

**Hamlin Township
Regular Board Meeting
October 11, 2011**

unapproved

Supervisor Ballard called the regular meeting of the Hamlin Township Board to order, at 6:00pm, at the Hamlin Township Hall. Pledge to the flag was given.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Approved as printed.

EATON COUNTY REPORT: There was no Sheriff report available. County Commissioner Whittum presented his report. The Eaton County budget is set. Seventeen positions were eliminated. Most through attrition. The County eliminated the zoning enforcement position.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Roll Call
- September 13, 2011 Minutes
- Treasurers Report/Budget Amendments- placed on file for audit
- Bills- General Fund \$7,009.44; Cemetery \$1,518.00

Moved by Mergener, second by Bombrys, PASSED, to approve the consent agenda without the budget amendments.

BUDGET AMMENDMENTS: moved by Perkins, second by Mergener, PASSED, to approve the following budget amendments:

- 101-336-970 Capital Outlay- New account for building addition \$58,000.00
- 101-336-970 Capital Outlay- Increase \$9,449.24 to show cost of new generator
- 101-336-958 Public Education- Increase \$100.00 to show donation from Robin's Nest
- 101-265-975 Building Improvements- Increase \$1,500.00 to show GF portion of generator purchase
- 101-000-699 Transfer In (Fire Millage)- Increase\$58,000.00 for approved amount for building addition
- 206-336-999 Transfers Out- To show proper accounting for \$58,000.00 from Fire Millage to GF to cover cost of new building addition

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mergener: Attended a LDFA meeting. Reported that URV is planning to begin construction in October of 2011 with completion in March of 2012. The Union Street nature area is ready to go. Roger Harris represented the 4th of July Committee and requested a donation.

Boomer: Presented cemetery report: 0 burial(s) and 1 lot sale(s). Presented an update on the charter township status. Boomer contacted MTA and was advised that the township could "do nothing" in regards to charter township eligibility. There was no action. Reported that B. Baker would like to raise the cost of grave opening/closings \$50.00. The board requested additional information about this. The State of Michigan is offering to pay ½ the cost of voting machine warranties. The township cost would be \$62.00 for the M100 Tabulator and \$29.75 for the Automark. The election budget would cover this expense. The township is experiencing communication problems with Trugreen in reference to the cemetery contract. Will give Trugreen until the end of the week to contact B. Baker about areas to be treated at the cemetery. Announced that COG will meet October 17, 2011 at 7:00pm at the City of Eaton Rapids.

Bombrys: No report

Perkins: Working on winter 2011 tax bills and township newsletter.

Ballard: Presented County correspondences. Reported that the Eaton County Planning Commission voted to approve the Milligan CUP (CU-11-10-14) to continue operating a wild game meat processing facility. The bond will stay in effect for one year and after one year the applicants may apply for the return of the funds. Met with Bombrys and the township insurance agent. Reported that insurance rates are remaining flat. The township policy structure is changing. A dividend structure has been added. MCM Group is also offering a grant program. The ambulance committee met and is still

looking at ways to improve the level of service. Reported that the current 425 Agreement is missing the text on how to transfer property from one entity to another. There are currently 2 properties (one in Hamlin and one in Eaton Rapids Township) that need to have the transfers completed legally. Ballard is planning a meeting with the City of Eaton Rapids and Eaton Rapids Township about the 425 Agreement in November.

ASSESSOR REPORT: No report. Ballard reported that the assessor is 2/3's complete with the state required property inspections.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Hendrickson reported 2 fire responses and 4 EMS responses. Construction has begun on the building addition. The Fire Open House is October 15, 2011 from 12:00 to 4:00pm. Hamlin FD will help with fire prevention at GIS and Island City Academy. Eaton County has formed a Fire Chief Association. Eaton County has a tanker task force response new in place. The department has been advised to use spare radios because of the high cost of repairs. Chief Hendrickson recognized Rusty Hiither for his service to the fire department.

BUILDING COMM. REPORT: Bombrys reported that the committee met October 10, 2011. Will meet again in November or December to come up with a final recommendation for future building projects. Construction has begun on the building addition. Reported that one flag light is no longer working and has been removed. The other has a new bulb in place. The parking lights bulbs have been replaced with lower wattage bulbs. The furnace filters will be replaced next month.

PARKS BOARD REPORT: Bombrys reported that the land acquisition grant is moving along. Needed a general appraisal. Fritz properties found a general appraiser who would appraise the property for \$1,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Township might want to consider fire rings for Smithville Park. The Eaton County Parks report is available in the township office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Request form Eaton County, Code Enforcement Position: Comm. Whittum reported that the position has been eliminated in the County budget. It has been extended until January 1, 2012. It is a 20-hour/week position currently held by someone who splits the time with an administrative assistant position, thus, receiving benefits. The County has presented a proposal asking the 13 townships that receive planning and zoning services to fully fund this position. The cost would be approximately \$5,500.00 (salary and benefits) to each township. The Hamlin Township Board expressed concerns with this proposal: how would the County handle this if only some of the townships approved the plan; the position is a part-time position that on its own would not receive benefits- why are the townships being asked to fund the benefits? Suggested that the County raise the fees for non-compliance; look into other County Departments handling the complaints; consider a per diem rate charged to a township when there is a complaint. Comm. Whittum reported that he would pass these concerns and suggestions on to the County. He asked that the Township send a letter also. The board thought this was a good idea. Mergener, Boomer and Ballard to take care of this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A resident expressed concern over bridges in the township. Ballard reported that the Wilson Road Bridge grant is no longer a funding option. He is working with Eaton County on completing this project through cost sharing. The Eaton County Road Commission Manager reported to Ballard that the Freeman Road Bridge has no weight limit.

Meeting adjourned: 7:06pm.

Laura Boomer, Hamlin Township Clerk