

**Merrill Township  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**

1. Meeting called to order @ 7:01pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Prayer given by Bonnie St. Amour
4. Roll Call: Dave Miedema-present, Bonnie St. Amour-present, Tabatha Glezman-present, Harold Yancey-present, Pete Morgan-absent
5. Public Comment for agenda only - Chuck Hanlon, 1801 W Bass Lake Dr, made a request for the Board to discuss the topic of the Zoning Administrator.
6. Approval of meeting agenda - Tabatha made a motion to approve meeting agenda with Zoning Admin added and property owners lots. Bonnie seconded. All in favor
7. Approval of consent agenda -
  - a. Approval of November 8, 2024 special meeting board minutes
  - b. Approval to pay bills: from 11/8/24-12/16/24 general account, total \$10,790.70, Transfer Station account, total \$9,444.29. Tabatha made a motion to approve, Bonnie seconded. All in favor.
8. Lilley Township Fire Department Report:  
September - 0 Reports, November - vehicle fire & false alarm  
Note that positions are available for truck drivers.
9. Library Report - Sue Redding - Continue as Board Chair. New Study Room.
10. Children's Day - Sue Redding - 1st event went well with 60 children participating over a 2-hour period. Suggested making this an annual event for 3 hours (11-2) at Merrill Twp. the 1st Saturday in August. Received many donations, but seeking monetary assistance from the township to also help with this event. Tabatha made a motion to approve the annual event. Dave seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
11. Zoning Report - Low numbers, 3 camping permits. Sept. 1-1, Oct. 1-6, Nov. 1-2. 35 camping permits/year, 30 Zoning/year. Working on 4 letters - 2 replied it's not their property. Prefab sheds are against the ordinance. Planning Commission discussed, but gets bumped. Jeff stated that he wants to step down as soon as possible and Chuck is willing to take over as Zoning Administrator Duties. Bonnie stated it makes sense, blight is a big problem, fixed through Zoning. Chuck can start by the first of the year. Jeff willing to stay on to assist with open items until closed. Tabatha made a motion to approve Chuck Hanlon as the new Zoning Administrator effective January 1, 2025, Bonnie seconded, Roll Call vote: Dave - Yes, Bonnie-yes, Tabatha-yes, Harold - No. Motion passed. Chuck Hanlon will take over as Zoning Administrator January 1, 2025.

12. Supervisor's Report - Absent, but can discuss.
  - a. Bids - \$675 to replace the toilet at Transfer Station. \$2400 to fix the fence at Transfer Station. These 2 items should be paid for from the Transfer Funds instead of ARPA Funds. Tabatha made a motion to approve. Harold seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.  
\$1455 to upgrade kitchen fire protection. Pay out of the General Fund. Tabatha made a motion to approve. Harold seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
13. Clerk's Report
  - a. Audit came back 100% Assessor State Audit - Merrill Township 100%
  - b. Notary - Tabatha became a notary.
  - c. Election - Election went well, largest turn out in five years..
14. Treasurer's Report - Bonnie, running good, people are paying taxes early.
  - a. Internet at Twp Hall - Bonnie proposed T-Mobile Service. Dave suggested thinking bigger by possibly using Starlink, and providing a guest service for the Community. Chuck commented as an option to use a stand alone cell phone continuously (Grasshopper) as a Hot Spot. Tabatha made a motion for Dave to research internet options, Bonnie seconded. All in favor.
15. New Business - Tabatha - Contract with Transfer Station American Classic Increased \$4.00 per ton through 12/31/28 (36 month contract). Tabatha made a motion to approve the contract. Harold seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - a. Open Positions - Supervisor has to bring to the Board the planning commission openings. Tabled  
Harold - ZBA, trying to find people - has enough now to run.  
Tabatha recommends keeping on the Board of Review. Tabatha made the motion to keep Gordon Elzinga, Phyllis Carter, and Sue Redding all on the Board of Review. Bonnie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - b. Snow Plow Bid - Wait for Pete to be present. Last year's stay in place, no billing has been received yet this year.
  - c. Junk Ordinance - Bonnie stated that the Planning Commission - Blight (Atty) added DNR as an enforcer. Tabatha made a motion to approve the junk ordinance resolution, Dave seconded. Roll Call vote. Tabatha-yes, Dave-yes, Bonnie-yes, Harold yes, Pete-absent. All in favor. Resolution passed.
  - d. Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance - Planning Committee recommended- move 10 days to 30 days. Tabatha made a motion to approve inoperable vehicle ordinance resolution. Dave seconded. Roll Call vote. Tabatha-yes,

Dave=yes, Bonnie=yes, Harold yes, Pete-absent. All in favor. Resolution passed.

- e. Web Manager-Debra Fisher - Continue managing at \$400/yr. Tabatha made a motion to approve. Bonnie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - f. ARPA Ordinance - Fund total is \$71,336.17. Discussed, decided to stay with bigger long term projects. Anything extra could come out of the General Fund, if needed. Pass Resolution #24-12-16 for ARPA Funds: \$50,278.46 for replacing driveway, parking lot, ramp and railings. \$35,975.00 for Roof Replacement. Tabatha made a motion to approve. Dave seconded. Roll call vote Dave-Yes, Bonnie - Yes, Tabatha -yes, Harold - Yes. Pete-absent. Resolution #24-12-16 Passed.
  - g. Unsold Tax Foreclosure Properties - Dave made a motion not to take the properties back, let the county have them. Tabatha seconded, All in favor. Motion passed.
  - h. Remove Tax Exemption Claim - Remove Exempt Claim from Alpine Tree Service Parcel #50-28-005-100 & #50-28-005-949. Tabatha made a motion to approve. Bonnie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - i. Bonnie brought up a person wanting to give property to the township, discussed. Tabatha made the motion to not accept, Dave seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
16. Public Comment - Ford Redding, 2323 Lakeshore Dr. There's a problem with the liaisons not reporting back from meetings, whether approved or not. Committees are not reporting, why have them? Harold - ZBA doesn't meet on a regular basis. Harold setup manager at the last meeting and getting other positions set up. Look into including reports from Liaisons in future meetings.
17. Adjourn: Tabatha motioned to adjourn at 8:11pm. Dave seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.