

**Merrill Township  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Morgan at 7:00pm. Followed by the pledge of allegiance by Mr. Morgan and prayer by Ms. Fisher.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Peter Morgan, Supervisor, here  
Mr. Harold Yancy, Trustee, here  
Ms. Tabatha Glezman, Clerk, here  
Ms. Fisher, here  
Ms. Venola Walton-Stanciel, Absent

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Tabatha Glezman motioned to approve agenda, Mr. Harold Yancy seconded and the motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Ms. Glezman motioned to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Fisher seconded, the motion was carried.

**Lilley Township Fire Department Report:**

Mr. Morgan read the report by the Fire Department describing the types of calls received over the last month. He added that Lilley is looking for people to hire if anyone has a recommendation or are interested.

**Zoning Admin.**

Mr. Morgan supplied the report for all of 2023 and detailed the report from June-September 2023.

Mr. Wroblewski issued:

- 16 zoning permits
- 21 camping
- 2 blight projects turned over to Township attorney
- 2 turned into the health department
- 2 complied with
- 12 other issues being worked on.
- 1 variance request
- 1 combine request
- 2 business, need to schedule with the Planning Commission

**Supervisor's report**

- Emergency Systems has been approved for tornado, flood, heat...

- Red Cross emergency shelter is approved. They only handle certain things and the County/EMS will cover what the Red Cross cannot.
- The women's bathroom repair is still being worked on. It broke due to age and is more complex than the men's issue was. The men's bathroom has been repaired.
- Property purchase issue. A resident inquired about purchasing a piece of property from the Township which borders their property. There is one other owner also touching the property. Mr. Morgan has sent 3 letters to the other land owner asking if they would be interested in purchasing the property from the Township as there is another buyer interested. He has received no response. Ms. Glezman suggested sending a certified letter to the individual who has not responded. If after 30 days there is no response, move forward with selling the property to the person who inquired. Mr. Morgan does not need to hold another Board meeting for approval. Ms. Fisher motioned, Mr. Yancy seconded, the motion passed.
- Tree Bid. Mr. Morgan advertised/requested bids from the area to have 10 trees cut down and brush removed. He received one bid for \$8,950 from Alpine Tree service and another bid to have tree's, stumps ground and brush removed for \$11,450. The Board felt this was too expensive. This is not an immediate need but will need to be completed within a year. Ms. Fisher has someone she is going to check with regarding an additional quote. Another community resident also said he was going to get a bid for Mr. Morgan.
- 12 Mile Rd. Mr. Morgan confirmed the price that was given to the Board a few months back was still accurate, and it was not. The quote increased by almost double. This is to pave the road through the transfer station, off of 12 Mile. The Board had originally approved the previous lower bid. Ms. Glezman stated there is enough money in the road fund to cover the new bid cost. Ms. Glezman motioned to approve, Ms. Fisher seconded, the motion passed.
- Internet is being supported in the area by Senator Gary Peter's. Our area is currently scheduled for sometime in 2024. There may be people in the area circulating a petition asking for people to sign it to expedite the internet coming to our area. Just be aware someone could stop by your home to discuss your interest.
- Building lighting conversion from florescent to LED bulbs. The usual cost for this is over \$3,000 but due to the discounts the Township receives it is under \$2,000. Ms. Glezman asked how long before the township would receive a return on their investment but the answer wasn't known. Mr. Morgan will ask and report back to the Board.
- A Police Report was filed due to a possible threat. Because the treat was brought to the Board they had to file the report to get it on record.
- Mr. Morgan reported he is working on selling 2 parcels of property for the Township.

### **Clerk's Report**

- Ms. Glezman stated the Early Voting Act will go into effect in 2024. There is a lot of additional equipment and man hours needed to support this and the Township just doesn't have the resources. The County is willing to take over the responsibility. Ms. Glezman is proposing that the Board allow the early voting to be handled by the County. They are willing to take it on and have many more resources than the Township. If in a few years the Township decides they want it back, they can get it

back. This is just the early voting, the same date voting is still held at the Township Hall as usual. We won't receive same day election results due to the early voting being handled at the County level. Roll Call Vote:

- Mr. Yancy – Yes
  - Ms. Fisher – Yes
  - Ms. Glezman - Yes
  - Mr. Morgan – Yes
  - Ms. Venola Walton-Stanciel, Absent
- There will be a November election for White Cloud School District held at the Township Hall.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The reports starting back at the March date, had an error in it, which trickled down to the June report, so the correction was made and a new copy of the revised reports were included in the packets.

The summer tax cycle ended last Thursday, 9/14/23 and it went well, there were no issues.

### **New Business:**

- Metro Act is to help support the internet in the area. It is due to expire on December 31, 2023 and Ms. Glezman requested to have it renewed. The policy date will now be December 31, 2028. Ms. Glezman motioned, Mr. Yancy, seconded, the motion passed.
- Garage rental for the Forestry Service. Mr. Morgan recommended the Township continue to rent the garage to the Forestry Service for the coming year, if they request it like they have in the past few years. Ms. Glezman motioned to approve, Ms. Fisher seconded, motion passed.
- Bathroom improvements, \$682 to fix and update the women's bathroom. Ms. Glezman motioned, Ms. Fisher seconded, motion passed.

### **Blight:**

- Mr. Morgan discussed the first change in the blight document, regarding covering non-working vehicles being kept behind a fence out of view. Ms. Glezman asked for this to be carried over to the next meeting. They just received the changes and would like some time to review and think about the changes proposed. Mr. Morgan proposed a special Board meeting for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall.
- Ms. Glezman and Ms. Fisher attended the Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Fisher did a little research trying to find out what the state regulations are and the laws to see what the Board options would be in creating a committee of volunteers to help with the blight. MTA responded with some useful information. The volunteers could create their own committee and the Township could walk along-side them, but the liability would be on the committee. Some of the things the Township could help with is, opening the transfer station on the community clean up day, could offer to help on the clean-up itself, could call people a head of time to get permission to clean up their property.

- Inquiry was made about the backup compactor. Mr. Morgan said it will cost \$15,000 to fix the extra compactor.

**Public Comment:**

Thirteen (13) people made comments at the meeting.

Ms. Glezman motioned to adjourn, Mr. Yancy, seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.