

Merrill Township Board Meeting

June 20, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to order (Pledge of Allegiance): 7:02pm by Tabatha and prayer by Debra. 21 community members present at the meeting.
2. Roll call: Tom absent; Tabatha – present; Harold-present; Pete-present, Debra-present
3. Approval of meeting agenda including adding Amy from the library board and Joe Fox, representative candidate, to the agenda before the public comment. Pete makes the motion and Harold seconds, all in favor. Motion passed.
4. Approval of consent agenda
 - a. Approval of March 21, 2022, board minutes: Pete motions and Debra seconds, all in favor- motion passed.
 - b. Approval to pay bills: from 3/22/22-6/21/21 general account, total \$94,329.47 (\$27,301.03 fire protection, \$31,277.92 funds transferred to transfer station for DLQ taxes). Transfer Station account, total \$26,962.69.
5. Amy- White Cloud Library Board: The Library Board is designed to have 8 representatives. Wilcox Township would like to now have representation. In order for that to happen Merrill Township would have to give up a spot on the board. Steve's spot is currently expired. The library board would like to give this spot to Wilcox Township. Tabatha makes a motion to give up our expired spot to Wilcox Township. Pete seconds the motion. Role call vote: Harold- yes, Pete – yes, Tabatha – yes, Debra - yes
6. Joe Fox: Joe is one of the Republican candidates for State Representative for the 101st district. Joe was the director of Commission of Aging for 7 years. He was a teacher for 25 years and also principle of Fremont Christian School for 6 years. Joe has been married for 42 years and has 4 children and 11 grandchildren. Joe states that he is a Jesus follower and is fighting for the three F's – faith, family, and freedom. Joe is a constitutionalist.
7. Public Comment (3 minutes per topic):
 - a. The question was asked by Velma Hunter about who maintains the beach at Woodland Park Lake on 11 Mile. Mark Bates was present and answered about the process of removing weeds. Mark Bates would like to request that the trash be dumped from there and the boat launches regularly. Richard Hale has volunteered to empty the garbage each week. Debra Jones states that her family provided those trash cans and removed them due to things that were found in them constantly. She is asking that we, as a community, monitor that entire corner.
8. Lilley Township Fire Department report

9. Supervisor's report

- a.** Resignation: Tom has resigned, as he no longer lives in the Township. His letter was read to the community present. Tabatha makes the motion to approve Tom's resignation. Debra seconds it. Motion passes

10. Clerk's report

- a.** Election grant: Merrill Township has a \$1,500 election security grant available. Tabatha would like to look into better election cabinets that have a more secure locking system. The board agrees.
- b.** Election workers wages: Tabatha would like an increase in the wages for the election workers. Currently the wages are \$10.50 per hour for workers and \$11 per hour for the Chair. Lilley pays \$12 and \$14. Tabatha would like the same wages for our township - \$12 for election workers and \$14 per hour for the election board workers. She believes we can work this into the budget. Tabatha makes the motion to approve the wage increases and Harold seconds. Role call vote: Harold- yes; Pete- yes, Tabatha – yes; Debra – yes. Motion passes.

11. Treasurer's report

- a.** Phones: Debra will update in September's meeting with the details of a new phone option. She has ordered a new feature that is supposed to allow one phone number to be dialed but will transfer out to five different phone numbers. She needs to learn how to set the new feature up to start using it. The cost will be \$2.99 a month and Debra will be paying it out of her pocket.

12. Zoning Administrator's report: Jeff was not present and there are no updates that the Board is aware of.

13. Planning Commission-Pete Morgan: the planning commission is still working on the Masterplan. Some of the mapping needs to be updated. They are in the process of taking current aerial pictures as well. The Plan will be brought up to the Board for approval soon.

14. Library Report-Sue Redding/Steve Jones: The architect has finished the plans for a new library and the cost is large, but the library is going to apply for grant funds to start the building process.

15. New Business

- a.** Supervisor recommendations: Tabatha recommends that Pete fills the vacancy. Harold seconds the motion. Pete agrees to fill the Supervisor spot. Role call: Harold- yes, Tabatha- yes, Debra – yes. This means that Pete will have to step down from the planning commission and the Trustee position. The resignation from the trustee position is effective immediately and a new trustee can be appointed. Tabatha recommends Venola Walton-Staniel. Debra seconds the motion. Venola is willing to

step into this position. Role call vote: Harold- yes, Pete- yes, Tabatha- yes, Debra- yes. Motion passes.

- b.** Road Millage Resolution #2022-06-20-A: Debra makes the motion to accept this and Harold seconds the motion. Role call: Harold – yes; Pete – yes; Tabatha – yes; Debra – yes. Motion passes.
- c.** General Operations Millage Resolution #2022-06-20-B: Tabatha makes the motion to approve, Harold seconds. Role call vote: Harold- yes; Pete- yes; Tabatha- yes; Debra- yes
- d.** Great Lakes Energy Internet Franchise/Ordinance: Board members were provided a copy to look at and it has been submitted to the Township lawyer to look at. We have not heard back from the lawyer. An update will be provided in the September meeting.
- e.** Newaygo County foreclosed properties: The properties are included in the packet and the auction is on August 23rd.
- f.** Tree removal for heli pad: The Township received a bid from the road commission today and the bid was \$4,665.50. This was the only bid received. Pete makes the motion to accept this bid. Harold seconds. Motion is approved.

16. Adjourn: Tabatha makes a motion to adjourn, Harold seconds. All in favor - Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.