

Merrill Township Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

1. Meeting called to order @ 7:02pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Prayer given by Venola Walton-Stanciel
4. Roll call: Venola-present, Tabatha-present, Harold-present, Pete-present, Pam-absent
5. Approval of meeting agenda- Tabatha made motion to approve with adding deputies wages to new items. Venola seconded the motion. All in favor.
6. Approval of consent agenda – Tabatha made the motion to approve. Harold seconded. All in favor.
 - a. Approval of March 20, 2023 board minutes
 - b. Approval to pay bills: from 3/20/23-6/12/23 general account, total \$72,678.30 (30,127.35 fire services), Transfer Station account, total \$34,232.60.
7. Public Comment (3 minutes per topic)

Six (6) people spoke.
8. Lilley Township Fire Department report- Supervisor read the report.
9. Library Report- Library representative was absent.
10. Zoning Report- Pete read the zoning report and offered to make copies for anyone who wanted them at the end of the meeting.
11. Supervisor’s report
 - a. Transfer Station Septic Tank/Leach Pump- The septic tank was pumped and the leach pump has been replaced and has to be finished by an electrician, he has calls into the electrician to finish it. Barry Baldwin stated that has been a problem for years and should have been taken care of by the previous board when he was supervisor and glad that it has been taken care of. He suggested that we get something to protect it, because it was hit by a snow plow years ago. Pete stated that he planned on getting something to protect it.
 - b. Boiler inspection has been completed and is now in compliance with the state.
 - c. Fire Inspection/Repair updates- The fire inspection has been completed and we are in compliance. They made the recommendation that the emergency lighting should be replaced. The supervisor was going to get a price of the service to replace the emergency lighting and bring it to the next meeting.
 - d. Community Events- We have a community day scheduled for July 1st, with several agencies’ participating. It is posted at the township and will be added to the website.

12. Clerk's report

- a. August Election-Baldwin school district has something on the ballot and an August election will be held. This election will not be for the entire township, just people that live in the Baldwin school district. Absentee ballot applications for people who are on the permanent list have been sent out and the clerk is supposed to have ballots delivered by June 23rd, so ballots for people requesting absentee ballots will go out after that.

13. Treasurer's report was provided in the packet, but treasurer was absent.

14. New Business

- a. Newaygo County Plat Map- a list of places that a plat map was provided to the people in attendance.
- b. Treasurer Resignation Letter- The treasurer sent a resignation letter with an end date of June 30th, but after talking to the Treasurer she stated she would continue to do the job as long as the board was actively seeking a new treasurer. Tabatha made the motion to approve the resignation letter with no ending date. Venola seconded. All in favor.
- c. Building Rental/Fees- An example letter of new building rental agreement was provided to the board, but everything researched stated that the attorney should provide input due to liability issues. Tabatha made the motion to contact the attorney about updating the building rental agreement. Venola seconded. All in favor.
- d. Contractor's Agreement- An example letter of new contractor's agreement was provided to the board, but everything researched stated that the attorney should provide input due to liability issues. Tabatha made the motion to contact the attorney about updating the building rental agreement. Venola seconded. All in favor.
- e. Tax Reverted Lands/Board Action Required-Pete does not think that we need to purchase or keep reverted land, Harold stated that it should be put on the tax sale so that it can be sold and put back on the tax role. Harold made the motion to not purchase the property that was reverted back to the county and that they should be offered at the public auction dated August 17, 2023. Venola seconded. All in favor.
- f. Library Board Appointment Expires June 30, 2023- Sue Redding is the current appointment to the library board and she is doing a good job and the library is pleased with her service. Tabatha made the motion to appoint Sue Redding to the Library Board. Venola seconded. All in favor.
- g. Resolution Supervisor Hires-Resolution no 2023-06-12-A Personal Administration Motion made to pass by Tabatha. Seconded by Venola. Roll Call vote. Venola=yes, Tabatha=yes, Harold=yes, Pete abstained.

- h.** Job Recommendation for Maintenance Position-Pete recommended that Stacey Torres fill the maintenance position. All in favor.
- i.** Job description Change/Pay (Maintenance) Pete recommends changing the job description to include lawn care and change the pay to 15 per hour. He feels it will be more cost effective than the only bid that was received for lawn care. A motion was made by Tabatha to include lawn care in the job description. Seconded by Harold. All in favor. A motion was made by Venola to increase the pay to 15 per hour. Harold seconded. All in favor. The board discussed purchasing lawn equipment for the maintenance person to do the work. Venola made the motion to purchase a weed trimmer, push lawn mower, and riding lawn mower with a cap of \$5000.00. Harold seconded. All in favor/
- j.** Lawn Care Bid- The lawn care provider explained his bid and why the cost were what they were. Venola thanked him for his bid but felt we were going to have our maintenance person do it to save on costs. Tabatha made the motion not to accept the bid, Venola seconded. All in favor
- k.** Deputies Wages-Harold made the motion to increase the deputies wages to 15 per hour. Venola seconded. All in favor.

l. Blight & Junk Ordinance

A member of the community who has been working with the Zoning Administrator stated that he would have all of the stuff cleaned up by the end of June.

The board went over the ordinance and agreed to the following changes

- Blight: Pg 2 Section 4 #2 Need to work to reword it?
 Section 5 #4 Change from 48 hours to 72 hours
 Section 7 #2 remove canoes
 Section 6 #1 Pete checking with lawyer
 Section 3 #1 Change from toys to broken or abandon to toys

m. Camping Trailers & temporary Occupancy Ordinance

- Camping: Section 3.1 #4 remove
 #5 pick up here at next meeting
 The board agreed that they would not be able to finish and approve the ordinance's tonight and that they needed to hold a special meeting. The special meeting to work on the ordinance's will be held July 12th at 7pm.

15. Adjourn: Harold made the motion to adjourn at 10:27pm. Venola seconded. All in favor