2023 was an error in the agenda instead of August 24, 2023. Clerk corrected this error.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

State Government is trying to dictate where we put wind turbines and solar panels. The state government has also tried to dictate that septic tanks should be inspected every five years. County Commissioner urged to push back on these sorts of issues. Childcare Fund Reimbursement is set for October 1, 2023. Ogemaw County Jail is in insurmountable debt. The county has accepted a grant for two new buses for the transit. The county liability insurance no longer has insurance for abuse cases. They are working on an abuse prevention policy.

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Absent.

## **MICHIGAN TASTING ROOM LICENSE - DAN ZETTEL:**

Dan Zettel has an orchard with 10,000 apple trees and is getting ready to have a tasting room for hard cider. A year ago, he asked permission through zoning since the liquor commission asked for it. It has finally been approved by the Federal License for a cider/wine tasting room. As soon as this form gets approved by the township, he will be able to get approved by the state of Michigan.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the Michigan Tasting Room Permit for Dan Zettel. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER REPORT:**

Treasurer report presented by Eileen Fournier. Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by Todd Johnson to accept the Treasurer Report.

Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve bills with checks #6826 correction, #6844-#6873 for a total of \$16,289.98.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion Carried.

## **HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Robert Kowalski to issue hall deposit returns for a total of \$775. Motion carried.

## **RECAP OF SPECIAL MEETING:**

August 24th meeting was originally set to approve the bill from the road commission. The board was waiting for more progress on Green Road. The road commission reached an agreement with half the amount that was owed. The board approved those amounts at that meeting. Added to the agenda was to accept the resignation of Ron Taylor. Ron Taylor resigned from Supervisor on August 22nd because he did not have enough time to do the job and wanted to spend more time with his family. He presented a

letter and the board accepted his resignation. The board voted for a new Supervisor. Trustee Dan Zettel asked Robert Kowalski and Todd Johnson what their qualifications were for the job of Supervisor. The board discussed briefly and then put it to a vote. There was a 3-1 motion to support Rob Kowalski as the Supervisor of Edwards Township. The motion was made by Eileen Fournier and supported by Korey Kripli to approve Rob Kowalski as Supervisor until the end of the term in 2024. Motion carried.

Brent Illig questioned if the board had violated the open meetings act by voting for a new Supervisor in a special meeting. Rob Kowalski spoke to MTA and they had stated that the board has 45 days to appoint a new Supervisor. The board has the ability to make that decision. Rob stated that he would reach out to the township attorney the next morning. He has been in contact with him clearing up items. He received the minutes and he approved them. He would have notified the board if there was a problem.

On September 8th, the board had a special meeting about the 9 days of early voting. Breck Gildner had reached out to Korey Kripli stating that her deadline to approve the nine days of early voting with the townships through the county and not as individual municipalities was on September 9th. This issue was talked about at the last meeting, but was tabled for the September 11th board meeting. Kripli stated that Edwards Township was the only township that didn't vote to approve the nine days of early voting with the county. Every other township had voted to join the county in the nine days of early voting. The board voted to join the other counties in joining with the county for the nine days of early voting on September 8th.

Nick Smith had to adjust the steps  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch for the hall to be up to code.

#### **11A: SUPERVISOR VOTE** was added to the agenda

Motion made by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to nominate Robert Kowalski as Supervisor for Edwards Township until the end of 2024 year.

Roll Call: Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson N Zettel Y

Robert Kowalski is the acting Supervisor until 2024. Rob stated that he would still reach out to the attorney to see if the board violated the open meetings act. Brent Illig stated that the board doesn't need to waste the money on the attorney.

## **DECREASE IN SUPERVISOR PAY:**

Robert Kowalski stated that the current pay for Supervisor is \$13,000 per year. Rob requested that the pay be lowered to \$10,200. The Supervisor is the assessing officer for the township and the township has hired an assessor. Rob didn't think it was right for the salary to reflect the job that the Supervisor is not doing. Rob spoke with the attorney and presented his letter of recommendation along with a resolution that was drawn up by the attorney to decrease the Supervisor pay.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to reduce the Supervisor pay from \$13,000 to \$10,200.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

## **TRASH PICK-UP:**

Few residents of Edwards Township would like their trash bill put on their taxes. The board has talked about this year in and year out. According to MSU Extension, if anyone wants it to be on the ballot, you must have 5% of the qualified voters sign a petition. This petition needs to be turned into the clerk. Then it will be turned into the county. All the companies that service garbage do not have an answer for a price for this service for the township.

