

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
www.wheatfieldtwpmi.gov

Tuesday January 9, 2024 7:00PM
(The meeting was held in the community room)

Supervisor Myer called meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Roll call—Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-present. Miller absent.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:01 PM. Five people spoke-the comments were regarding the zoning ordinance amendment about Wind Energy Systems and gratitude for the Wheatfield Township officials. Closed at 7:23 PM.

MINUTES:

Motion by Henley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2023, seconded by Allen. All were in favor. Motion carried. Miller absent.

*Copies of the minutes are available at the township office.

*******REPORTS*******

TREASURER’S REPORT: Given by Kapp for Miller. Summary as of December 31, 2023:

- ✓ Independent Bank General Fund-fund balance equity:----- \$ 225,373.21
- ✓ Consumers CU Certificate of Deposit:----- \$ 101,201.02
- ✓ Consumers CU Certificate of Deposit:----- \$ 100,679.64
- ✓ Independent Bank Tax Roll Checking balance:----- \$1,627,965.04
- ✓ Cemetery Certificate of Deposit:----- \$ 7,200.00

Motion by Henley to approve the treasurer’s report of December 31, 2023, seconded by Allen.

All were in favor. Motion carried. Miller absent.

- ✓ The treasurer’s office is collecting and disbursing both summer and winter taxes.
- ✓ The interest rates for CDs have been dropping, so Holly is checking on options.

*Copies of the treasurer’s report are available at the township office.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Given by Kapp.

- ✓ There was no meeting in December. The next meeting is January 18th. The PC’s unanimous recommendation for approval of the Wind Energy amendment is on the agenda tonight.

N.I.E.S.A.: Given by Henley and submitted in writing:

Discussion topics included:

- ✓ A public hearing for the 2024 General and Building & Equipment budgets was held, with the budgets being passed along with all budget amendments. NIESA board members voiced their desire for greater input on the budget throughout the year.
- ✓ Staffing cost for two employees 24/7 at Leroy Station 62 was estimated to be \$467, 280 per year, not including any necessary facility renovations. More data will be collected regarding response times.

- ✓ New computers are needed.
- ✓ Wheatfield Township had 180 runs out of 1,621 total runs in 2023. This figure includes responses on the freeway.
- ✓ *A copy of NIESA's minutes is available at the township office.

SUPERVISOR: Given by Myer.

- ✓ Wayne responded to several zoning inquiries ranging in topic from building permits, a traffic and noise complaint, a traffic safety issue, an existing special land use permit, the potential illegal activity on two adjacent properties, and approved one zoning permit for a pole barn.
 - ✓ Wayne received an invitation from the Training division at the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to be on an interview panel.
- *A copy of the supervisor's report is available at the township office.

CLERK: Given by Kapp. Summary:

- ✓ Hall & Grounds: only one rental in December. HVAC maintenance was done,
- ✓ Elections: continued implementation of Early Voting requirements, working closely with our partners at Williamstown Twp., as well as lots of absentee voting activity.
- ✓ Office: monthly and quarterly reports completed, end-of-year reports completed, W-2 prepared and passed out, attended one clerk's meeting.

*Reports attached:

*The year-to-date report

*2 year-end reports

*ARPA checkbook register

*MIRS report

*Sample postcard being sent to voters about early voting

*Copies of the clerk's report are available at the township office.

WASC: Given by Allen.

- ✓ They are taking steps to acquire the Merindorf property (corner of Linn & Williamston Rds.) for a facility center.
- ✓ Ann McKinney is the new events director.
- ✓ The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$191,021.95.
- ✓ They are considering renaming themselves to Northeast Ingham Senior Center as they serve many folks outside of Williamston
- ✓ Two new board members will be elected soon.
- ✓ Meetings will now be held every other month.
- ✓ Williamstown Twp. will put a millage request for the Senior Center on the November ballot. Possibly Locke Twp. as well.
- ✓ Great appreciation to Director Julie Rudd for her work on exploring many funding options.
- ✓ D & W donated \$1,000 to the Center in December.

*******DISCUSSION ITEMS*******

1. Resolution 2024-1, Guidelines for Applicants Requesting Consideration for Poverty Exemption.
This resolution has been updated with the most recent federal poverty guidelines and is adopted annually. This is an action item for tonight.
2. Resolution 2024-2, Ingham County payment Reduction Program.
The purpose of this program is to reduce payments of delinquent taxes due from persons who have received a poverty exemption from taxes. There is no cost to the township. We must pass a resolution to participate. This is an action item for tonight.
3. Amendment to the Fee and Compensation Schedule for Early Voting categories.
This item is to add two categories to the fee schedule of Early Voting-hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour and Early Voting Chairperson stipend of \$35.00 per day. This is an action item for tonight.
4. Wind Energy Amendment.
This was unanimously recommended to the board for approval by the planning commission last month. It was recommended for immediate approval by Mark Eidelson, the township planning consultant, to regulate the wind systems that are smaller in scope than the state will regulate, but larger than our small wind energy systems. PC chairman Kapp was available to respond to questions from the board, and the board consensus was to act on this tonight.

*******ACTION ITEMS*******

1. Resolution 2024-1, Guidelines for Applicants Requesting Consideration for Poverty Exemption

Motion by Kapp to approve Resolution 2024-1 as presented, seconded by Allen.

Roll call vote: Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-yes. Motion carried. Miller absent.

2. Resolution 2024-2, Ingham County Payment Reduction Program

Motion by Henley to approve Resolution 2024-2 as presented, seconded by Allen.

Roll call vote: Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-yes. Motion carried. Miller absent.

3. Amendment to the 2023-2024 Fee and Compensation Schedule for Early Voting Hourly and Chairperson

Motion by Kapp to amend the 2023-2024 Fee and Compensation Schedule as presented, seconded by Allen.

Roll call vote: Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-yes. Motion carried. Miller absent.

4. Wind Energy Amendment Ordinance # 2024-1

Motion by Kapp to approve Ordinance 2024-1, Wind Energy Amendment as presented, seconded by Allen.

Roll call vote: Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-yes. Motion carried. Miller absent.

5. Accounts Payable for December 2023 (Payroll and Expenses).

Motion by Allen to approve the accounts payable for December 2023 as presented, seconded by Henley.

Roll call vote: Allen, Henley, Kapp and Myer-yes. Motion carried. Miller absent.

*Payroll and list of expenses attached.

Motion to adjourn by Allen, seconded by Henley. All were in favor—motion carried. Miller absent.

Meeting ended at 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kapp, Clerk

Date

Next board meeting:
Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm.