

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 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: 11 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

Lascoe added two correspondences to the agenda:

- 1) The Friends of the Ray Twp Library & Historical Society
- 2) Consumers Energy Site Maintenance

Added: 6.) Budget Modification

10. g. HCMA Easement Agreement

10. h. Romeo Plank/27 Mile Road Intersection

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to approve the agenda as amended.**

**MOTION carried.**

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

Lascoe stated the Township received an email from the Friends to the Library and Historical Society requesting to amend the room request time for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to 5:00 p.m. She stated Consumers Energy notified the Township the Natural Gas Site Maintenance will be conducted at the Ray Storage facility located in Richmond between April and July of 2023.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - For Agenda Items

Mary Barnes, Ray Township Library spoke about the request for an art project on the Township fence as part of the summer reading group.

Christy DeMeulenaere, Library Director stated the Library Board is in total support of the art project.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2023 & April 4, 2023

**MOTION by Bart supported by Grader to approve the minutes for March 21, 2023 and April 4, 2023.**

**MOTION carried.**

6. BUDGET MODIFICATIONS & APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST

Treasurer Bart submitted the formal request to amend the Budget- Modifications for the accounts listed below:

Move from expenditure Account Number 101-248-702.019 **General Operating Fund- General Administration, Dept. 248 Casual- Wages**, in the amount of **\$344.00** (three hundred forty-four dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 101-201-702.000, **General Operating Fund, Accounting, Dept. 201 Accounting Wages**.

Move from expenditure Account Number 101-248-702.019 **General Operating Fund- General Administration, Dept. 248 Casual- Wages**, in the amount of **\$860.00** (eight hundred sixty dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 101-302-702.000, **General Operating, Ordinance Enforcement, Dept.302 Wages**.

Move from expenditure Account Number 101-248-702.019 **General Operating Fund- General Administration, Dept. 248 Casual- Wages**, in the amount of **\$55.00** (fifty-five dollars) and put it in expenditure Account Number 101-302.715.000, **General Operating, Ordinance Enforcement, Dept. 302 Employers Soc Sec/Medicare**.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the Budget Modifications as submitted. MOTION carried.**

Treasurer Bart stated the bills list through April 12, 2023 totals \$82,475.69 including payroll.  
**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to approve the bills lists of \$82,475.69 as presented. MOTION carried.**

#### 7. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- a. Supervisor Jarzyna reported April 20, 2023 is clean your ditch day. Macomb and St. Clair County recently held the first phragmite meeting. At the meeting the Macomb County Public Works advised that all the work that has been completed will be maintained by the County Public Works Departments at their cost on the county drains that have been cleaned by Public Works.

Jarzyna stated the Five Points drain cleaning and seeding has been completed. He stated once the county finishes cleaning the ditches on the dirt part of 29 Mile Road, the Five Points and Ray Lenox drain will flow very well.

- b. Clerk Lascoe announced the Armada and Utica School districts will be having a special election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The Clerks office will be open on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to register to vote or to obtain an absentee ballot. The Public Accuracy test will be conducted on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and anyone interested is welcome to participate in the testing of the election tabulator.

Lascoe reported the Planning Commission had a meeting on April 11, 2023 for the election of officers and discussed the Master Plan study.

- c. Treasurer Bart reported the end of the 2022 tax season has been completed and the settlement with the County Treasurer has been completed.

Bart stated the Easter Egg hunt was a success, there were 2,000 eggs filled and the event was well attended. She thanked the Recreation Leader, Jessica Hicks and committee members Darren Hicks, Jan Theisen, Sarah Parr, Michael Viane and Melissa Rossell for a job well done. Further reported the next event is Ray Day which will be held on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 12-4 p.m.

- d. Trustee Grader had nothing to report.

Trustee Stier congratulated Treasurer Bart on being one of two treasurers that got everything right the first time at the County for the tax settlement.

Stier reported he has been in contact with the Macomb County Department of Roads regarding the ditches on Omo Road.

Supervisor Jarzyna stated he has also been in contact with them and is scheduled to meet with them at the New Haven yard.

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

8. DEPARTMENT REQUEST/REPORTS

Supervisor Jarzyna read each department report.

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

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to receive and file the March 2023 Department Reports.  
MOTION carried.**

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Library request for Township fence

Supervisor Jarzyna stated the Library is requesting to create a community art project during the summer reading program. They are requesting to be able to paint small murals on the inside of the pickets between the cross boards on the Township fence near the library building. Jarzyna stated the fence is rough sawn white cedar fence which was installed to prevent children from running into the parking lot. He stated he feels the white cedar fence should be finished with a linseed stain. Further stated there has been a lot of graffiti removed from the back of the park and hopes there will not be graffiti on the fence.

Lascoe explained she has done some research on cedar fencing and learned that paint does not let the cedar breathe and it is recommended to stain a cedar fence. Further stated the fence cost over \$3,000.00.

Bart stated she has many years' experiences with a cedar deck, and it has to be cleaned and treated every two to three years. She stated she believes the fence needs to be stained.

