

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

August 12, 2024 7:30pm

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 8, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve the minutes for the July 8, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve of the agenda presented with the addition of 10A Road Commission Final Bill, 13A Cemetery Letters, 16A Michigan CLASS, 16B Cemetery Cleanup, and 20A Green Road . Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Brenda Simmons stated that she attended the Active Shooter Program at Whittemore Prescott. There will be a Transit Meeting on August 15th. Millage on the November Ballot for the Ogemaw County Jail will be discussed at the next Budget Meeting. MTA Chapter Meeting will be held at Churchill Township on August 27th at 6pm. Mark Surbrook did win the election and Brenda's last meeting will be in December.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Bob had zero permits for this month. He received a ticket back, but will resend it to the correct address. He also had numerous talks with the new Amish residents about special use permits.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve bills with payroll checks #10,048-10,066 and payable checks #7240-7260 for a total of \$61,682.52.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to issue two hall returns for \$250. Motion approved.

MI CLASS:

Eileen Fournier set up the MI CLASS account for the township. Only the Clerk and the Treasurer have access to the account. The website is very easy to use. The board would like to invest money to put back into the road fund to improve roads in the future. The rate as of right now is 5.73%.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to invest \$450k from the General Fund and \$5k from the Road Fund into the MI CLASS account.

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

Motion approved.

ELECTION UPDATE:

Korey Kripli stated the election went well. However, the tabulator did reject some ballots multiple times. Votes were still tallied correctly, but it just took extra time to cast votes. Voters were patient during this process. Kripli thanked all of the election workers:

Janet Groulx, Richard Stillwagon, Denise Clayton, Michael Gring, and Election Chair Kimberly Glasser.

F-65 UPDATE:

Stephenson & Co. is currently working on the F-65 for the township and it should be finished by September.

ZBA RESULTS:

Two ZBA Meetings were held. The first one was for the Temple family. They wanted to build a pole barn and it was going to encroach five feet closer to the property line. Neighbors were fine with it. ZBA approved of the pole barn. The other meeting was for Dan Zettel. Dan's sign for his new business was shown to be two feet bigger than what it should be. ZBA approved of the sign.

CEMETERY LETTERS:

Mike Laier came to Rob Kowalski six weeks ago to talk about some benches that were not supposed to be in the cemetery. Mike talked to these people personally and they still left them. Rob talked with Kim Glasser and sended two letters out asking the one's at fault to remove the benches within two weeks. After two weeks if they are not removed, Mike will move them over by the chapel. Then if they are not removed after another two weeks, they will be thrown out.

More letters will be sent out to multiple residents that have excessive rocks, shrubs, and among other things that are interfering with other cemetery plots.

LETTER TO THE IRS:

The letter that the board agreed to send to the IRS has been received and the township has heard no word back. However, the township has not received a bill from the IRS since the letter has been sent. More information to follow.

KATHERINE YOUNG HOUSE COMPLETION:

The Young residence is completely demolished and the township has been paid in full for the entire process.

TREASURER COMPUTER REPAIR:

Eileen Fournier had repairs made on her computer.

CEMETERY CLEANUP:

Leaves were cleaned up at the cemetery. Fence repair needs to be done. Markers were found under the brush and the cemetery has gained six markers.

VES HALL RENTAL:

Veterans Evaluation Service reached out to the hall to park their travel trailer at the township hall in order to serve disabled veterans. They inquired about the hall so the veterans could use the bathrooms and could sit in the waiting area. They were so appreciative of the township for letting them do their service here in West Branch that they wanted to do another date. The board granted this request.

RAILING ON PAVILION:

Rob Kowalski stated that he wanted to install a railing for the pavilion outside. Rob received a quote from a gentleman who receives cedar, saws it, and installs it himself for \$40 per linear square foot. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve \$1,200 to install railings on the outside pavilion.

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

Motion approved.

ATTORNEY BILL:

Bob Clayton sent a letter to Brian Dematio for his dangerous building on his property on Greenwood Road. Brian sent this letter to his attorney. The attorney sent a letter to the township. The township gave this letter to Fahey Schultz (township attorney) to give an answer from the township. Brian did state in his original letter that he was planning on taking the dangerous building down this year. However, this is not the case at this time.

HALL MANAGER RAISE:

Kim Glasser brought up that every person that works for the township makes at least \$15 per hour other than the Hall Manager. This is the only position that did not get a raise. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to raise the wage of the Hall Manager to \$15 per hour.

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

GREEN ROAD:

The original estimate to pave Green Road was \$120,579. The bill ended up being \$86,138.78. The township will not borrow any more money for any new road projects until 2027.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Al, a driver for the Ogemaw County Public Transit, stated that there was no push for the Transit Millage to pass in the primary election that recently occurred. He stated that the Transit needs to replace five buses. Each bus is \$180k to buy new. The state funding will be cut this year as well. The director will be putting the Transit on the November Ballot. Many residents need this transit.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Township Board Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to adjourn at 8:45pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk