



LIVONIA TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD AT THE LIVONIA TOWN HALL
January 27, 2025

Supervisors present: Hass, Spencer, Hiller, Kluge Jr, Kukowski.

Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Fiedler, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jewett, Maintenance Superintendent Kelly, Parks and Cemetery Superintendent Aubart

Others present: William Tessmer, Bogart, Pederson & Associates.

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance: the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Approve Regular Meeting Agenda: Hiller would like to combine 1.8 with Hass supervisor report and move 5.4 to 2.3 Hass/Kluge Jr. unanimous to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda with changes.

1.3 Approve Consent Agenda: Hass/Spencer unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda Items A) December 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes B) IRS Standard Mileage Rate C) Training Sessions for the Year D) Employee Compensation Step and COLA Adjustments.

1.4 Fire Report: Chief Maloney presented November calls for service: 7 medical assists, 2 motor vehicle personal injury accident, 6 fire alarm, 1 person in distress (lift assist), 2 grass fire, 4 residential house fire (3 Zimmerman, 1 Livonia). Chief Maloney stated they just had ladder testing done on all engines and all are good, board asked how long certification lasts it was stated its annually with one major one every 5 years. Hass would like to have a quarterly review of accidents, downed power lines and what we have billed and received, would like that presented to the town board quarterly. Maloney will also let us know the date of the dictionary project.

1.5 Sheriff's Report: Sgt. Wilson not present for the updated Calls for Service but sent in a report.

Incident	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total Calls	294	311	353	282	289	260	230
Motor Vehicle Accident	7	8	6	8 (1 fatal)	7	10	6
Medical	21	12	14	24	23	12	38
Traffic Stop	100	136	163	107	112	130	77
Security Check	16	12	8	11	6	5	11
Extra Patrol	29	24	21	23	15	12	12

1.6 Event Center: Coordinator Hunnicutt was not present.

1.7 Engineering Updates: Engineer William Tessmer with Bogart Peterson stated the open house for 277th and the Woodlands were last week thought that it went well. Discussion about where we would need easements, getting the numbers finished up, with the widening and tree cutting closer to \$400K. Discussion with speed limit signs on the road, sightlines and standards. Woodlands plans are mostly done, make few changes that were requested from the meeting. Add 4" culvert for a waterline as an alternate for homeowner to make decision about paying for it. Discussion about a french drain, easements, costs and maintenance associated with it. Hass would like the plans done for the 2/7 meeting.

1.8 Planning Commission: presented with Hass supervisor report.

1.9 Road Report: Kelly provided the following report December 16, 2024 – January 18, 2025:

Walked ditches picking up trash on 96th, 253rd and 273rd. Purchased Road work ahead signs that are collapsible when using the chipper.

Vehicles:

Truck 36, Truck 41, Truck 43, Truck 45, Truck 46: all had fluids checked and pressure washed.

Truck 40: replaced a transmission line, checked fluids and pressure washed.

Truck 44: installed 2 new fuel filters, checked fluids and pressure washed.

Volvo grader, Payloader, Chevy 1 ton, Skid loader and woodchipper also all had fluids checked and pressure washed.



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Road Maintenance

Throughout township: plowed snow, chipping on 277th and 274th, cut trees on 98th and 245th.

Sand Shed: hauled 22 loads of salt sand.

Staffing: new drivers are doing great.

Public Works Building: emergency LED lights installed throughout shop. Installed new overhead and side wall LED bulbs in shop. Purchased new tools for shop.

Station 2: emergency LED lights installed throughout. Replaced 2 bulbs in ceiling.

North Point: cutting down trees.

Road Grading Plan: working with Patti to build database for our township roads. Chris and Kevin evaluating township roads to establish current status and determine possible future projects.

1.10 Park and Cemetery Report: Aubart provided the following report: Reporting Period December 21, 2024 – January 24, 2025.

Parks Maintenance:

North Point: working on cleaning up fallen oak trees along trail.

Sugar Bush Preserve: blew leaves and branches off trail. Walked out in northwest corner of north park property for possible planning of a future hiking trail.

Cemetery Maintenance:

Livonia Township Cemetery: cleaned snow off driveway.

Other Duties:

Is getting some pricing on archery range and maybe look into putting a pavilion up there. Snowplowing, sanding roads, cold patch, maintenance on trucks and shop. Hass mentioned look into having a contractor clear out the trails to put in.

REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

2.1 Hess-11247 247th Ave-2nd driveway request-is wanting to build an accessory building on his property and was told the setbacks from the road are 100ft from the centerline, Spencer pointed out that they are 67ft in a platted area. If they are only 67ft he will not need a second driveway. No action taken.

2.2 Bodine-30-00005-1405 minimum maintenance road-He is thinking of selling his parcels that are along the minimum maintenance road and wanted to see if the township would be interested in purchasing them. He has 3 parcels that their valuation has gone crazy high for 2024 and looking at other parcels around would like to see if there is interest with the City of Zimmerman and us in a partnership. Is looking to get \$255K for the parcels. Also, he talked to Randy at the City of Zimmerman, and he was going to send the township information. Discussion about the driveway access and possibly splitting up the parcels. The town board stated they would need to talk with the city about what they are thinking. Bodine stated he wanted to state his intentions and put it out there. No action taken.

