

**Reading Township
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022**

The meeting was called to Order by Supervisor, Allan Andrews at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Flaucher, Parker, Andrews. Mesarosh absent

GUESTS: Rick Gripman, Ken McClellan, Steve & Maria Stroinski, Brad Wright, Derrick Parker, Fred Bockelman, Doug Tripp, Mark Wiley, Larry Richards & Jake Lashaway.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Flaucher moved, Parker seconded to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, regular meeting. Motion Carried (3-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. McClellan mentioned the poor road conditions on Kellogg Dr., having wash outs. After talking with the Hillsdale County Road Commission, they suggested to talk to the township board for possible limestone patching. Seems to have more traffic due to construction on Bass Dr.

Mr. Derrick Parker told the board he would be willing to help Harold Farris, Zoning Administrator this summer, if he was to need help.

COUNTY COMMISSION:

Mr. Mark Wiley reported the latest status on the Ohio, Michigan & Indiana Michindoh Aquifer. He reported there is some work being done in Michigan now for the water monitoring and levels. The geologic mapping of the locations is also being done. Michigan and Ohio have provided money for this work, and they are waiting for Indiana to give some funds. There has never been a geologic study of this aquifer in the past. For more information go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ohio-kentucky-indiana-water-science-center/science/hydrogeologic-mapping-data-collection>. Ohio DNR will be doing all the permitting if a permit is received. Further Ohio EPA permits an application as well may be needed, including a National Pollution Discharge permit. This process is long from being over.

ROAD COMMISSION: None

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 29th at 9:00 am.

CEMETERY:

Jake Lashaway reports all is well with the cemeteries. Mr. Lashaway provided to the clerk the estimate for the driveway repairs at the West Reading Cemetery, which is in the budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Gripman reports the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Mr. Brad Wright, Fire Chief asked the board to consider using the ARPA money to help update the fire departments material and equipment. He will type up a list of items.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Mr. Farris called Supervisor Andrews, to report he would not attend the meeting due to illness.

PLANNING COMMISSION: None

Mr. Larry Richards reported the board had their meeting in January and Mr. Farris had bought up commercial vehicles on private property which to board did discuss and will be looking into it more.

LIBRARY BOARD: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Contract approval with Hillsdale County Road Commission:

Discussion was had if Mr. Sanders had sent the corrected proposed contracts and the additional estimates for Card & Abbott roads having work done. Supervisor Andrews reported the cost from Mr. Sanders for Card Rd from Fowler Rd to M49, 1.95 miles, township estimated cost was \$429,360.00. Abbott Rd from Card to Reading roads, 1.25 miles, township estimated cost was \$291,570.00.

- Flaughter moved, Parker seconded to approve and sign the three original proposed contracts, Road Stabilization/brine to gravel roads, one application estimated cost of \$7,548.00, apply limestone to de-bermed road surface on Wildwood Rd from Reading to Crawford Rd at the estimated cost of \$64,500.00 and finally spot limestone patching on various gravel roads, 1,000 tons at the estimated cost of \$16,125.00. For a total of \$88,173.00 Roll Call: Parker –Yes, Flaughter -Yes, Andrews –Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND / AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT UPDATE:

No update received. Mr. Derrick Parker submitted a list of recommendations to use the money for to the supervisor. Supervisor Andrews will be collecting suggestions and develop a spreadsheet.

Drain District for Ridge Dr.:

Supervisor Andrews reported no work has been done but do expect work to start this week per John Sanders.

Mead Lake Channel update:

Parker mentioned getting the township attorney involved due to the fact the township insurance and the contractor’s insurance doesn’t want to pay. The township attorney advises the township is not held liability for the contractor’s work. Clerk Flaughter will check past files to find any definitions of the work process. Supervisor Andrews will take it back to the attorney to try to come up with a solution.

NEW BUSINESS:

Payment of March’s Bills and Payments:

- Flaughter moved, Parker seconded to approve payment of the March’s bills and payments in the amount of \$16,841.42. Roll Call: Flaughter –Yes, Parker–Yes, Andrews -Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

May 3rd Election - Public Accuracy Test & Election Commission Meeting:

Clerk Flaughter informed the board the Public Accuracy Test and Election Commission meeting for the May 3, 2022, Special Election will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 5:00 pm at the township hall. The public is invited.

