

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 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: 23 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. and introduced Kyle Neely of Boy Scout Troop 125 who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Lascoe called roll; Jarzyna, Lascoe, Bart, Grader and Stier.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lascoe added to the agenda: 4. A. Correspondence was received from the Commander Troy Kozal, VFW Post 2052 to participate in the Village of Romeo's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 2023 and item 11. k. Fire Department Emergency Purchase Fire Hose

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

**MOTION carried.**

3. PROCLAMATION – Ray Township A Purple Heart Community

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to adopt the Proclamation declaring Ray Township a Purple Heart Township.**

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

**No: None**

**MOTION carried.**

Clerk Lascoe read the Proclamation declaring Ray Township a Purple Heart Township, as follows:

**Ray Township Board of Trustees  
Macomb County, State of Michigan**

**Proclamation -  
Purple Heart Township**

**WHEREAS, the Township of Ray in the State of Michigan** have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS,** veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

**WHEREAS,** the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from Ray Township who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintain the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the community of the Township of Ray have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

**WHEREAS**, May 16, 2023 has officially been designated as the day in the Township of Ray to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Ray Township Board of Trustees hereby proclaims the Township of Ray as a Purple Heart Community, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

a. Commander Troy Kozal, VFW Post 2052, RE: Village of Romeo's Memorial Day Parade  
Lascoe stated correspondence was received from Commander Troy Kozal, VFW Post 2052. Invitation for the Township to participate in the Village of Romeo's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

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

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - For Agenda Items

Kyle Neely of Boy Scout Troop 125 introduced himself and stated he was at the meeting to earn his Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badges.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – April 18, 2023

**MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe to approve the meeting minutes for April 18, 2023 as presented.**

**MOTION carried.**

7. **APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST**

Treasurer Bart stated the bills list through May 15, 2023 totals \$102,021.33.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to approve the bills lists through 5-18-2023 in the amount of \$102,021.33 as presented.**

**MOTION carried.**

8. **OFFICER'S REPORTS**

a. Supervisor Jarzyna reported the phragmite mapping has begun for this fiscal year. He explained the treatment from last year has done a good job and only a few spots are needed this year. He stated there will not be a May meeting and the discussion will continue at the June meeting regarding the mapping.

Jarzyna reported the 27 Mile and Romeo Plank intersection 4-way stop has been installed; all the signage is not up yet. He stated he went through the intersection at 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and there were five cars backed up.

b. Clerk Lascoe reported for the Special May 2, 2023 Election for Armada and Utica Schools there was a turnout of 23.1% . She reported 175 absentee ballots were issued for Precinct 1 and 2 and 149 were returned before the polls closed. She stated all election results are available on the Macomb County elections website.

Lascoe thanked the Election Inspectors and Absentee Counting Board who are members of the community or neighboring community for working election day.

Lascoe reported the Planning Commission did not have a meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 due to lack of agenda items.

Lascoe stated the office painting was completed in one weekend on Friday and Saturday on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She stated the bathroom and kitchen windows were replaced on April 24<sup>th</sup> by Dan Alverson of Dynamic Window and they felt they were the original windows of the building. Further stated the senior center will be painted on June 14 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- c. Treasurer Bart announced she is the second Treasurer of Ray Township that has completed the MMTA Basic Training Institute and is now a Michigan Certified Public Treasurer. She thanked the Board for the continued educational support and feels education is essential.

Bart reported the audit is scheduled for June 1, 2023 at 7:00 a.m.

Bart stated the Recreation Committee is working on Ray Day, which will be held on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She reported the Recreation Leader is very enthusiastic and has many activities planned.

- d. Trustee Grader had nothing to report.

Trustee Stier congratulated Bart on her accomplishment of being a Michigan Certified Public Treasurer.

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

**MOTION carried.**

#### 9. 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
- f. Senior Report
- g. SMART/Richmond Lenox EMS Report

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

**MOTION carried.**

#### 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. HCMA boundary fence east of the Fire Station proposal

Supervisor Jarzyna stated HCMA has agreed to grant an easement of a piece of property to the east of the Fire Station to serve as the new driveway to the Fire Station. The only stipulation is if the Township ever chooses to abandon the driveway the property easement goes back to HCMA. He explained HCMA has required that when the fence is installed a double drive gate is included to allow access to their parcel to the east.

Steve Dalton, owner of DFence and resident has provided a price of \$6,522.00 for the boundary fence, double drive gate, installation and removal of 300' ft of old existing fence.

Grader asked if the fence should go out for bid.

Stier stated for the cost a bid is not required by state law.

Jarzyna stated he has requested bids regarding other fence projects and D Fence is the only bid received.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Bart to allow Supervisor Jarzyna to enter into a contract with D-Fence to remove the old fence and install a four- foot galvanized chain link fence with a double drive gate at a cost of \$6,522.00.**

**MOTION carried.**

b. Request to construct a new home and live in existing home until construction is completed.

Jarzyna explained Mr. & Mrs. Hudson own the home at 64501 Romeo Plank and are requesting to live in the existing home while the new home is under construction and then the existing home would be demolished.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe to allow the Hudson's to live in the existing home at 64501 Romeo Plank while the new home is under construction. The construction is to be completed within one year, if it is not completed in one year, they must request a six-month extension from the Board until final occupancy is issued.**

**MOTION carried.**

c. Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick 2023 Hourly Charge Rates

Jarzyna stated the Township Engineer is proposing a five percent increase in the hourly rates.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve Anderson Eckstein Westrick 2023 hourly charge rates with the five percent increase as presented for one year.**

**MOTION carried.**

d. Community Development Block Grant Program 2024-2026, Resolution 2023-08

Lascoe stated she is not familiar with the Cooperative Agreement for CDBG Program, they are requesting the agreement to be executed to participate in the program. Further stated the Board has Resolution 2023-08 to continue to participate in the Community Development Program.

