

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.
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Location: Ray Township Hall
64255 Wolcott, Ray, MI 48096

Present: Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor
Lori Lascoe, Clerk
Betsy Bart, Treasurer
Betty Grader, Trustee
Doug Stier, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: 15 residents

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES & ROLL CALL.
Supervisor Jarzyna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Lascoe called roll; Jarzyna, Lascoe, Bart, Grader and Stier were present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION carried.**

3. CORRESPONDENCES: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - For Agenda Items

Supervisor Jarzyna asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the agenda items to come to the podium.

Don Brown, Chairman, Macomb County Board of Commissioners addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the proposed intersection improvements at 26 Mile and Hayes. A study was conducted by the Macomb County Department of Roads to determine what action needs to be taken at the intersection. The study showed there have been accidents and fatalities but not enough to warrant prioritizing any action. The Department of Roads has advised the Townships of Macomb, Ray, Shelby and Washington will have to share in the cost of improving the intersection at a cost of \$100,000.00 each to prioritize and advance on their schedule. Brown stated he has spoken with the Department of Roads regarding the cost and knows that Ray's budget is much less than the other surrounding Townships. The Department of Roads would assist Ray Township in obtaining a MDOT loan to pay for their cost of the improvement with an interest rate of 3.25% and a payment of about \$1,000.00 per month. Brown stated this is an option but will continue to look and see if there is any additional funding coming from the State that may be able to be used for the intersection. Further asked Jarzyna if borrowing the funding is realistic?

Jarzyna stated the Macomb County Department of Roads installed a light at the 26 Mile and Jewell Rd intersection without funding from Shelby and Washington Townships. He questioned if the Department of Roads would be setting a precedence going forward making it a requirement for Townships to share the costs of installing traffic signals?

Brown advised the County is doing very well financially. The Board of Commissioners Budget is now over \$1 billion, all the federal funding bumped the budget way up. The budget is balanced and there is plenty of money to provide services. Some of the large amounts received from the Federal Government American Rescue Program will be used for infrastructure, including underground and roads. Some money will be used to build a diversion center where non-violent offenders can be placed and where they can receive the help they need. The health department facility needs to be updated. He stated Mound Road will be repaired at a cost of about \$33 million. The underground repairs will help to reduce the amount of sewage that goes into the lake.

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Stier asked why the cost of the 26/Hayes intersection improvement can't be deferred until 2023?

Brown stated it could be deferred.

Stier asked how is it really going to benefit Ray? Hayes North of 26-mile ends in a big berm.

Brown stated the Department of Roads may delay the project if all the communities cannot contribute.

Bart stated all members of the Board feel this is important issue, but Ray Township is not getting millions in ARPA funds like the other communities. She stated the Township does not have the funds that the other communities have. They will simply write a check, but Ray Township will have to take out a loan.

Brown stated its not just the loan it's the carrying costs.

Jarzyna stated he hopes this is not setting a precedence, and that every time an intersection is improved the Department of Roads will ask the community to pay for it.

Brown stated he has been angry with the Macomb County Department of Roads regarding 27 Mile and Romeo Plank and nothing being done at that intersection.

Stier stated he would rather see improvements at 27 Mile and Romeo Plank.

Brown stated he will be looking into other avenues and will stay in touch with Supervisor Jarzyna.

The board thanked Commissioner Brown for attending the meeting and for the information.

Lisa Brown from Senator Doug Wozniak's office provided an update from Lansing. She stated three bills were passed today: 1) Lower the income tax rate to 4.9, 2) Retirees taxes were lowered and 3) Child Tax Credit of \$500.00 was approved. Further stated the Michigan Treasury has \$435 million dollars available for businesses.

Alex, from Congresswomen Lisa McClain's office spoke on two bills the Congresswomen has worked on, which are the "White's Act" bill that is related to the infrastructure and what should and should not be put into sewer systems, it will aid in cost cutting and reduce pollution. He stated the "VA Transparency Act" is to make filing a claim and checking on the status of a claim easier for veterans. He explained veterans can create online accounts to file and check the status of claims. He stated the ARPA money should start being distributed in a week or two since it is at the State level and will depend on the State Treasury Department for distribution.

Bart stated Ray Township has received their first tranche and asked if Alex might know when should anticipate the next payment?

Alex stated he is not sure, there is nothing in the legislation saying how it has to be distributed, it is up to the State Treasury.