Nominations for Township Trustee:

After asking around to various township residents and posting on the website, the township received one person interested in the township trustee position.

- Flaughter moved, Andrews seconded to appoint Richard Gripman as Trustee to fill the vacancy term ending 11/2024. Motion Carried (3-0)

Cemetery Grave Opening & Closing Fee Increase:

Sexton, Jake Lashaway submitted an increase for cemetery grave opening and closing for all three cemeteries. See attachment.

- Parker moved, Flaughner seconded to approve the cemetery grave opening and closing fee increase. Roll Call: Flaughner -Yes, Parker –Yes, Andrews – Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

Approve Township Tax Levy 2022:

- Flaughner moved, Andrews seconded to approve the Headlee Act MCL 211-34D Tax Levy 1 Mill under. Motion Carried (3-0)

Approve Proposed Software & Service for BS&A Cloud:

Clerk Flaughner explained the need to switch township accounting programs as the City of Reading (which we currently piggyback on with) has decided to switch to BS&A leaving the current Northern Data Systems, Inc. Flaughner explained even after the 4 years of working with NDS she finds it very difficult to manage. She is very familiar with BS&A and feels with other current programs in use (i.e., tax and assessing programs) the program will have many benefits for the township. The company is a Michigan base company, and many other townships are switching to them. The cost is a bit costly, but over time she feels it will pay for itself, hoping that with her experience the training could be cheaper. Ten years of history data will be transferred to the BS&A program.

- Andrews moved, Flaughner seconded to approve the proposed Software & Service for BS&A Cloud at the cost of \$23,015. Roll Call: Parker -Yes, Flaughner -Yes, Andrews –Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

Proposed Lawn Maintenance & Sexton Duties contract:

Lashaway Lawncare, LLC the current contractor submitted a proposal for a three (3) year contract with a 5% overall increase. The contract will expire 12/31/2024.

- Flaughner moved, Parker seconded to approve the proposed Lawn Maintenance & Sexton Duties contract at a 5% increase expiring end of 12/31/2024. Roll Call: Flaughner -Yes, Parker -Yes, Andrews –Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

Approve Reading Fire Department Budget Allocation increase:

Clerk Flaughner received a request from Kym Blythe requesting (on behalf of the Reading Fire Department) to increase the budget allocation by \$5,000.00, going from \$30,000.00/year to \$35,000.00/year. - Andrews moved, Flaughner seconded to approve the proposed Reading Fire Department budget allocation with a \$5,000.00 increase. Roll Call: Parker -Yes, Flaughner -Yes, Andrews –Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

2022 – 2023 Budget Public Hearing

2022-2023 Budget Public Hearing was opened by the Supervisor at 8:38 pm

Public Comments: None

2022-2023 Budget Public Hearing was closed by the supervisor at 8:40 pm

Roll Call: Parker -Yes, Flaughner–Yes, Andrews -Yes. Motion Carried (3-0)

Approve 2022 – 2023 Annual Budget:

Much discussion of various elements making the 2022-2023 budget was had. - Parker moved, Flaughner seconded to approve the 2022-2023 budget as presented at a total of \$388,678.00. Roll Call: Flaughner - Yes, Parker -Yes, Andrews –No. Motion Carried (2-1)

FUTURE BUSINESS:

- May 3, 2022, Election
- Road Millage for the August election
- Hillsdale MTA meeting will be held on April 6th at the Reading Township Hall

OTHER BUSINESS:

BOARD COMMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. McClellan asked about the years of information that will be transferred during the BS&A program conversion as far as what is required to keep. Also asked about who will get the money from a road millage can the township hire their own contractor to repair the roads?

Mr. Tripp ask if the fee currently paying the City of Reading will go away with the update to the new software program. Mr. Tripp asked the Sexton, Jake Lashaway about the difference in the cemetery fee for a full burial and a cremation fee.

Next Regular Meeting will be April 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

-Flaugher moved Parker seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried (3-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MM220314

Allan Andrews, Reading Township Supervisor

Kathy Flaugher, Reading Township Clerk