Grader stated she has always liked the historical look of a wood fence.

Stier stated he has not done any research but has worked a lot with cedar, if it cannot breathe, we will lose the fence. He stated he does not think the fence should be painted.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to deny the library request to allow for painting murals inside of the Township fence.  
MOTION carried.**

- b. Macomb Agricultural PDR Committee contribution of \$250.00.

Supervisor Jarzyna stated the Fuerstenau farm of 79.46 acres which is located in Richmond Township has been approved.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the annual \$250.00 contribution and \$500.00 pledge for a Macomb County farm.  
MOTION carried.**

c. Painting of office

Lascoe stated a quote was provided to paint the remaining office area and the conference room. The quote was for \$4,000.00 which includes the walls, white trim and caulking of the shiplap panels. The painting would be two weekends, with the work being done on a Friday and Saturday.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve \$4,000.00 for painting of the remaining office area and conference room.**

**MOTION carried.**

Lascoe reported she also asked for a quote of the senior center since he was at the Township. The quote was \$1500.00 for the walls only and \$3,000.00 for the room walls, trim and the caulking. Further stated the quotes include the paint also.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Stier to approve amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 for painting of walls, trim and caulking of senior center with white trim.**

**MOTION carried.**

d. Disposal of Township equipment

Jarzyna stated the Board received a list of items to either dispose of or to maintain the items.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to allow Supervisor Jarzyna to scrap the Township John Deere lawnmower.**

**MOTION carried.**

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to donate Township grill to the Township Firefighters Club.**

**MOTION carried.**

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to dispose of the Magnavox TV.**

**MOTION carried.**

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to dispose of the outdated computer equipment after it has been properly disabled.**

**MOTION carried.**

e. Receipt of Library Lease & Fiscal Agency Agreement

Lascoe reported the executed Library Lease and Fiscal Agency Agreement has been received.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to receive and file the Library Lease Agreement and Fiscal Agency Agreement.**

**MOTION carried.**

f. Brush hogging of Township property

Jarzyna requested to be able to set up for the Township property to be brush hogged.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to allow supervisor Jarzyna to use his best judgement to contract the brush hogging services as needed for Township owned parcels.**

**MOTION carried.**

g. HCMA Easement/Lease Agreement – *Added to Agenda*

Jarzyna stated HCMA has agreed to a 30 ft lease/easement east of the Fire Department to allow for the fire trucks to have access at Wolcott and 29 Mile Road. He explained this is a no cost lease for as long as it is needed. HCMA has requested an access gate on the fence. Further the Township will insure the property, HCMA does not want to be named as insured.

Stier inquired when the project will begin.

Jarzyna stated the easement was the first step of the project.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to allow Supervisor Jarzyna to execute the HCMA 30 feet property easement/lease agreement for the property east of the Fire Hall.  
MOTION carried.**

h. Macomb County Department of Roads, Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road Intersection – *Added to Agenda*  
Supervisor Jarzyna explained he received an e-mail today from John Abraham from the Macomb County Road Commission requesting a letter of support from the Township for the recommended upgrades at the Romeo Plank and 27 Mile intersection. He stated on November 22, 2022 Bryan Santo, Director of the Road Commission requested the Boards support for improvements for the intersection, which includes: installing stop signs for northbound and southbound Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road, install painted stop bars for northbound and southbound Romeo Plank, install advanced warning signs for stop sign ahead for northbound and southbound Romeo Plank, with temporary flags on top, change two-way overhead illuminated stop sign to a 4-way, change the north and southbound Romeo Plank overhead flashing beacons from yellow to red, and upgrade the size of the northbound and southbound “Enter Davis” signs. Further stated he reached out to the Michigan State Police twice regarding reducing the speed limit and has received no response.

Grader stated she does not agree with the Macomb County Department of Roads recommendation for a four way stop at the intersection.

**MOTION by Grader to deny a four way stop at the intersection of 27 Mile Road and Romeo Plank.  
MOTION DIED TO LACK OF SUPPORT.**

Lascoe stated she agrees with the Boards resolution to reduce the speed limit but since no correspondence has been received regarding the reduction of the speed limit, she felt the recommendation of the Road Commission should be acted upon.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to for Supervisor Jarzyna to write a letter of support for the Romeo Plank and 27 Mile Road Intersection with a four way stop as recommended by the Macomb County Department of Roads as requested.**

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

**MOTION carried.**

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cecil Schoenherr, 62625 Wolcott, stated without police presence in the Township, you are wasting your time, with speed limit signs they are just signs. He stated in November the residents voted down a millage for police protection in the Township. Further stated on 29 Mile Road starting before Indian Trail the speed limit is reduce to 40 mph and people do not pay attention to the signs and are traveling at much higher speeds.

Michelle Kouri, 20861 30 Mile Road, stated she would have spoken in support of the artwork on the fence but thought she was supposed to speak during public comment at the end of the agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.  
MOTION carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

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Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date