## **TOP SOIL FOR CEMETERY:**

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to purchase top soil for the cemetery for \$175 from Kurt Zettel.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

## **DRAIN FIELD:**

The poison sumac is a concern around the septic tank for the township. Rob reached out to Larry Kartes and he suggested to spray the sumac in the Fall and then cut it down in the Spring. Brent Illig stated that this is a tough time to kill plants this time of the year. Dan Zettel stated that Michigan State put on a meeting stating that RoundUp and Crossbow work the best in the Fall. It gets down in the roots and is the best time to spray

them. The board is waiting for more information from Larry Kartes. Discussion was made about having the health department or Lil Willies probing the septic tank to make sure the board knows the exact location of the drain field. The board will contact Lil Willies.

### **SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS:**

At one of our last wedding receptions, there was an incident in the front hallway by the front doors by the bathrooms where we do not have a security camera.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to approve \$545 to install another security camera.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

According to the attorney, if the hall has video recording, we must post signs that state it is video only. There is no audio. The cameras are for security. Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Todd Johnson to approve \$20 for four video surveillance signs for the hall.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

### **HUGHESNET RATE:**

After adding the security cameras, HughesNET was not working well to use the full capacity of the cameras. The board agreed that another company would be needed to have internet at the hall. The discussion is tabled for the next meeting. Rob Kowalski stated that he would reach out to Starlink for prices since numerous members of the board have had great success.

### **BRIAN STEIN:**

Brian was requesting engineering for the car port and the gazebo. They were both kits. He was also the one that stated the steps outside the south entrance were in violation by  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch. He requested that we draw permits for the township. Bob Clayton issued the township permits. The township has the instructions. Nick Smith came out and fixed the steps for the hall. Residents of the township were concerned what Brian Stein was looking for and didn't understand why there was an issue.

### **CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS:**

There are a lot of branches in the cemetery that need trimming.

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve Clean Cut Lawn Care to trim the branches in the cemetery for \$750.

Roll Call: Kowalski Abstain Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

### **BOR ALTERNATE NOMINATION:**

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to nominate Kim Glasser to BOR Alternate.

Motion carried.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to nominate Dave Ross as BOR 2nd Alternate.

Motion carried

### **MICHELLE VOGT FOR ZBA:**

Rob is no longer on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to nominate Michelle Vogt for Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion carried.

### **YOUNG HOUSE ON GREENWOOD:**

Bob Clayton reached out to Larry Watson who is a builder. It is his recommendation to continue to demolish the house. The board wants to move forward with the process and find a local attorney that will fight the case.

### **DAVE ROSS:**

There have been numerous instances of illegal dumping of human waste at Tee Lake. Dave Ross stated that there are nine travel trailers. A witness stated that she saw someone empty their black water tank into Tee Lake. Another witness stated that a travel trailer is dumping their waste into Tee Lake and surrounding areas. Conservation officers have been involved. The board agreed that they would reach out to Bob Clayton about this issue and look into the township ordinances that are in place about travel trailers.

### **SNOWPLOW CONTRACT:**

The board is looking for contracts for snow-plowing the parking lot of the

hall and the cemetery. Korey Kripli stated that he would put an ad into the Ogemaw Herald seeking contracts.

**NEW PRINTER:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to approve \$500 for a new printer.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

**L-4029:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to file the L-4029 with Equalization with Ogemaw County.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pat Miller asked about two checks that were written.

Check #6858 for a total of \$2,292.48 was written to MVW & Associates. They are the assessor for the township.

Check #6857 for a total of \$135 was written to Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes. They are the township attorney. Todd Johnson had made a call to get definitions of a resolution and an ordinance. He also inquired about information regarding aquatic nuisance treatment for Frost Lake.

Brent Illig inquired about the \$500 for Nick Smith to fix the steps at the hall.

Ray Miller inquired about blight issues.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Township Board Meeting: Monday, October 9, 2023 at 7:30pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to adjourn at 9:12pm. Motion carried.

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Korey Kripli, Clerk