

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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: 19 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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to approve the agenda as submitted.
MOTION carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:
11-23-22 Ray Township Public Library Board of Trustees regarding Eagle Scout project
MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to receive and file the correspondence.
MOTION carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - For Agenda Items
None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2022 and December 12, 2022
MOTION by Bart supported by Stier to approve the meeting minutes from November 15, 2022 and December 12, 2022 as submitted.
MOTION carried.

6. BUDGET MODIFICATIONS
Treasurer Bart provided the Board with the formal budget modifications dated 12-20-22 to amend the Budget-Modifications for the accounts listed as follows: Move from expenditure Account Number 101-440-933.003 **General Operating Fund- Public Works, Dept. 440 Repair and Maintenance- Twp. Property**, in the amount of \$ **3,050.00** (three thousand fifty dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 101-900-974.000, **General Operating Fund, Capital Control, Dept. 900 Land Improvements**.

At July's Board of Trustee meeting, the board approved to add the Beginning Fund Balance and Ending Fund Balance, to our budget, so that we could pull money from our General Fund to pay for the addition of the Auxiliary Parking lot and refund the account that it was paid from.

In reviewing the budget, I noticed that we did not replenish that account for the cost of the parking lot and did not add the approved additional beginning and ending fund balance to the budget. We are now over by \$ 17,796.73 for the General Operating Fund, Capital Control, Dept. 900 Land Improvements. This is the amount in which the Township paid for the foreclosed property 57595 Indian Trail in August.

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

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

Treasurer Bart stated the additional bills list for November 21, 2022 was for \$3,277.77 and the bills list for December 13, 2022 is \$111,052.30.

MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to approve the bills lists \$111,052.30 through December 20, 2022 as presented.

MOTION carried.

8. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- a. Supervisor Jarzyna reported the PDR committee approved the grant for the purchase development rights for the 119-acre Vern Coleman farm in Richmond. There will be a presentation at the Richmond Township Hall on January 6, 2023 at 11:00 am. This puts an agricultural conservation easement in place for the 119 acres.
- b. Clerk Lascoe thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Masters three-day program. She stated the Bureau of Elections was at the conference and asked for the Clerks input regarding Proposal 2, for nine days of early voting. Further stated the nine days will only be for State and Federal elections.

Lascoe thanked Karl Stinson, who is a Township resident of Elite Aluminum who donated the aluminum fencing along the Township Hall. She thanked Steve Dalton, who is also a Township resident of D-Fence for installing the fence at the Township Hall and by the Library building.

Lascoe stated she attended the Library Board meeting on Monday, December 19th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. She reported the Library Board appointed Elli Minert and Tammy Boettcher to fill the vacancies on the Library Board. She informed the Board that Tammy Boettcher was sworn in during the meeting and Elli Minert was absent.

Lascoe reported to the Board that the Community Development Block Grant service funds of \$2500.00 was received on for the senior fitness instructor and senior director wages.

Lascoe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- c. Treasurer Bart reported the Christmas tree lighting ceremony was a great event and thanked Wolcott Mill farm for bringing Santa, the Armada Choir for caroling, Ray Township Fire and Rescue for always participating in our events and the recreation committee for all their hard work.

Bart reported the Township has applied for a Spark Grant which is a grant for improvements and additions to recreation facilities. The grant application was for a \$100,000 grant to add two pickleball courts to the park. Bart stated she will keep the board updated.

Bart noted the Treasurer's office will be open on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on December 29, 2022 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

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

MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe 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 Reports
- e. Library Report

- f. Recreation Report-no report provided.
- g. Senior Report
- h. SMART/Richmond Lenox EMS Report

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to receive and file the November 2022 Department Reports.
MOTION carried.**

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 26 Mile Road and Hayes Road Intersection Improvements by the Road Commission – Tabled 3-15- 22
Supervisor Jarzyna stated nothing related to the request has changed. The Department of Roads is aware of Ray Townships position and situation.

Lascoe stated she does not agree with taking a loan out and financing \$100,000.00 with a \$1,000.00 monthly payment for ten years to participate in the traffic light that which was requested by Macomb, Shelby and Washington Townships. She stated Commissioner Don Brown was here and stated he would look into the County assisting with the cost for the traffic light with ARPA funds.

Stier stated Hayes, north of 26 Mile is nothing but a long driveway and he is am not in favor of taking out a loan.

Lascoe stated Washington, Macomb and Shelby Townships asked the Road Commission for a traffic light. Furthers stated one square mile in their Township is the entire population of Ray Township.

Stier stated Washington Townships developments on 26 Mile continue to flood 26 Mile Road with more traffic,

Jarzyna stated the Township cannot afford this; we are trying to rebuild a fire station.

MOTION by Stier supported by Jarzyna to not participate in the 26 Mile and Hayes Road Intersection Improvements.

**FOR THIS MOTION: YES: Stier, Jarzyna, Lascoe, Bart, Grader
 No: None**

MOTION carried.

- b. Eagle Scout project in the Township Park

William Harding provided an updated layout for his Eagle Scout project for a Story walk in the Township Park for the Boards consideration.

Jarzyna stated he likes the new layout with the story walk ending at the green bench. He stated he would like the story walk to extend numbers 1, 2 & 3 to the north side of the building near the senior walkway and not place any story walk stations near the pavilions since they are rented out.

Lascoe stated she has researched the story walk stations and they are constructed for the elements of the weather. She asked if the story walk would have any type of reflector on them?

