

Hamilton Township Board
March 12, 2024
7:00 p.m. - Hamilton Township Hall

1. Call to Order/Pledge

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Druskovich. Also Present: Clerk Rebecca Mott, Treasurer Sandra Hanson, and Trustee Karen Makay. Trustee Richard Conway was excused. There were eight guests present.

2. Limited Public Comments

Ryan Brown with Decker Agency introduced himself and offered to review the Townships current insurance policies.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

a) Approval of the February 13, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Motion by Hanson, second by Druskovich, to amend the meeting minutes to update items b) and d) under new business showing Trustee Makay abstained. Motion carried.

b) Monthly Budget Report for February - Cash Balances as of 02/29/24: General Fund - \$304,437.15; Road Fund - \$89,134.64; Lake of the Woods Weed Fund - \$10,343.01.

c) Payment of Bills

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

6. Old Business

a) **NFPI – FEMA - meetings** – Nothing new to report.

b) **Open Field Project** – The Van Buren Conservation District will continue to monitor the field to determine the next steps.

c) **Neighborhood Watch** – Currently 1,414 members on the Facebook page. The Facebook page can be found under: Van Buren County Neighborhood Watch-Decatur/Hamilton Twp. Jaime is looking for volunteers to help with upkeep of the Facebook page and meetings. Self-defense classes being scheduled with more information to follow. If interested, please contact Jaime Stone-McEnaney at nw49045@outlook.com for more information.

d) **Broadband Mapping & Update** – Nothing new to report.

e) **Safe Built Update** – The Townships Attorney will continue to work with Safe Built to ensure everything is completed correctly and timely. A possible fee schedule was received. This project will continue to be reviewed by the Board in the coming months, at which point the Township might need to look at different options.

f) **Solar Update** – Nothing new to report.

g) **Fire/Burnt House 86th Ave** – Zoning requirements will need to be met before any new structures will be permitted on the property. Clean up has started and there are deadlines in place for any new construction to begin.

h) **Draft Zoning for Shipping Containers & Accessory Building Limits** – The Board received the draft and will review and provide comments if needed. Will be on the agenda for April.

i) **Master Plan Update – March 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Village Hall** - A joint public hearing between Decatur and Hamilton Townships and the Village of Decatur has been scheduled.

j) **Infrastructure/Recycling Update** – More information will be discussed as it becomes available regarding the recycling transfer station.

7. New Business

a) **ZBA Board Appointment – 3 yr. terms**

1. John Young

Motion by Makay, second by Hanson, to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals appointment for a 3 yr. term. Motion carried.

b) **Planning Commission Appointments – 3 yr. terms**

1. Sharon Deloach
2. John Young

Motion by Hanson, second by Makay, to approve Planning Commission appointments for a 3 yr. term. Motion carried.

- c) **Recycle/Recovery Day April 27, 2024** – The first Community Dump Day will be held on April 27, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. at 300 W. Beers St. in Decatur. Call with questions: Village of Decatur 269-423-6114.
- d) **Petitions for office** – Anyone interested in running for a Township position needs to fill out the necessary paperwork and submit it to the Clerk by April 23, 2024.
- e) **Letter of Support – Fireman's Park** – The Village of Decatur is pursuing a grant opportunity through the DNR for improvements at Fireman's Park in Decatur. The Board reviewed a map outlining the improvements. A letter of support for the project was requested from Hamilton Township and will be provided to the Village of Decatur.
- f) **VB County Road Commission – Road Tour** – Supervisor Druskovich will attend the road tour on Wednesday April 3, 2024 to see what road projects are needed in Hamilton Township.

8. **Reports**

Supervisor – BOR meetings held; Planning Commission classes; Road budget; Masterplan meeting update

Treasurer – 96% of summer taxes collected; 93% of winter taxes collected

Clerk – Election preparations for the May 7, 2024 election

Planning Commission – Citizens planning classes will be attended in March and April 2024; Shipping container discussion

Sherriff – 28 calls for February; Thefts continue to rise, install cameras

VBC Commissioner – Leary – August 2024 ballot renewals discussed; Strategic Planning review; New probate Judge to start

Fire Board/Quick Response – New truck should arrive on schedule; QR doing a great job with calls; Structure fire in Marcellus; Randy Haun awarded First Responder of the Year; Bids for old ambulance being taken

Grange Hall – Dance to be held on April 6, 2024; Rentals for 2024 scheduled

Sexton – Spring clean-up needs to be completed by April 15, 2024, reminders will be in the paper

Assessor – BOR meetings in March; State tax increase; Homestead qualifications; Parcel reviews for 2024

Roads – Tree removal projects; Call dispatch at 269-674-8011 for weather related issues and downed trees or Supervisor Druskovich at 269-423-7866

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.

Conservation District – Community Dump Day; Farming for the Future event; Grant for invasive species control; Contact the Conservation District at 269-657-4030 ext. 5 or visit their Facebook page at: Van Buren Conservation District for information on available programs and resources for our area

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Makay, second by Hanson, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Rebecca Mott, Hamilton Township Clerk