

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
PAGE 1 of 7

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: 16 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**
Lascoe stated she has received a correspondence dated July 19, 2022 from Faith Baptist Church.
MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the agenda as amended.
MOTION carried.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
7-11-2022 Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society
Lascoe read the correspondence stating they are grateful for the letter of support and financial support for the Phase II of the Procter Cemetery Restoration project.

7-19-2022 Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Troy Budreau.
Lascoe read the correspondence from Pastor Budreau stating he and the congregation are in full support of the Ray Township Board approving a Resolution to request a reduction in the speed limit and adding additional signage in the Hamlet of Davis.
MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to receive and file the correspondence.
MOTION carried.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - For Agenda Items
Supervisor Jarzyna asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the agenda items to come to the podium.

Connie Firestine, 18100 Henry Court, stated she has lived in Ray for 25 years and is representing many residents who live near the intersection of 27 Mile and Romeo Plank. She stated over the years the intersection has progressively gotten worse, the visibility is terrible. She stated a traffic study was done in 2017 and the increase in speed have made the intersection worse. She explained the cars often stop at the flashing yellow light on Romeo Plank. Further requested the Township Board to include in the resolution a request for a traffic signal in addition to lowering the speed.

Matt Fisher, Assistant Pastor of Faith Baptist Church, stated he is representing the congregation of the church and to reinforce Pastor Budreau letter. He advised they are in full support of the speed limit being lowered. He explained the speed and the possibility of accidents are very real for the church, last fall several of ladies of the congregation were injured in an accident at the intersection and hospitalized with serious injuries and one has been left permanently disabled.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting June 21, 2022**
MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to approve the minutes from June 21, 2022 as submitted.
MOTION carried.

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
PAGE 2 of 7

6. BUDGET MODIFICATION

Treasurer Bart submitted a formal request to amend the budget modifications for the accounts, as follows:

1. Add the 4th part to the Ending Fund Balance. Please see attached information regarding this change.
2. The Board has already approved the Fire Chief's salary, but this was after the Budget was approved. To adjust for the new salary the following will need to be modified and if approved will equal \$ 28,064.00:

Move from expenditure Account Number 206-339-702.000 Fire Fighting, Dept. 339 Firefighters Wages, in the amount of \$ 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 206-337-702.000, Administration Department 337- Fire Chief Wages.

Move from expenditure Account Number 206-339-702.030 Fire Fighting, Dept. 339 Wages/Expenses- Fire Equipment Maintenance., in the amount of \$ 4500.00 (four thousand five hundred dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 206-337-702.000, Administration Department 337- Fire Chief Wages

Move from expenditure Account Number 206-339-702.031 Fire Fighting, Dept. 339 – Wages/Expenses- Fire Vehicle Maintenance, in the amount of \$ 4,866.00 (four thousand eight hundred sixty-six dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 206-337-702.000, Administration Department 337- Fire Chief Wages.

Move from the Positive Fund Balance in the amount of \$3,698.00 (three thousand six hundred ninety-eight dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 206-337-702.000, Administration Department 337- Fire Chief Wages.

3. The Board has already approved the Building Budget for the year, but it was brought to our attention that the Building, Electrical and Mechanical Inspectors wages were lower than other communities that these inspectors are currently working with. With the proposed increase to the Inspectors wages the Township will increase the permit fees accordingly. In doing so, we will need to adjust the budget to reflect their increases:

Building Department Fund, License and Permits Account Number 249-000-477.000 Building Permits, to increase by \$ 5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) to accommodate the increase of Account Number 249-371-702.002, Building Inspection, Dept. 371- Building Inspector Wages by \$ 5,000.00 (five thousand dollars).

Building Department Fund, License and Permits Account Number 249-000-477.001 Electrical Permits, to increase by \$ 3,600.00 (three thousand six hundred dollars) to accommodate the increase of Account Number 249-371-702.016, Building Inspection, Dept. 371- Electrical Inspector Wages by \$ 3,600.00 (three thousand six hundred dollars).

