

WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

September 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Gatlin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. *Present:* Gatlin, Fritz, Munn, Bennett and Thole. *Absent:* None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda moved by Fritz. Seconded by Munn.

Motion carried unanimously. 5:0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Munn reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

- General Savings: \$ 1,396,693.01
- General Checking: \$ 535,293.25
- Tax Checking: \$ 312,919.90
- Trust & Agency: \$ 653.36

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report moved by Thole. Seconded by Bennett.

Motion carried unanimously. 5:0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A citizen expressed her frustration with the upkeep of the North Cemetery and South Cemetery. People are reportedly going home and returning with their own lawn and garden equipment to clean headstones.

A citizen reported that the County Drain Commission performed erosion control on the North Parker Drain since the last meeting. The citizen believes that they did a good job. The citizen also supplied the rocks for the project to help keep costs down. She is also working on a bid to potentially secure a grant for further work on the project.

A citizen inquired about the status of the project on Y Avenue. She also wanted to know how much the project cost the taxpayers. Gatlin informed the citizen that the culvert cost approximately \$110,000 on its own – but did not have the exact figure in front of him. Gatlin told the citizen that Y Avenue is a primary road so the county is responsible for the project – not the township – and he anticipates the project being finished around 09-30-2024.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Gatlin informed everyone that the auditor recommended that Wakeshma Township begin using another financial institution in addition to the current one. Splitting the township funds between two separate FDIC-insured financial institutions would help protect our funds more so than our traditional approach where all township funds have been kept at a single bank.

Motion to set up an account with Michigan CLASS to meet FDIC requirements and make the most of our money with investment opportunities for future funds moved by Gatlin. Seconded by Munn.

Motion carried unanimously. 5:0

Gatlin informed the board that he is exploring an opportunity to purchase the school building from the VDS dairy farm but would like to get an estimate on the demolition costs before submitting a bid to purchase the property. The property is approximately 6.3 acres and could be a great location for a new township hall / fire station in the future. Gatlin suggested establishing a "Building Fund" to begin setting aside money for such a project.

Motion to establish a "Building Fund" to save money for the construction of a new township hall / fire station moved by Gatlin. Seconded by Munn.

Motion carried unanimously. 5:0

ROAD COMMITTEE

Gatlin informed the board that the next meeting will not be held until October.

CORRESPONDENCE

Gatlin informed everyone that letters were sent out to some of the residents – specifically those living along 42nd Street on the north end of Fulton – to clean the sidewalks in front of their respective residences. This came after receiving complaints from the community concerning the poor condition and upkeep of the sidewalks in town.

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lieutenant Faulk with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department reviewed crime statistics in Wakeshma Township from June through August 2024. This included (2) criminal calls in June, (0) criminal calls in July, and (7) criminal calls in August. These criminal calls included UDAA's, domestic assaults, and threats. Lieutenant Faulk also wanted to raise awareness of financial fraud schemes that are prevalent in the community in order to reduce victimization rates in the township.

FIRE AUTHORITY

Gatlin informed the board members that the “2024 Draft Fire Authority Audit” was sent to everyone via email. Nobody had questions concerning the document.

Motion to approve the “2024 Draft Fire Authority Audit” moved by Gatlin. Supported by Fritz.

Motion carried unanimously. 5:0

BOARD COMMENTS

Fritz – None.

Munn – None.

Gatlin – None.

Thole – Appreciated Lt Faulk’s comments about financial fraud schemes and wanted everyone to know that there is a new scam that only needs a few spoken words over the phone in order to use AI to clone the victim’s voice.

Bennett – None.

Supervisor Gatlin adjourned the meeting at 7:29PM.