

Hamilton Township Board
September 12, 2023
7:00 p.m. - Hamilton Township Hall

Lake of the Woods Aquatic Plant Control and Weed Control
Special Assessment District 2014-01 Public Hearing, Fire and QR Protection Special
Assessment Roll Public Hearing,
And Regular Board Meeting

1. **Call to Order/Pledge**
The LOW Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Druskovich. Also Present: Clerk Rebecca Mott, Treasurer Sandra Hanson and Trustees Karen Makay and Richard Conway. There were seventeen guests present.
 2. **Special Assessment Roll – Assessment is Between \$50 and \$100 Per Parcel**
The Special Assessment Roll prepared by Assessor Brousseau was reviewed. Assessment rates are \$50 Per Back Lot and \$100 Per Lake Shore Lot.
 3. **Notice of Public Hearing – Published in the Decatur Republican on August 31, 2023**
Mott noted that the Notice of Public Hearing was published as required.
 4. **Open Public Hearing**
Public Comments – There were no public comments.
Written Comments – No written comments were received.
 5. **Close Public Hearing**
Motion by Makay, second by Conway to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.
 6. **Resolution to approve Rolls**
Motion by Makay, second by Conway to approve the Resolution Approving Lake of the Woods Aquatic Plant Control and Weed Control Special Assessment District 2014-01. Roll Call: Hanson – Yes, Mott – Yes, Makay – Yes, Conway – Yes, Druskovich – Yes. Motion carried.
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1. **Call to Order**
The Fire and QR Public Hearing was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
 2. **Special Assessment Roll – Assessment is 2.0 mills for fire services and 1.5 mills for quick response services**
The Special Assessment Roll submitted by the supervisor and assessing officer of the Township was confirmed and available for review. Assessment is 2.0 mills for fire services and 1.5 mills for quick response services and will be billed on the December tax bills.
 3. **Notice of Public Hearing – Published in the Decatur Republican on August 10, 2023**
Mott noted that the Notice of Public Hearing was published as required.
 4. **Open Public Hearing**
Public Comments – There were no public comments.
Written Comments – No written comments were received.
 5. **Close Public Hearing**
Motion by Makay, second by Conway to close the public hearing. Motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

6. **Resolution to Approve Rolls**

7. Motion by Hanson, second by Makay to approve the Resolution Approving Special Assessment Roll for Fire Protection and Ambulance Services. Roll Call: Mott – Yes, Makay – Yes, Conway – Yes, Hanson – Yes, Druskovich - Yes. Motion carried.

1. **Regular Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. **Limited Public Comments**

Jason West and Elizabeth Leffler commented on Large Industrial Solar.

3. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Conway, second by Makay, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. **Consent Agenda**

a) Approval of the August 8, 2023, meeting minutes as presented.

b) Monthly Budget Report for August - Cash Balances as of 8/31/23: General Fund - \$330,916.43; Road Fund - \$20,710.08; Lake of the Woods Weed Fund - \$3,767.80.

c) Payment of Bills

Motion by Makay, second by Conway, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

6. **Old Business**

a) **NFPI – MAPS** – Nothing new to report.

b) **Open field project** – The field is looking good. No mowing planned at this time.

c) **Neighborhood Watch** – Currently 1,400 members on the Facebook page. The Facebook page can be found under: Van Buren County Neighborhood Watch-Decatur/Hamilton Twp. The first self-defense class was well attended. Jaime is looking for volunteers to help with upkeep of the Facebook page and meetings. If interested, please contact Jaime Stone-McEnaney at nw49045@outlook.com for more information.

d) **Covid relief funds – ARPA** – Nothing new to report.

e) **Broadband Mapping** – Nothing new to report.

f) **Safe Built Update** - The Townships Attorney will continue working with Safe Built to ensure everything is completed correctly and timely. This project could take another six to nine months to complete.

g) **Small Solar Ordinance Update** – There was a public hearing held on September 11, 2023. This ordinance pertains to private use only. Private use allows up to 5 acres but not more than 10% of your land and no more than 1 megawatt. More information will be reported as it becomes available.

h) **DHQR & FD Tax Assessment Roll Hearing** – This item has been completed.

i) **Fire/Burnt House 86th Ave** – This is a work in progress and more information will be reported as it becomes available.

7. **New Business**

a) **LOW Weed Control Tax Assessment Roll Hearing** – This item has been completed.

b) **PA 116 Request** – An application was submitted to both the VB Conservation District and the VB County Planning Commission. They both feel this request does not meet the eligibility requirements for a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Farmland Agreement.

c) **Air Handler – Grange Hall** – A bid was received to replace the air handler at the grange hall.

Motion by Conway, second by Makay to approve the bid to replace the air handler at the grange hall for an amount of no more than \$5000.00. Motion carried.

d) **Early Election Voting Agreement County** – Hamilton Township would like to participate in a county-wide voting center for the new 9 early days of voting requirement that will go into effect in 2024.

Motion by Conway, second by Makay to participate in a county-wide voting center for the new 9 early days of voting requirement that will go into effect in 2024. Roll Call: Makay – Yes, Conway – Yes, Hanson – Yes, Mott – Yes, Druskovich – Yes. Motion carried.

8. **Reports**

Supervisor – Road work; Dust control; Shoulder mowing complaints; Small Solar ordinance in progress; Small solar discussion

Treasurer- Credit card option to pay taxes has been added to the website; Will be in the office for tax collection on September 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2023

Clerk – Special Election to be held on November 7, 2023, for Decatur Public Schools Bond Proposal

Zoning – 2 zoning permits issued; 47th St trailer discussion

Planning – Small Solar meeting held on September 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Board/Quick Response – QR full time employee is going well; 2 vehicles in service; New fire truck scheduled for November; Training compliance discussion

Grange Hall – Rentals; Dances will be held on October 07, 2023, and November 4, 2023

Sexton – Water pump is working

Sheriff – 34 calls for August; Thefts on the rise in the area; Noise complaints; Blight complaints

Senior Services – Hamilton Township has partnered with the Paw Paw and Lawrence Townships Senior Citizen Programs; Having a good turnout for dinners and activities; Visit <https://hamiltontownshipmi.org> for more information

Roads – Fog sealing on hold for better weather; Road shoulder mowing; Snowplow rodeo; Call dispatch at 269-674-8011 for weather related issues and downed trees or Supervisor Druskovich at 269-423-7866

County – Re-opening of Palisades nuclear plant possible; ARPA funds plans

Conservation District- Education opportunities discussed; Emily Hickmott named as Executive Director; Invasive species discussion

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Makay, second by Conway, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Rebecca Mott, Hamilton Township