Commissioner Brown advised the Veterans Administration will be conducting service office visits at three Macomb County VFW locations in April. Let all the veterans know about these visits, they can find out about all the services offered and sign up for them. He explained the service is for anyone who is a veteran.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2022 and February 1, 2022
MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve the minutes from January 18, 2022 and February 1, 2022 as submitted.
MOTION carried.
6. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed 2022-2023 Budgets; General Operating, Building & Fire Funds
Supervisor Jarzyna stated the public hearing is regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to open the public hearing for the Proposed 2022-23 Budgets: General Operating, Building and Fire Funds at 7:28 p.m.
MOTION carried.**

No one in attendance spoke regarding the budget public hearing.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to close the public hearing for the Proposed 2022-23 Budgets: General Operating, Building and Fire Funds at 7:29 p.m.
MOTION carried.**

7. BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Treasurer Bart explained the budget modifications dated February 8th, 2022 as provided in the Board packet.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the budget modifications as submitted.
MOTION carried.**

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

Treasurer Bart stated the bill list is through February 15, 2022 the amount for approval is \$66,387.49.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the bills list through February 15, 2022 totaling \$66,387.49 as presented.
MOTION carried.**

9. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- a. Supervisor Jarzyna stated the assessment notices will be mailed out the first week of March.

Jarzyna reported MSU extension has identified about 60 acres in the Township for Gypsy Moth treatment. MSU is currently looking at land in St. Clair County to combine with other areas to reduce costs.

Jarzyna stated the MSU Citizen Planner program is again offering a free scholarship for board members and Steve Dalton the newly appointed Zoning Board of Appeals member will begin his training.

- b. Clerk Lascoe reported she received a scholarship to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks fall conference.

Lascoe reported the Planning Commission held a meeting on February 8th, 2022 which included the election of officers, set a public hearing for March 8th, 2022 for the Zoning Ordinance amendments. Further stated the kick-off for the Master Plan will begin also in March.

Lascoe reported all registered voters will receive a new Voter ID card as required by law due to the changes in the district numbers. Further stated if anyone receives a Voter Identification card for someone that does not live at the address to please write on the post card, "return to sender" so we can update the state election file.

Lascoe informed the Board she recorded the accessory building documents at the Macomb County Registers of Deeds office.

- c. Treasurer Bart reported a small payment was received from ARPA which are funds from other communities did not apply for and the ARPA funds, so they were disbursed accordingly.

Bart announced Monday, February 28, 2022 is the last day for residents to pay their 2021 summer and winter tax bills, the Treasurer office will be open from 8:30 to 5:00 to accept tax payments.

Bart thanked the Board for allowing her to attendance the Michigan Municipal Treasurer Association workshop.

- d. Trustee Grader stated she attended the last senior mystery trip, and it was very nice, nice people and a nice bus. Further encouraged others to attend the senior activities.

Trustee Stier stated he had nothing to report.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to receive and file the Officers Reports.
MOTION carried.**

10. DEPARTMENT REQUEST/REPORTS

- a. Assessing Report
- b. Budget Report
- c. Building Department
- d. Fire Department Reports
- e. Library Report-no report provided.
- f. Senior Report
- g. SMART/Richmond Lenox EMS Report

**MOTION by Bart supported by Grader to receive and file the January 2022 Department Reports.
MOTION carried.**

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 26 Mile Road and Hayes Road Intersection Improvements by MCRC

Jarzyna stated the County loan interest is twice the interest cost of what we can get at the bank.

Stier asked if there is a timeline for the project?

Jarzyna stated at the meeting with the Department of Roads, they would like to start the project at the end of summer and estimates it would take 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

Stier asked can we let Commissioner Brown look into the matter further?

Jarzyna stated he is not sure if there is time if we have to find another source of funding.

Grader stated can't we put it out that we are looking for another source, if Brown can help are we tabling the item?

Jarzyna stated the Department of Roads would like an answer.

Bart asked if this can be tabled until the next meeting? Has heard from many sources there is more money coming in.

Lascoe stated she does not think the Department of Roads is not looking at the population of Ray compared to the other townships involved.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to table 26 Mile Road and Hayes Road Intersection Improvements by MCRC to enable Commissioner Don Brown to look into any further assistance that might be available to Ray Township.
MOTION carried.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution for 2022 Poverty Exemption, Resolution No. 2022-01

Supervisor Jarzyna stated the poverty exemption is for the state requirements for 2022.