Building Department Fund, License and Permits Account Number 249-000-477.002 Mechanical Permits, to increase by \$ 2,700.00 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) to accommodate the increase of Account Number 249-371-702.021, Building Inspection, Dept 371- Mechanical Inspector Wages by \$ 2,700.00 (two thousand seven hundred dollars).

Building Department Fund, License and Permits Account Number 249-000-477.003 Plumbing Permits, to increase by \$ 1,800.00 (one thousand eight hundred dollars) to accommodate the increase of Account Number 249-371-702.025, Plumbing Inspector Wages by \$ 1,800.00 (one thousand eight hundred dollars).

If these modifications are approved, they will ensure that these line items are in budget.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Stier to approve the budget modification as submitted.
MOTION carried.**

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Treasurer Bart stated the bills list total is \$217,309.40. Further asked if any Board member had questions regarding the bills list.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to approve the bills list through July 19, 2022 for \$217,309.40.
MOTION carried.**

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.
PAGE 3 of 7

8. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- a. Supervisor Jarzyna reported the phragmite map for the Township has been submitted. He explained the project is going out for bids for the spraying.

Jarzyna reported the Ray/Lenox drain cleanout has been completed it encompassed $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of cleanout and seeding.

- b. Clerk Lascoe reported the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to obtain an absentee ballot or to register to vote.

Lascoe announced the Election Commission will be conducting the Public Accuracy Test on Wednesday, July 20th, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. to demonstrate the accuracy of the election tabulator meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Lascoe stated on July 12th the Planning Commission held a public hearing for a Conditional Rezoning from Agricultural Residential to Industrial for indoor outdoor storage facility on the east side North Avenue, south of 27 Mile Road. Permanent Parcel ID #21-05-36-100-024. The item was tabled to September 13, 2022 for the applicant to submit the building plans.

- c. Treasurer Bart reported tax bills went out on July 1, 2022 and payments are due September 14, 2022.

Bart stated thanked the Recreation Committee, the National Honor Society students, Fire Chief and Fire Department for all the work they put in for Ray Day. She also added a special thank you to Fire Marshal, Harold DeMan's niece Paisley for singing the National Anthem.

Bart reported at the end of June the Township received the second and last tranche of the ARPA funds in the amount of \$212,426.83 and \$852.72 in additional funds from communities that did not apply for the funds. Further stated the Board is hoping to use the American Rescue Plan Act toward the new fire hall.

Bart announced the first movie in the park will be shown on Thursday, July 21st at dusk. Further stated the next movie will be shown on Thursday, August 4th at dusk.

- d. Trustee Grader and Trustee Stier had nothing to report.

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

9. DEPARTMENT REQUEST/REPORTS

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

Supervisor Jarzyna read the department reports.

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

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Investment Policy

Bart reported the Township Attorney reviewed the proposed Investment policy and had no issues. Further asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the policy.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to Approve the Investment Policy as submitted.
MOTION carried.**

c. Part Time Administrative Assistant for Fire Department

Supervisor Jarzyna stated he and Chief Hoskin conducted the interviews. He recommended to offer the position of Fire Department Staff Assistant to Kelly Sobocinski. Further stated the current administrative assistant will stay on and train the new employee and then retire.

MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to approve the recommendation of Supervisor Jarzyna and extend an offer of employment to Kelly Sobocinski for the Fire Department with the starting pay of \$15.50 per hour and after a 90 day review an increase to \$16.50 per hour.

MOTION carried.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Confirmation of phone poll for Fuel Surcharge for Limestone Program

Jarzyna stated he conducted a phone poll for the increase in the fuel surcharge of \$2,055.00 from the Macomb County Department of Roads. Further asked for confirmation of the phone poll.

MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to confirm the Supervisors phone poll for the Fuel Surcharge of \$2,055.00 for the Limestone Program.

MOTION carried.

b. Confirmation of phone poll for Fire Department Fuel Tanks Removal

Jarzyna stated the Fire Department fuel tanks need to be removed, he conducted a phone poll for the Fire Department Fuel Tanks Removal.

MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to confirm the Supervisors phone poll for the removal of the Fire Department Fuel Tanks .