2.3 MS4 update-Hiller received a phone call from Nick who is out of the MPCA office in Duluth. He stated that we meet the criteria to have to submit an MS4 permit application. There was discussion about the costs to the township, the application process, the inspections, culverts, the reporting process, and improving water quality. The City of Baldwin is resisting the process and are using Couri and Ruppe and thinks we should team up with Baldwin on this issue. Hiller/Kukowski unanimous to contact Couri and Ruppe to get a letter drafted to send back to MPCA to dispute having to apply. Engineer Tessmer gave a report from another entity that have filed an MS4 report and what it would look like.

3. Open Forum-Josh Belmore presented the town board with his company called MicroX which is a land services company. He went through what the company does, and the equipment they have. Hiller asked if they bid per job or hourly he stated they can provide either. Kluge Jr asked if they respond to emergency services, and he stated that yes they do.



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4.1 Clerk/Treasurer Report: Clerk/Treasurer Fiedler items of interest last month included: The key fob system is still a work in progress. Tax forfeited parcel 30-00402-0224, township does not have a need for this parcel. Pay equity was reported and is in compliance. Received quote on medical insurance but also wanted to get a few others.

4.2 Approve payment of claims: Spencer/Hiller unanimous to approve payment of claims and payroll totaling \$43,070.76 and to transfer \$42,000.00 to cover check numbers 22169 through 22204 and December EFT #219-222 for Federal, State, and PERA withholding.

4.3 Supervisor or Committee Reports: **Kluge Jr.:** no report. **Hass:** planning commission-recommend approving and amend the existing IUP condition #26. "No dewatering or wash plant will be allowed under this IUP" to allow a wash plant on site. Recommend approval of Interim Use Amendment for Home business in an accessory building for HVAC Business. Review EAW Scoping Document and EIS discussion for a Holcim mining area to be approx. 660 acres in size that operates 24/7 for 25 years. They had a public hearing that was heavily attended and lots of concerns from residents such as noise pollution, lots of added traffic per day, air pollution, and how it will affect wells and water quality. Engineers and owners are making it seem like there aren't any issues. Hass brought up giving them smaller increments of land so see how it goes; they have been fined heavily already and there is a lot of concerned residents. Will let the board know the next time that it is coming up at a meeting. **Hiller:** met with Fahrner and is willing to grade our roads at no cost. Presented a product that thinks has potential for our township, adheres differently than chip seal. Could maybe do crack filling and this product over the top. Discussion on his grading system that's used and maybe roads that we can go look at. He reached out to the landfill to see if they would be open for our township cleanup day. Mike stated that they would be. **Kukowski:** working on the right of way database for each road, add in when built, chip seal and crack seal to be able to know timelines of work that was completed on each road. Eventually we would like each road to have its own spreadsheet for ease of tracking and to keep it up throughout the years. **Spencer:** attended the SCAT meeting and stated we need to look at changing our website to a .gov website since we process absentee ballots for the annual meeting.

4.4 Sherburne County Sheriff Report-Ben Zawacki, commander for Sherburne County Sheriff's Department presented Annual Sheriff's report. Zawacki presented an overview of the reports given monthly by Sergeant Wilson of the calls and activities performed by the Sheriff's Department each month. In 2024 the Sheriff's Department had 3,245 contacts which include services and arrests. This compares to 2,718 contacts made in 2023 and 3,408 made in 2022. Zawacki stated that these are contacts made within the township limits. He then went over the serious criminal activity numbers and comparisons including assaults, burglary, narcotics, DUI, criminal damage to property, and theft. Zawacki then talked about the new back-up dispatch center in the Zimmerman public safety building. It is live and will be staffed with dispatchers. Mentioned they had several retirements this last year that had a lot of years in the departments. K-9 Deputy Jax retired 1-1-25, now a new K-9 Deputy named Bane, handled by Deputy Nick Carlson will be a dual-purpose dog. Zawacki continued with other updates and events in the Sheriff's Department. Town board thanked Zawacki for all they do for the township.

OTHER BUSINESS:

5.1 Hall Rental-Hope Fellowship Church-their 6-month trial period is over and would like to discuss a fair rate going forward. Hass/Kluge Jr unanimous to allow them to stay at the current rate for 3 months and Fiedler directed to reach out to Tom and see what they think is fair after 3 months.

5.2 Gopher Bounty-Fiedler presented a form from the county to reimburse our expenses for the gopher bounties. Hass/Hiller unanimous to send form to county as presented.

5.3 Board of Audit Information-Fiedler passed out form for each to fill out, set date for February 7th at 10:30 for the budget meeting also.

5.4 MS4-moved to 2.3.



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5.5 Clean Up Day Update-the date is set for May 3, 2025, from 8:00 am -12:00 pm at the town hall. JR's advanced recyclers, First State Tire and Jim's Mille Lacs have been secured for vendors. The grant from Sherburne County does not cover garbage/furniture items that are brought to the landfill. Fiedler would like to increase a few prices to offset the cost of these items, based on pricing from vendors for this year. Tires to go to \$3, appliances to \$15 and water softeners to \$20. Hass/Hiller unanimous to raise those 3 pricing with Kluge Jr. opposing.

Kluge Jr./Hiller unanimous to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

Approved this 24th day of February 2025.

Chairman or Vice Chairman

Clerk/Treasurer or Deputy Clerk/Treasurer