MOTION by Lascoe supported by Grader to approve 2022 Poverty Exemption, Resolution 2022-01 as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR 2022 POVERTY EXEMPTION
Resolution Number 2022-01

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Ray Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u);

and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Ray, Macomb County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit*.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the 2022 federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions	2022 Poverty Guidelines
Size of Family Unit	
1	\$ 12,880
2	\$ 17,420
3	\$ 21,960
4	\$ 26,500
5	\$ 31,040
6	\$ 35,580
7	\$ 40,120
8	\$ 44,660
For each additional person	\$ 4,540

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the supervisor/assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

For this Resolution: Yes: Lascoe, Grader, Bart, Stier, Jarzyna.

No: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

b. Resolution for Poverty Exemption 2022 Asset Test, Resolution 2022-02

Jarzyna stated the poverty exemption asset test according is the state requirements for 2022.

MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to approve the Poverty Exemption 2022 Asset Test, Resolution 2022-02 as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION 2022 ASSET TEST
Resolution Number 2022-02

The local unit policy must include an asset test. The purpose of an asset test is to determine the resources available: cash, fixed assets or other property that could be converted to cash and used to pay property taxes in the year the poverty exemption is filed. The local unit should require that claimants provide a list of all assets when applying for a poverty exemption. Following is a list of assets that may be included in the annual guidelines.

- A second home, land, vehicles
- Recreational vehicles such as campers, motor-homes, boats and ATV's
- Buildings other than the residence
- Jewelry, antiques, artworks
- Equipment, other personal property of value
- Bank accounts (over a specified amount), stocks
- Money received from the sale of property, such as, stocks, bonds, a house or car (unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property)
- Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money
- Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances and one-time insurance payments
- Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms
- Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review shall resolve that the asset level test shall meet the following requirements:

The total value of cash and non-cash assets in the homestead may not exceed \$10,000; excluding the homestead property and one vehicle used for personal transportation.

For this Resolution: Yes: Lascoe, Bart, Grader, Stier, Jarzyna.

No: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

c. Planning Commission Annual Report

Jarzyna stated the Planning Commission has submitted the annual report for 2021.

MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe to receive and file the annual Planning Commission Annual Report as presented.

MOTION carried.

d. Limestone Application for 2022

Jarzyna stated County is offering the limestone application. He recommended the Township designate the Hartway/Dobson Subdivision which includes Chester, Linda and Chubb Streets, 31 Mile Road starting at Hartway going east to North Avenue and 30 Mile Road starting at North Avenue and going west for the remainder of the limestone application.

MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to accept Supervisor recommendation for the Macomb County Limestone Application for 2022 on the following roads, Chester, Linda and Chubb Streets, 31 Mile starting at Hartway and going east to North Avenue and 30 Mile starting at North Avenue and going west for the remainder of the material and cost of \$25,005.00.

MOTION carried.

e. American Rescue Plan Act Annual Reporting requirements.

Bart stated Michigan Township Association has advised Townships may want to work with their auditors for the federal reporting since the reports have to be done annually through December 31, 2026. Further advised ARPA funds can be used to cover the auditor's cost.

MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve King and King to complete APRA annual reporting at cost of \$750.00 to \$1,500.00 per year.

MOTION carried.

f. Recreation events.

Bart stated the Recreation Leader has submitted the proposed dates and events for approval.

Stier questioned the possible turnout for the July 7, 2022 event because of the fourth of July holiday.

Bart stated this may not be the best date.

Jarzyna stated the Township has not had a large attendance for the music in the park and recommended discontinuing the music in the park. Further stated there is always a good turnout for the movies in the park.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Grader to approve the Recreation events as presented and to discontinue the music in the park. The July 7, 2022 needs further information.
MOTION carried.

g. Master Plan proposal.

Lascoe stated Cassin Planning Group LLC has submitted a proposal to prepare the Master Plan as required under the State Enabling Act. She stated the proposal is for \$6,600.00 and will take a year to complete the Master Plan study. Further stated the timeline would begin at the March Planning Commission meeting which would include notifying the surrounding communities and the utilities.

MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe to approve Cassin Planning Group, LLC proposal to prepare a new Five-year Ray Township Master Plan at a cost of \$6,600.00 as submitted.
MOTION carried.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.
MOTION carried.

Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC
Clerk

Date

Lisa Hall, Recording Secretary