MOTION carried.

c. Resolution 2022-08 – Hamlet of Davis; Requesting a reduction in the speed limit & increase in signage
Jarzyna stated the Township is in constant contact with the Macomb County Department of Roads. He stated the proposed Resolution is to reduce the speed to 35 mph in the Hamlet of Davis. Further stated if the Resolution is adopted then a traffic study will be done.

Grader stated it was brought to her attention that cameras have been put up on the stop signs at the intersection.

Lascoe stated residents need to call the Macomb County Department of Roads about the intersection. She explained they keep logs of the calls.

Stier stated Chief Hoskins letter he wrote addresses the concerns which also includes suggestions. He stated his statements of concerns are important. He stated he agrees with Ms. Firestine the blinking lights need to be removed. Further stated the Department of Roads needs to evaluate at the intersection.

Grader stated another traffic study needs to be done.

Jarzyna stated a new traffic study will be conducted.

Grader stated she remembers when the Macomb County Department of Roads took down the 45-mph speed limit signs. She stated the County needs to look at the size of the Township, it is confusing why the speed limits are reduced going into Armada and Romeo but not into Davis. Further stated there should be a larger sign for Davis.

Jarzyna stated this will be sent to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, the Macomb County Sheriff, the County Executive, Michigan State Police, Don Brown the Township County Commissioner, and the County Executives Office along with State Representative Jeff Yaroch office.

MOTION by Grader supported by Stier to adopt Resolution 2202-08 – Hamlet of Davis; Requesting a reduction in the speed limit and an increase in signage, as follows:

Hamlet of Davis
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Ray, County of Macomb, Michigan, held in the Township Hall on July 19, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Members Joseph Jarzyna, Lori Lascoe, Betsy Bart, Betty Grader and Doug Stier.

ABSENT: Members None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Grader and supported by Member Stier.

WHEREAS, the Hamlet of Davis has experienced numerous traffic related accidents over the course of a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road has become hazardous for both vehicle and pedestrian travel; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes that both Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road fall within the jurisdiction of the Macomb County Department of Roads; and

WHEREAS, Township representatives have discussed the dangerous condition at the intersection of 27 Mile Road and Romeo Plank with representatives of the Macomb County Department of Roads and have been requested by the Department to submit a Board Resolution requesting a reduction in the speed limit and an increase in precautionary signage by the Department of Roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAY, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN THAT:

The Macomb County Department of Roads is hereby requested to reduce the speed limits on Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road in the area of Davis from 55 mph to 35 mph.

The Macomb County Department of Roads is hereby requested to provide additional and enhanced traffic signage alerting vehicles to utilize care and caution when entering and leaving the area of Davis.

AYES: Members Grader, Stier, Bart, Lascoe, Jarzyna

NAYS: Members None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

d. Fee Schedule for Permits

Jarzyna stated the Board received a copy of the proposed Permit Fee Schedule, to reflect the increase in the inspectors increase. Further stated the inspectors have not had an increase since 2018 and the Fire Chief salary.

MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve the Fee Schedule for Permits as presented 7-19-22.

MOTION carried.

e. Employee Manual – Appendix 1, Compensation Schedule

Jarzyna stated the Compensation Schedule addresses the increase for the inspectors.

MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to approve Employee Manual - Appendix 1 Proposed 7-19-2022 as presented.

MOTION carried.

f. Brush hogging

Jarzyna stated one bid was received for the brush hogging of the Township property - Roxbury Lane from Bill Grader of Grader Farms in the amount of \$700.00.

MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the bid of \$700.00 from Grader Farms for the cutting of the Townships Roxbury Lane Property.

MOTION carried.

g. Procter Cemetery fence Insurance Claim

Clerk Lascoe reported to the Board that someone hit the Procter Cemetery fence in a medical accident. She stated she has been working with the Insurance Adjuster on the claim. Further stated she took pictures of the damage and received an estimate from D-Fence to replace the fence along 32 Mile Road and the gate. Further stated she put the item on the agenda so all Board members were aware of the claim.

Grader asked if the whole fence would be replaced?

