

# **EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**June 10, 2024 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, and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser (absent). Several residents of Edwards Township.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 13, 2024 Board Meeting**

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the minutes for the May 13, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Todd Johnson, supported by Dan Zettel to approve of the agenda presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA:** None

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

Brenda Simmons stated that the annual Airport Fly-In will be hosted on June 15th from 8am to noon. The county is switching from AT&T to Spectrum for internet. Emergency Manager, Mike Bowers presented an update. August 12th, there will be active shooter drills at Whittemore Prescott. August 24th, there will be an emergency expo at Rose City Park.

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Bob had 1 permit for the past month. He contacted the court system. 1 ticket was dismissed because of compliance and there was a warrant issued for the second ticket. House on Greenwood has been officially torn down. A couple letters have been sent out to residents about clean up. Dan Winter promised by the end of Summer that the trailer and the brick structure on M-30 will be taken down by the end of the Summer. Members of the Amish Community have reached out to Bob about purchasing land and building schools and other buildings. Bob stated that there would have to be special building permits issued.

## **TREASURER REPORT:**

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

Motion approved.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve bills with payroll checks #10,018-10,035 excluding 10,0025 due to an error and payable checks #7196-7216 for a total of \$26,500.27.

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

Motion approved.

## **HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to issue two hall deposit returns for a total of \$250. Motion approved.

## **CEMETERY PLOT BUYBACKS:**

The township will be buying back 6 plots in the cemetery for a total of \$600 to Denise Hall.

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

## **IRS PAYMENTS:**

The township received a bill from Stephenson & Company for \$60 to provide tax payment amounts. The township received a letter from the IRS stating that the township had not paid enough taxes and received a bill for the late payment and accumulated interest. The township paid the fees and has officially moved on from Stephenson and Company for payroll taxes.

## **CLASS INVESTMENT COMPANY/INVESTMENT POLICY :**

Rob Kowalski and Eileen Fournier went to an annual training and heard a presentation from Michigan CLASS (Michigan Cooperative Liquid Asset Security System). The company pools money together from municipalities and invests it daily. The company averages over 5%, is liquid, and the money can be moved daily with no fee. The county and the West Branch Library have also used this company with success.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to invest into the Michigan Class mutual fund with the amount to be determined by Eileen Fournier knowing that the funds are liquid at all times.

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

Motion approved.

Eileen Fournier presented an investment policy for the township. This will be a resolution and will be posted in the paper.

All in favor vote. 5 yays. 0 nays.

#### **BRINE BILL:**

The bill was \$4,420 for 34,000 gallons over Memorial Day from the Ogemaw County Road Commission. Residents seemed pleased of the brine application.

#### **KATHERINE YOUNG RESIDENCE DEADLINE:**

The house is now demolished. A letter from the assessor was sent to Katherine Young. She received this letter on May 24th and has until June 24th to pay the total amount. More details to come.

#### **EGLE PERMIT - VINCE GRAFF:**

Korey Kripli received an email from EGLE about a driveway being put in on Vince Graff's property on top of wetlands. This was approved by EGLE.

#### **STEPHENSON & CO BILL:**

This topic of discussion was discussed in the IRS Payment topic.

#### **ATTORNEY BILL - ANDREW:**

The bill total was \$465.20. These charges other than the parking lot signs verbiage for \$60 will be billed to Katherine Young. Andrew will be helping us with counsel for court cases involving zoning among other things.

#### **CELL TOWER UPDATE:**

The township hopes to have more updated information at the next board meeting.

## **PRIVATE ROAD INSURANCE:**

The township received an email from the road commission stating that the township must have road insurance on our private roads for maintenance. Korey Kripli and Rob Kowalski reached out to Ken Lind from the insurance company and this issue will be resolved.

## **MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**

Charts by Chris Grobble were displayed to residents. However, the charts are not correct. The township hopes to have more updated maps at the next board meeting. These charts are mandatory for the township master plan.

## **PROPERTY PURCHASES:**

This topic was discussed during the Zoning Administrator discussion topic.

## **TAX SALE:**

Rob Kowalski received a letter from the DNR for property in Edwards Township that will be going up for tax sale. It is over on Elk Lake. The minimum bid will be \$6,500 with 33ft of lake frontage.

## **SUMAC PROPERTY LINE:**

The township board found out that the township does not own the property where the drain field is located. Circle K Farms notified the township that the township was granted an easement when the drain field was built. The board is not sure if this easement was ever recorded in the meeting minutes. This issue will be discussed with the Kartes family and the board hopes to resolve this issue.

## **RAIN GAUGE:**

The rain gauge will be placed underground on the township property to collect rain results for our area to send to Bay City in order to track rain amounts.

## **BS&A UPDATE:**

With the new payroll system from Mercantile Bank, the township has been saving a lot of money by not switching to BS&A. BS&A is currently \$40,000 plus \$1,000 per month for maintenance. Rob Kowalski stated that in the

future, these fees could be higher. The township currently uses BS&A for tax accounts and assessing. The time may come to switch to BS&A for other services that Mercantile is currently providing, but the time is not now. Rob noted that a good amount of townships used ARPA funds to purchase BS&A, but is not sure how they will continue to use it with the \$1,000 per month

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Stillwagon asked why there was a \$0.01 difference between his check and Janet Groulx's check for working the election. Eileen Fournier stated that it may be different due to tax exemptions. Korey Kripli stated that he would check into it.

Bob Clayton stated that the planning board needs to hear from Chris Grobble for updates on the cell tower and master plan before the Planning Meeting on July 1, 2024.

Brenda Simmons stated that she will be running for County Commissioner and that she would like the support of the residents of Edwards Township.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Planning Meeting: Monday, July 1, 2024
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Dan Zettel to adjourn at 8:25pm.  
Motion carried.

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Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

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Korey Kripli, Clerk