Harding said there will be reflectors around the outsides or will have numbered reflectors.

Grader asked about interference with Truck or Treat parking?

Stier asked how far off the path will the storyboards be?

Jarzyna stated they should be five – six feet from the path so they do not encumber the snow plow.

Will Harding asked if a decision could be made on the project and the placement could be revised. He stated he needs to begin fundraising for the project as soon as possible.

Stier asked if this has been discussed with the Fire Department?

Bart stated she appreciates all the work Harding has done but has concerns about liability, she does not feel this is the best project for the park. She stated he has put in a lot of time and effort and if approved we can continue to discuss the project.

MOTION by Lascoe supported by Jarzyna to approve the Eagle Scout Story Walk project with the starting location to be on the north side of the Township senior center sidewalk, no story walk posts shall be near the pavilions, the story walk shall be six feet from the walking path, reflectors shall be placed on each station and end at the green bench with the project overseen by the Township Board.

**FOR THIS MOTION: Yes: Lascoe, Jarzyna, Stier
No: Bart, Grader**

MOTION carried.

c. Spark Grant program for two pickleball courts proposed in the Township Park
Treasurer Bart reported to the Board the Spark Grant application was submitted for two pickleball courts in the park as discussed at the special meeting.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to receive and file the Spark Grant application.
MOTION carried.**

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Gilbert's Sportsmen's Club Shooting Permit

Jarzyna stated Gilbert's Sports Club has submitted the annual shooting permit.

Lascoe stated Gilbert's have provided the proof of insurance and paid the annual fee for 2023.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Stier to approve the 2023 Shooting Permit for Gilbert's Sports Club.
MOTION carried.**

b. Macomb County Department of Roads – Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road Intersection for 4-way stop

Jarzyna reported the Township has received a letter from the Macomb County Department of Roads regarding the intersection at 27 Mile and Romeo Plank. The Township sent a Resolution to the County requesting the traffic speed be reduced from 55 mph to 35 mph and to increase the signage for the Hamlet of Davis. The Road Commission recommends the installation of a four way stop, with increased signage, painted stop bars for northbound and southbound Romeo Plank, the changing of the overhead flashing beacons from yellow to red, and would install advance warning signs for stop sign ahead for Romeo Plank with temporary flags on top and increase the size of the "Davis" signs. He stated the Road Commission is requesting a letter of support from the Township. Further stated they have also requested the Township inform the residents by letter or newsletter and through the Township social media.

Grader reported she spoke with Mr. John Abraham at the Department of Roads. It was noted the letter from the Department of Roads suggests a four way stop, she opposes a four way stop as it will create a traffic backup and a hazard. She stated traffic backup for the 29 Mile Road four way stop. Mr. Abraham agreed a four-way stop will cause a backup at the intersection. She stated the Road Commission is looking for input from the Township. She stated they discussed a traffic signal at the intersection, a smart signal with a camera would cost a minimum of \$300,000.00 not including the road improvements, which would require a redesign of the intersection, and a traffic signal requires three lanes for traffic. Mr. Abraham could not give an estimate for the installation of a traffic light and intersection improvements. He stated we should look at the proposal for 26 Mile and Hayes Road for an estimate. Grader stated she would like to see a speed reduction to 45 mph, and for the State Police to patrol the area. Further stated maybe this would make the intersection a little safer until we can get an estimate for smart traffic signal.

Jarzyna stated the Resolution was sent to the Michigan State Police and the Township has received no response. He stated when he spoke with the Road Commission they were going to contact the Michigan State Police and contact us but we have not been contacted. Jarzyna stated " I have lived here all my life and a four way stop if installed will just become part of the drive, it is trying to slow the traffic down, it is part of growing pains, it will slow the traffic.

Bart stated she is glad to see the County is doing something and the speed never should have been increased to 55 mph.

**MOTION by Grader to oppose the four way stop at the intersection of 27 Mile and Romeo Plank.
Motion died for lack of support.**

MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to have Supervisor Jarzyna send correspondence to the Michigan State Police requesting they determine the proper speed from Romeo Plank from 26 Mile Road, north through Davis to at least the Healy Brook Drain.

**FOR THIS MOTION: YES: Grader, Bart, Stier, Lascoe, Jarzyna
NO: None**

MOTION carried.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Stier to Table 11B until input is received from the Michigan State Police.

MOTION carried.

c. Request to replace BSA Server

Treasurer Bart stated SYO is recommending the BSA Server to be replaced, it was purchased in 2015.

MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the purchase of BS&A Server for \$6,875.00 plus shipping.

MOTION carried.

Stier stated he contacted SYO about donating the old server to one of the fire departments in the northern Michigan. He stated the cost to strip the server will be \$210.00 and he would cover the cost of removing all the old files so the server can be donated. Further stated the old server could be used for files.

MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to remove all files from the old server at his expense and to donate the server to a Fire Department in northern Michigan.

MOTION carried.

d. Fire Department phone system

Bart recommended tabling the phone system until January for additional quotes for a phone system.

MOTION by Bart supported by Stier to Table item 11D to the January Board of Trustees meeting.

MOTION carried.

e. Schedule CDBG Public Hearing for January 17, 2023

Lascoe stated the Township will receive \$2500.00 for service funds from Community Development Block Grant funds. She stated the Township usually uses the funds for the Senior Fitness Instructor and Senior Director wages.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Grader to schedule the CDBG Public Hearing for January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION carried.

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12. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.
MOTION carried.**

Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC
Clerk

Date

Lisa Hall, Recording Secretary