Trustee Grader asked if the Township chose not to participate in CDBG, the Township would not receive the funds.

Jarzyna stated yes, the Township would lose the CDBG funds. He explained the CDBG funds have been allocated for the Senior Director and Fitness Instructor wages and have been allocated to non-profit organizations; Care House and the Samaritan House.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Stier to Approve Macomb County Community Development Block Grant Program 20247-2026, Resolution 2023-08, as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been delegated the responsibility of administering the Community Development Block Grant (DCBG) Program, which provides Federal funds to assist community development activities in urban areas; and**

**WHEREAS, the County of Macomb, as an eligible Urban County, applies and receives CDBG funds to administer within the County's unincorporated areas and local governments that participate in Macomb County's Urban County CDBG Program; and**

**WHEREAS, the Township does not qualify to receive CDBG funds directly. As a non-entitlement jurisdiction, the Township must partner with the County of Macomb in order to receive CDBG funds; and**

**WHEREAS, the Township must renew the Cooperation Agreement (Exhibit 1) to participate in the Macomb County's Urban County CDBG Program during the next three years from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 in order to be eligible to receive CDBG funds as well as be eligible to participate in the HOME Investment Partnership Program (Home); and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of the Township of Ray, Michigan, hereby:**

**1. Approves the Ray Township's participation in the Macomb County Urban County CDBG Program for the Fiscal Years 2024 – 2026) and the Cooperative Agreement including automatic renewal provisions; and**

2. Authorizes the Ray Township Supervisor or designee to sign the Cooperative Agreement.

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

**NO: None**

**MOTION carried.**

**THE CLERK DECLARED THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

e. Purchase a new copier for Fire Station

Chief Hoskin stated the Board has three quotes for the purchase of a new copier. He explained the copier at the Fire Station is a 2003 model and parts are not available and the toner cartridges are expensive. He recommended purchasing a new copier from Elite Imaging for newer technology for \$5,000.00.

Discussion was held on the proposed service agreement for the copier.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Stier to Table the request to purchase a copier to next month.**

**MOTION carried.**

f. Request for gutters on Fire Station

Chief Hoskin stated he was only able to receive one quote, that no other company would provide a quote. He stated Progressive Siding provided a quote for \$6,196.00.

Jarzyna stated he contacted Progressive Siding and they indicated the price is still in effect. He explained the quote includes the cutting back of the metal roof, installation of the gutters, hangers and downspouts.

Chief Hoskin stated the rain comes right into the station.

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to approve Progressing Siding quote of \$6,196.00 to repair fire department roof, install gutters, hangars and downspouts as presented.**

**MOTION carried.**

g. Resignation of employee #0010194

Jarzyna stated the Board received the resignation of employee #0010194.

**MOTION by Bart supported by Lascoe to accept resignation of employee #0010194.**

**MOTION carried.**

h. Request to advertise for part-time Accountant

Lascoe asked the Board where they would like to advertise for the open position?

Jarzyna stated the Record and Macomb Daily.

Bart stated the job description will need to be updated for the BS&A software.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to advertise for the part-time Accountant position in The Record and the Macomb Daily.**

**MOTION carried.**

i. Reappointment to the Recreation Committee

Jarzyna stated Sarah Parr term is up and he recommended reappointing her to the Recreation Committee for two years to May 16, 2025.

**Motion by Lascoe supported by Stier to reappoint Sarah Parr to the Recreation Committee for a two term until May 16, 2025.**

**MOTION carried.**

j. Township of Ray v Luke Will

Jarzyna stated the Township won the case of Ray Township-vs-Luke Will at the district court level. He explained there is a possibility that Mr. Will may file an appeal in circuit court. He stated the item is on the agenda in case he files an appeal. Further requested the Boards action to proceed with the case in circuit court if necessary.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to allow Supervisor Jarzyna to proceed in circuit court with the Township Attorney for the Township of Ray v Luke Will if the appeal is filed in circuit court.  
MOTION carried.**

k. Fire Department Emergency Fire Hose purchase – *Added to Agenda*

Chief Hoskin explained the fire hose needs to be tested annually and there was a 70% failure of all the hose and there is no back up hose. Further recommend purchasing the emergency hose from MES Fire Equipment due to the delivery time.

**MOTION by Stier supported by Lascoe to approve the Emergency Fire Hose purchase from MES Fire Equipment for \$7,470.00.  
MOTION carried.**

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheryl Pickett, 65880 Indian Trail commented on Youngblood Vineyard and the amount of activity, noise and traffic and the disruption of the neighborhood. Further stated she is not against business, but asked why is this allowed?

Karen Makowski, 62471 Ray Center, stated her concerns with the Youngbloods winery with the noise, traffic, and drunk drivers. She questioned why it is allowed?

Valerie Allemon-Raimi, 16700 North Apple Lane, asked why the hall on 29 Mile Road got kicked out but Youngbloods are allowed?

Jarzyna stated the Youngblood's have approval from the Planning Commission.

Valerie Allemon-Raimi, stated she is curious about 27 Mile and Romeo Plank is going to be fixed and asked why is it a four way stop.

Jarzyna stated the Department of Roads recommended the four way stop at the intersection.

Valerie Allemon-Raimi, stated she recently submitted a FOIA request but did not read the letter and her FOIA request is not complete. She stated there is a special meeting on May 31, 2023.

13. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Stier supported by Grader to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.  
MOTION carried.**

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Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

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Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC  
Clerk

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Date

Lisa Hall, Recording Secretary