

**Merrill Township
Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Morgan at 7:02pm. Followed by the pledge of allegiance by Mr. Morgan and prayer by Ms. Fisher.

Roll Call

Mr. Peter Morgan, Supervisor
Ms. Debra Fisher, Treasurer
Ms. Venola Walton-Stanciel, Trustee
Mr. Harold Yancy, Trustee

Guest: 6 Public attendance

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Venola Walton-Stanciel motioned to approve agenda, Ms. Debra Fisher seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of consent agenda

September 19, 2022 board minutes
Approval to pay bills from 9/20/22-12/19/22 general account, total \$32,424.79
Transfer Station account, total \$45,443.35.

Ms. Fisher motioned to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion was carried.

Public Comment:

Ford Redding is asking for better communication between the Township Board and the Planning Commission Committee.

Deputy's Report:

4 B&E that remain unresolved (3-4) in a group. They are now in custody and the B&E's have suspended.
11 drunk driving
5 Domestic violence
130 car accidents

Lilley Township Fire Department Report:

Mr. Morgan read the report by the Fire Department describing the type of calls received over the last three months. He added that Lilley is looking for people to hire if anyone is interested or has a recommendation.

Library Report:

Sue Redding stated that they are still working on applying for Grants for the library.

Supervisor's report

- The well stopped working at the Community building because the control board stopped working. It's been fixed and the water is running again.
- The boiler at the Community building is intermittently working. Repair is being worked on.
- After the tax sale, Newaygo County contacted Mr. Morgan regarding 6 parcels that they thought Merrill may be interested in purchasing. One parcel is touching a residences lot so Mr. Morgan contacted him to see if he would be interested in purchasing it. The other parcels will take some time to investigate before making a decision.
- The Clerk's laptop is very old and needs to be updated. Ms. Fisher motioned to purchase a newer laptop with a limit of \$500 or less for the Clerk and Ms. Walton-Stanciel, seconded, the motion passed.
- Forestry service will again rent the garage. Mr. Morgan is working on next year's contract.
- Mr. Morgan is working to utilize resources since the mileage didn't pass. He will take on the added responsibility of the permits relieving the Zoning Administrator. This will allow the Zoning Administrator to address more serious issues.

Clerk's Report

Given by Ms. Fisher in the absence of Ms. Glezman.

The election went well just over 50% of the residence turned out to vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Fisher apologized for not having Novembers financials printed but had a copy available if anyone wanted a copy for their packet.

Zoning Administrator

Mr. Morgan delivered the report for Mr. Wroblewski because he could not attend.

New coffee shop on M37 still needs Township license, he is working with them.

There are three additional people/businesses he is working with on licensing as well.

He issued:

- 5 land use permits
- 5 camping
- Removed blight from one property by the lake.

Master Plan:

Mr. Morgan stated that the Planning Commission Committee will have a hearing on January 19, 2023 meeting for both the Zoning Ordinance and the Master Plan.

New Business:

- Mr. Morgan has been working with American Classic on a new contract to lower costs. American Classic recently purchased another building that they are expanding their recycling business at. The new contract is less costly with our recycling costs cut in half. The scrap metal will no longer go to the attendant. American Classic will remove it and deduct a percentage off the Township invoice. This will give the Township a cost reduction and keep the area in the Transfer Station cleaner.
- Currently the Transfer station will accept tires only at the spring clean-up. American Classic advised they will also take tires if they are cut in half or side walls cut out. This is something Mr. Morgan will continue to work with American Classic on. A question was asked, if weight would be an issue? American Classic said they have never run into a weight issue and don't anticipate one.
- Ms. Fisher motioned to adopt the new American Classic contract, Ms. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion carried.
- Mr. Morgan received one bid back for the snowplowing for the Community building and Transfer station. It is from the person who currently has the contract, Cool Breeze Snow Plowing. His costs will be \$125.00 for the Community building and \$135.00 for the Transfer station. Ms. Walton-Stanciel motioned to accept the bid and Mr. Yancy seconded, the motion carried.
- **RESOLUTION #2022-12-20-D.** Ms. Fisher motioned for the Supervisors wages to be restored to the \$8700 per year. The Supervisor is taking on more responsibility with assisting the Zoning Administrator. THIS IS NOT A RAISE but only restoring the salary back to its original amount. This new amount will start on January 1, 2023- March 31, 2023. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion passed. Roll call vote: Ms. Fisher-Yes, Ms. Walton-Stanciel-Yes and Mr. Yancy -Yes. Mr. Morgan sustained from voting and Ms. Glezman-absent.
- **RESOLUTION #2022-12-20-A.** Mr. Walton-Stanciel motioned for the Treasurer salary to remain the same at \$8700 for the next fiscal year, April 1-2023-March 31, 2024. Mr. Yancy seconded; the motion passed. Roll call: Mr. Yancy-Yes, Mr. Morgan-Yes, Ms. Walton-Stanciel-Yes, Ms. Fisher sustained and Ms. Glezman-absent.
- **RESOLUTION #2022-12-20-B.** Ms. Fisher motioned for the Supervisors salary to remain at the same \$8700 for the next fiscal year, April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024 and Ms. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion passed. Roll call: Mr. Morgan-sustained, Ms. Fisher-Yes, Ms. Walton-Stanciel-Yes and Mr. Yancy-Yes, and Ms. Glezman absent.
- **RESOLUTION #2022-12-20-C.** Mr. Morgan motioned for the Clerks salary to remain at \$8700 for the next fiscal year, April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024. Ms. Fisher motioned and Ms. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion passed. Roll call: Mr. Morgan-Yes, Ms. Fisher-Yes, Ms. Walton-Stanciel-Yes and Mr. Yancy-Yes, and Ms. Glezman absent.

- FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Coordinator is a new position that is needed for new requests coming into the Township. It will pay the same as the Deputy's wage. The hope is that this position would pay for itself by the charges that are taken in by the requesting entity for the FOIA request. Ms. Fisher motioned to start the position from January 1, 2023 thru March 31, 2024 to see what type of burden it is on the Township or if the position is truly paying for itself. Mr. Yancy seconded; the motion carried.
- Treasurer Resignation: Ms. Fisher will be resigning as the Treasurer on March 31, 2023. This will give the Township three months to find a replacement. She is willing to continue maintaining the Township's website for the current fee if the Township would like. Mr. Yancy thanked her for all that she has done for the Township and made the motion to accept her letter, Ms. Walton-Stanciel seconded, the motion carried.
- Board of Review Training, in person, is no longer offered by Newaygo County. Mecosta County has offered for Merrill Township to pay \$50 for the group to attend the training at their facility. Mr. Morgan is checking on the dates it will be offered. Ms. Fisher motioned to pay the \$50 for the BOR group in Merrill Township to take the training, Mr. Yancy seconded, the motion passed.
- Board of Review training on-line is an option. Ms. Fisher approved up to a \$50 max to take the test on-line if it isn't offered for free. Mr. Yancy seconded; the motion passed.

Mr. Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:12.

Bonnie St. Amour
Deputy Treasurer
Merrill Township

