

Quincy Township Meeting

January 14, 2025

Present: Robert Sachs, Michael _____unreadable signature, Carry Stephenson, _____unreadable signature, Stephanie Studer, Andrew Craig, Al McClellen, Jason Bingaman.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Barve.

Roll Call: Present were Kurt Barve, Tim Brockway, Jim Harmon and Cindy Harleton. Absent Marilyn Ostrander.

Approval of Minutes from December 2024. Treasurer Brockway Moved to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Trustee Harmon. Motion carried.

Supervisor's report: Supervisor Barve stated we have a very busy next couple of months coming up on the township side, so is eager to get started on that and get rolling.

Clerk's Report: All of the paid bills were presented for December 2024. Trustee Harmon moved to approve the December 2024 bills totaling \$16,126.37. Treasurer Brockway seconded. Motion carried. Clerk Harleton purchased a two line phone so the Treasurer and Clerk have their own lines.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brockway got a print-out of everything for the Township that is now at Southern Michigan Bank and Trust. It shows all the CDs that we moved over. The beginning balance a year ago, compared to the balance last Wednesday and then the maturity date of that CD. Interest earned last year on the CDs totaled \$8,120. Originally, from way back when the interest was supposed to pay for perpetual care. This makes a pretty good chunk of the perpetual care. It's still thousands short but better than what it was. The ARPA went down to \$10.81, which was the interest after paying the tractor bill. The Cold Creek Solar account is brand new and that is why it didn't show up last year. Tax account, again, that's a very snapshot picture, most is gone from that account because it is sent on to the state. The General Fund is at \$184,652.51.

Cemetery Report: Sexton Stephenson reported he was looking at the map and getting final numbers ready to contact the company to make the book. He noticed there were mistakes on the map so now it is back with the surveyor. Three families asked for perpetual care but that was put on hold at the December meeting. The Massey Ferguson needs to be off the insurance and the new tractor put on.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Ewers reported Michigan Tax Tribunal Appeal, Stephen Smith Principal Resident Exemption appeal teleconference was held December 11 and no response yet. New construction reviews were completed on December 20, 2024. Veteran Exemption letters/applications were mailed out January 2, 2025. Personal Property Statements were

mailed out January 1, 2025. Poverty exemption letters were mailed January 13, 2025. Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial appraisal studies were finalized with the County on December 30, 2024 and posted to the website. The December Board of Review was held December 10, 2024 and petitions were approved and mailed out. Date entry and end of the year splits/combinations all processed as of today, January 14, 2025. Picking up paperwork at Equalization and Branch County Abstract on a regular basis.

Zoning Report: Supervisor Barve reported that McKenna and Associates is working on permits and violations.

Law Enforcement Report: Officer Jason Bingaman for BCSO reported he is the new undersheriff in Branch County, he's from St. Joseph County, retired from there in November. Officer Bingaman has 28 years experience and is looking forward to working for Branch County. The Department is trying to return to 24-hour coverage and thinks they will be able to accomplish this in the near future. Currently there are two Deputies in the FTO program and should be done by mid-April. The Sheriff had another meeting tonight but they are going to try to make our meetings.

Fire Association Report: Supervisor Barve reported the Fire Association Meeting is not until Thursday this week so has nothing to report.

County Commissioner's Report: Commissioner McClellan reported Frank Walsh officially started on his own 1j-1-2015. Board seats have been assigned; Chair-Randell Hazelbaker and Co-chair-Tim Stoll. Life care contract has been finalized. General projects continue at the courthouse and are soon completed. Courtroom renovation is scheduled to begin sometime soon. The board and administration are looking to hire a Deputy Administrator/Finance Director. Hopefully it will start in April. Sheriff plans on implementing 24 hour road patrol in April as long as he remains staffed. Aquatic Center hours are Monday-Friday 6am-7pm, Saturday 9am-1pm and Sunday 1pm-5pm. The old jail is completely gone.

Old Business:

- A. **Zoning Administrator Interviews:** There was only one applicant; Andrew Craig. He submitted a cover letter and resume. Supervisor asked Mr. Craig to stand at the podium and be asked a few questions. He completed the Master System Planner through MSU Extension Office and signed up for the Zoning Administrator Certification Program. It will be completed as soon as possible. Several questions were asked and answered and Mr. Craig said he will have 100% transparency. Treasurer Brockway moved to hire Andrew Craig as Zoning Administrator for Quincy Township pending contract negotiations. Trustee Harmon seconded. Roll call vote and the motion carried.
- B. **Township Website:** After much discussion of previous cost of the website and not being maintained and an offer from Quincy Village for \$500.00 to maintain, renewed each year, it was moved by Treasurer Brockway and supported by Trustee Harmon to pay the Village \$500.00 per year and renewed each year. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

New Business:

- A. Fueling for township equipment: As we are non-profit it is easier to fuel the township equipment at the Village office. Clerk Harleton moved to use the Village fueling station and be billed quarterly for Township equipment, supported by Trustee Harmon, motion carried.
- B. DMCI Agreement Renewal: Russ Hull requested a renewal of agreement to support the installation of fiber optic cable underground. Not asking for money. After much discussion it was moved by Treasurer Brockway to support DMCI and their V-Broadband project to provide it to Quincy Township and expand in their westward and eastward movement, supported by Clerk Harleton, motion carried
- C. Joint Master Plan-Village of Quincy Manager Butler presented information regarding a Joint Master Plan with shared cost between the Township and Village. The cost savings of \$7000.00 for each. Trustee Harmon moved to join with the Village for a Joint Master Plan at a cost of \$18,000.00 for the Township, supported by Clerk Harleton, roll call vote, motion carried.
- D. Permanent Meeting Change: Supervisor Barve reported that the Village office is in use on the first Tuesday of the month so we need to make a change. It was moved by Treasurer Brockway to permanently move the township meetings to the second Tuesday each month at 6:00pm, supported by Clerk Harleton, motion carried.
- E. Need to move money from the General Fund to the Trust and Agency Fund: Treasurer Brockway explained that each month money is withheld from payroll and deposited into the Trust and Agency account. The fund is short. It was moved by Clerk Harleton to move \$879.73 from the General Fund over to the Trust and Agency account, supported by Trustee Harmon, motion carried.
- F. Cemetery information to Computer: Deputy Clerk Studer presented information regarding switching all of the cemetery over to a software program. She will continue to gather information.

Public Comment: Gary from DTE gave a synopsis of the grant money that is available and filling out the application for the grant money.

Matt Ashenfelter asked if there was a cell number for the zoning inquiries, that he is still getting. He was instructed to have them call the township office. When the new zoning administrator is hired, Matt will be provided with a cell number for inquiries. There was discussion regarding the issue on 200 Wildwood Beach Road. The issue is resolved according to McKenna.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Harleton,
Quincy Township Clerk

