

RAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 AT 10:00 A.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

Absent: Doug Stier, Trustee

Also Present: 12 members of the general public
Chief Mark Hoskin
Fire Department

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES & ROLL CALL.
Supervisor Jarzyna called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Clerk Lascoe called roll; Jarzyna, Lascoe, Bart, and Grader. Absent Stier.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Grader to approve the agenda as submitted.
MOTION carried.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - For Agenda Items

Valerie Allemon-Raimi asked how long each FOIA appeal applicant got to speak.

Supervisor Jarzyna stated each applicant would have time to speak on the appeal.

Sue Vandenberghe of Richmond Township played an audio tape. She stated Mr. Butz is running behind and asked for his FOIA appeal to be moved to the last FOIA appeal.

Supervisor Jarzyna asked the Township Attorney if this would be proper after the agenda has been approved.

Attorney Anderson stated that it would be.

MOTION by Grader supported by Lascoe to change the FOIA Appeal 23-9 to the last appeal on the agenda.

MOTION carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. FOIA Appeal 23-8

Mary Guerra stated the Township office has always been very friendly and has been very well treated by the employees of the office. She further stated she has a problem with her FOIA request not being fulfilled with the electronic copy. Ms. Guerra stated she felt not releasing the electronic copy sounded fair at first because of cyber security but she now has concerns about the election process and is looking for more transparency.

Supervisor Jarzyna asked Christine Anderson, Township Attorney to explain the rules and regulations for the FOIA electronic request set by the State of Michigan.

Attorney Anderson stated the State is very clear that releasing the electronic copy of the poll book can tamper the security of the system. The State has the authority to establish rules and procedures to protect the electoral process. The Township must abide by those procedures.

Lascoe stated she did receive an email from the Bureau of Elections dated November 14, 2022 and the same email on May 10, 2023 from the State of Michigan specifically advising local Clerks they are not to provide electronic copies of the electronic poll book.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Bart to deny a digital copy of electronic poll book and the information be provided only in a PDF format.

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

MOTION carried.

b. FOIA Appeal 23-7

Valerie Allemon-Raimi stated she has been fighting for election integrity all over the county and has given up her time, money and business just to come home to a Township that is going to listen to a tyrannical government. Ms. Allemon-Raimi further stated that democrats are running the government and they are cheating and if we don't have a free and fair election we don't have a country. We need to stand up to the bureaucrats in Lansing that are telling us to break the laws of Freedom of Information. Ms. Allemon-Raimi also stated she wishes the Board would change it's mind. She stated if we lose this next election to election fraud we lose our country to pedophiles who want pornography and you need to stand up to this tyrannical government.

Supervisor Jarzyna asked Christine Anderson, Township Attorney if this request is any different than the first request FOIA appeal 23-8.

Christine Anderson replied it is not.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Grader to deny a digital copy of electronic poll book and the information be provided only in a PDF format.

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

MOTION carried.

c. FOIA Appeal 23-9

Michael Butz requested the FOIA information to be provided in an electronic format as requested. He stated the last thing he wants to see is good men and women in our community that really want to uphold the law and want to do the right thing and face criminal charges. Butz further stated he did talk to Clerk Lascoe and told her if she does not approve his FOIA request to not purge the records. If the electronic poll book history files are purged it falls under election law. He stated the Township is obligated under law to retain the poll books official records for 24 months.

Lascoe replied that she has.

Butz stated he is putting the Township Board on notice that they will be vacating the office if they vote to deny his right under law.

Supervisor Jarzyna asked Attorney Anderson if there is any change in this FOIA request appeal from the others.

Attorney Anderson replied there is not.

MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Grader to deny a digital copy of electronic poll book and the information be provided only in a PDF format.

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

MOTION carried.

d. Fire Radio Alarm

Chief Hoskin stated the current alarm system for Township Hall and Fire Department are inadequate. The realignment of the telecommunication phone services will not match up with current technology. The new alarm system for each building is \$739.00.

Bart stated this is a new contract with Thumb Alarm for thirty-six months.

**MOTION by Lascoe supported by Bart to proceed with the alarm system for \$739.00 for the Township Hall and \$739.00 for the Fire Department plus \$65.00 monthly maintenance for a three year contract.
MOTION carried.**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Copier for Fire Department

Chief Hoskin stated he received a quote for a new color copier for \$5,000. He further stated as long as there is a maintenance agreement the copier will be under warranty. He stated the maintenance cost would be determined by usage.

Lascoe stated the item was table from the last meeting and is on the agenda because the price increase on June 1st an additional \$500.00.

**MOTION by Jarzyna supported by Lascoe to approve the quote with Elite Imaging Systems for \$5,000.00 for a new color copier plus the maintenance cost.
MOTION carried.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Monica Vandenburg stated she works for Clerk Lascoe as Deputy Clerk and sees that Lascoe works really hard to ensure that there is election integrity in Ray Township. She stated she recently attended a meeting that showed evidence where city and township records did not match the State of Michigan records. She expressed her opinion that Board members were elected to serve the township residents and feels the FOIA information should be provided.

Valerie Allemon-Raimi asked those in attendance to raise their hand if they would like the records to be provided.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Grader supported by Bart to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.
MOTION carried.**

Joe Jarzyna, Supervisor

Lori R. Lascoe, MiPMC
Clerk

Date

Lora Maue, Recording Secretary