Lascoe stated she is asking for the entire fence to be replaced so it all matches. Further stated the estimate is for \$13,900.00

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Grader to receive and file Procter Cemetery fence Insurance Claim. MOTION carried.

h. Resolution 2022-09 Resolution Approving Ballot Proposition for Police Protection

Jarzyna stated Bob Seibert, Township Attorney wrote the proposed ballot language for Police Protection.

Stier stated he has reviewed the dollar figures for the ballot proposal and does not feel the figures are accurate for the millage proposal to cover all of the costs involved. He stated does not think 2.7 mils is enough. Further stated the officers would need an office to complete reports.

Jarzyna stated they did not ask for that.

Bart asked when the deadline to submit the ballot language for the general election.

Lascoe stated the deadline is the week of August 16, 2022. Further stated the next Board meeting is August 16, 2022.

Bart stated the Assessor prepared the millage off the current tax roll.

Jarzyna stated we have about 150 sales per year in the township, the lowest rates we have had are 2.2%. He stated he expects a 5% rate.

Stier stated he has crunched the numbers and believes 2.9 mils would cover the costs. He stated he does not want to have to go back to the voters and ask for an increase. Further stated he does not feel 2.7 mils is enough.

Jarzyna stated Bob Seibert stated 3 mils is the standard, Washington Township is 4 mils.

Stier stated the voters will decide if they want to support a millage for police protection.

Lascoe stated the general fund should not support the millage if it is not enough funds.

Stier suggested a millage for public safety which could address police and the fire department including the building.

Grader stated that is another whole issue.

Stier stated the proposal could be 3 mils. Further stated the proposal would support one Sheriff deputy car in the Township.

Bart stated she could contact King & King, the Township Audit for their opinion.

MOTION by Bart supported by Grader to Table the Resolution Approving Ballot Proposition-Resolution No.2022-09 for Police Protection for further information from King & King Township Auditors.

MOTION carried.

i. Foreclosed parcel through tax reversion process; 57595 Indian Trail

Bart stated the Township has been notified that 57595 Indian Trail has been foreclosed and the Township has the first right of refusal for purchasing the parcel. She explained the parcel is 14.68 acres and backs up to Endeavor Middle School. She explained the home was demolished and two barns remain on the property. She explained she contacted the Attorney at Michigan Township Association and was informed the Township can purchase the property for future use. She stated she was under the impression the Township cannot sell the parcel for profit. After further research with the Township Attorney, Bob Seibert, she reported pthe Township can purchase the foreclosed parcel and sell the property for a profit. Further stated the cost for the 14.68 acres parcel is \$17,766.73 plus \$30.00 fee for the new deed.

Stier stated there is no reason not to purchase the parcel. He stated the parcel is by the school complex.

Lascoe stated she has driven by the parcel.

Jarzyna stated if the parcel is purchased it would be taken off the tax roll. He asked about the barns.

Stier stated the barns can be taken down if they are in disrepair.

Bart stated there is no history on the barns.

Stier stated no one can by 14 acres for this amount of money.

Lascoe stated another community purchased a foreclosed parcel and made money on the sale.

Grader asked if the parcel would perk?

Jarzyna stated it would not perk.

Grader stated do other parcels in the area have wells?

Jarzyna stated the wells in the area are bad. The parcel would need an engineered septic field.

Stier stated the Board should buy the parcel and sell it and put the proceeds toward the new fire hall.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Stier to purchase the foreclosed parcel through tax reversion process at 57595 Indian Trail for \$17,766.73 plus \$30.00 for the filing fee for the deed.

FOR THIS MOTION: Yes: Jarzyna, Stier, Lascoe, Bart, Grader.

No: None.

MOTION carried.

j. Anti-Virus Software Contract

Bart explained the Anti-Virus software contract will be expiring and the new price includes the workstations at the Fire Department.

MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the contract with SYO Services to purchase the Anti-Virus Software for \$2,144.38 plus shipping.

MOTION carried.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

MOTION carried.

Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC
Clerk

Date

Lisa Hall, Recording Secretary