

HATTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**3 /18/2025 – MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Hileman; Y; Guiette; Y, Farrell; Y Humphrey; Y, McClain; Y; Guests: Bill Simpson, Brian Wheatley, Melissa Wheatley, Randy Gray, David Hutchinson, Ron Tetloff, Tom Hosner, Don Read, Marty Kleinhardt, Larry Kleinhardt, Tom Vaughn, Chuck Rogalski.

ACCEPT or AMEND AGENDA Motion by Guiette; supported by Farrell to approve the agenda with amendment; motion carried.

MINUTES: Minutes for the Regular Monthly Board meeting of 2/18/2025 provided to the Board in advance and made available to the Public. Motion by Guiette; supported by Farrell to approve the 2/18/25 meeting minutes; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning Balance: \$81,689.27

Revenue: \$40,770.08

Expenditure: \$7,314.08

Ending Balance: \$115,145.27

- Motion by Guiette; supported by Farrell to accept the Treasurer's report as given; motion carried.
- No CD's that are eligible for maturity

REPORTS BY COUNTY OFFICIALS:

- Clare County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson stated that road funding talks are being held in Lansing, and a recent testimony was given by the Michigan Association of Counties. Residents can speak with Representative Kuhns and Senator Hauk in person on March 24 from 3:15 to 3:15 pm at Cops and Doughnuts.
- Simpson thanked the township for expediting the permits needed for the new driveway right of way for the new Clare County Road Commission Building that will start construction this summer.
- There will be a new turn lane that will put in front of the new CTE building at the John C Magnus Center. The construction will start after Memorial Day and will end in August.
- Lots of road construction is going on both in the county and in the state this summer.
 - New bridge being put in on Colonville Road in the next couple of weeks
 - New bridge on M-30 over US-10
 - Long Lake Road bridge repair
 - Roads south of Lansing will have road construction
 - Mackinaw Bridge will be resurfaced this summer
 - Freeway tree cutting going on. Cutting will be completed by March 31 and clean up will take place later in the summer.
 - Jay Warner won the bid to clear and cut brush as the first steps to the road construction on the 1 mile of Cornwell Ave, north of Mannsiding Road to dead end that the board approved in the fall.
- Clare County Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt was absent.

REPORTS: TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS: Zoning Meeting Special Zoning meeting:

- 1 zoning permit issued
- The planning and zoning updates are going slowly but should be done soon. There are few attorneys in the state that specialize in planning and zoning. Once the zoning updates are in their final stages, a public hearing will be held. A notification will be advertised both in the local newspapers and the township website. The current zoning ordinances can be viewed on the website hattontownship.org The price of obtaining a hard copy of the ordinance is \$35.00 plus postage.

CORRESPONDENCE: February bills mailed totaling \$7,314.08; February sheriffs and fire reports; Code of Civility is posted on township website; needed documents for August Hill appeal delivered to township attorney.

TRAINING/OTHER MEETINGS:

- No training or other meetings

MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS:

- Motion by Guiette supported by Farrell to pay the March bills totaling \$ \$27,711.22 as presented; motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

- 101-262-741 Elections Operating Supplies and Equip.; Budgeted \$3,000 current balance -\$612.51
 - 101-257-818 Assessor Equalization Contract; Budgeted \$4,250.00 current balance -\$672.30
- Motion by Farrell supported by Guiette to approve the above stated budget adjustments; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS AS NEEDED:

- Supervisor, Hileman stated that there were no blight updates to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hamilton Township Supervisor, Tom Vaughn presented information about solar panel development. He cited PA 233 and 234 of 2023 which deal with renewable energy and permitting. Vaughn said that townships need to follow the state's wording on Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance, or else the Michigan Public Service Commission will take over and townships will get nothing. Vaughn said 4,200 sites in Michigan are under consideration for solar farms. Supervisor Hileman added that Michigan has 20,000 acres of solar farms currently and there are plans for 200,000 acres soon. Vaughn stated that that by adopting a CREO, a township could charge \$75,000 "Innovator fee". Vaughn said that he would share more information with the board via email. Vaughn stated that the wind turbines in Isabella County and throughout the state are having difficulty finding replacement parts to keep them up and running. Vaughn said that Hamilton Township has established a \$100,000 redistricting fee, which is not eligible for tax, subsidies, to help discourage developers. Vaughn said that solar panels and wind turbines are usually only workable between 18-22 years and that once they stop working, there is no indication on who will clear and clean up the site.
- Since 2004, the township Clerk has been receiving a stipend of \$350 for special school elections or elections besides State or Federal elections. It was brought to the Clerk's attention recently that the MTA adopted a resolution stating that Clerks cannot be paid additional compensation

for special elections. Therefore, the board will resend the resolution created in 2004 by rollcall vote. Motion by Farrell, supported by Guiette to resend the Clerk additional salary for special election resolution recreated in 2004; roll call vote: Hileman; Y, Guiette; Y, Farrell; Y, Humphrey; Y McClain; Y. Motion carried. The clerk's salary will be reviewed in May during the 25-26 Salary Resolution Meeting.

- A special public hearing will be posted in local papers and website when the zoning and master plan are ready for public review. Hopefully, that will take place in the next couple of months.
- August Hill Special Use Permit Appeal-Clerk McClain stated that all requested documents by the attorney has been delivered and that now it would be up to the 55th Circuit Court Judge Ambrozatis to make her decision.
- Current Zoning Officer, David Farrell, has requested to retire soon. Township will be seeking applicants and will be putting together a job description at April meeting. Arthur Township just recently hired Dan Miehls as their Zoning Officer. Hatton Township would consider asking him if he was interested, but is in hope of hiring someone who resides in the township
- Township has some tables that Clerk purchased in October that need to be assembled. Current Maintenance person has been having lots of health issues. Clerk McClain would like to get tables assembled by the May 6 election and will be seeking applicants.
- Hileman stated that 8 residents came to the Board of Review meetings in March to review their property cards and ask questions. No date yet for the July Board of Review meeting. The July meeting is for correcting errors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Guest, Randy Gray asked where the money was at that was paid to the township Clerk for Special Elections-Hileman stated that Clerk McClain was already paid for past special elections and that it was just learned about the new MTA ruling about clerks not being paid extra compensation for special elections. Clerk McClain will not be paid for additional compensation for her clerk duties for the May 2025 election.
- Guest, Chuck Rogalski stated that he was on a board in Isabella County when they adopted the solar/wind turbines. "None of the stuff they promised came true." "They fought all the taxes." "Nothing was paid back."
- Guest, Arthur Township Planning Commission Chair, Don Read disagreed with some of Vaughn's information. "You're on the right track. Arthur township did not adopt a CREO but has workable solar ordinance." Arthur Township was told that DTE was a good company to work with regarding solar panels. Read stated that the only way to keep the solar companies out of the townships is to not sign a lease. He said that Arthur Township spent over a year drafting its ordinance which is more restrictive than CREO. He said that they do have solar panels being put in on the east side of Athur Township with property that they share with Grout Township in Gladwin County.
- Kelly Harrison spoke on behalf of the Clare County Republican Party. She stated the February elections went well; they voted Brendon Gregory as District Secretary. The next Clare County Republican Meeting will be April 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Pere Marquette Library, Room A.
- Another guest stated that the solar farms might be a good source of revenue and how would the revenue be allocated
- **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Farrell supported by Guiette to adjourn meeting at 8:31 pm; motion carried.
- Public Ballot Testing for the May 6, 2025, election will be held on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00 pm
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:30 pm

