

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
February 14th, 2024 MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: James Morris, Jeremy Hickmott, Diane Philbrick, Mike Selinski & Mike Durfee

Public Present: Five Citizens in Attendance

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE OF TWO AGENDA ITEMS PLACEMENT ON THE AGENDA. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, ABSENT - NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 10TH 2024 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

County Commissioners – Commissioner Mayhew and Commissioner Simmons provided the board with some information about the upcoming County wide mileages that will be on the ballot that include library, EMS, Transit, Headlee, and the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Simmons also told the board about a digital program that is in development where citizens will be able to calculate on the Ogemaw Counties Website how much the Headlee millage will cost each resident based on taxable values.

Clerk Hickmott - provided the board with information regarding the upcoming election and the fact that the 9 Days of early voting at the Ogemaw County Court House commissioners chambers will be starting this Saturday February 17th. He also mentioned that the township / planning commission are working on the final steps of the Redevelopment ready program and that there will be a Planning Commission meeting in March.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$136,511.50 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, ABSENT – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Morris – provided the board with information regarding the Waste Water Treatment plant facility. It was mentioned that the Waste Water Treatment plant Authority is planning to install a new well at the location at a cost of about \$32,000. He also mentioned that in the future the facility is going to be needing additional general repairs like flooring and roof work.

Treasurer Philbrick – Gave the board information that property taxes have been coming in and well and also mentioned that she has received multiple calls and questions regarding mileages and peoples questions regarding the Kirtland millage as well.

Trustee Selinski – Mentioned overall the accounts look good and nothing seemed to be out of the ordinary. He did mention he had some questions regarding a few of the higher bills but that Treasurer Philbrick did explain what those expenses were.

Trustee Durfee – Gave the board information about some of the things that need to be done at the Ogemaw Hills recreation facility. These included repairs that need to be made to the score board and also that some of the ball teams may split that costs to get the repairs completed.

Correspondence – NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Purchase Agreement M-76 Property – The board was presented information regarding a purchase agreement for the property on M-76. The prospective purchase has plans for a larger scale residential / mixed use development on the property to include Middle Market Housing. The board at length discussed the agreement and it was mentioned that this has been part of the overall plan for the property to have some kind of mixed use development on the site to help enhance the M-76 area. The agreement also has provisions built in that the property is developed within a certain period of time.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ACCEPT THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI DURFEE, AND MORRIS. ABSENT – NONE. NAY – NONE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ambulance Service / Construction Impacts – A Rep. from the Ogemaw County EMS provided the board with information regarding the impacts to the township during the M-55 / Downtown West Branch Construction. He provided some details about the routs and the structure of how the ambulance placement will work. The rep. also provided the board with some information regarding the upcoming millage request that will be on the ballot in August for new equipment.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

Disk Golf / Recreation Facility – The board was provided information from a township resident about the conditions of the Disk Golf Course at the Ogemaw Hills recreation complex. The document detailed come of the issues but also detailed things and suggestions for improvements to the facility in the future.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

Credit Card Changes / Increase – The Board was provided information from both the Treasurer and the Clerk regarding the structure of the township credit cards. It was mentioned that currently the \$2500 limit is split between all three credit cards (supervisor, clerk, and treasurer). There have been some recent issues with larger purchases being made and the credit limit being used up quickly between all three. It was suggested raising the overall limit to \$5,000 between all three cards from \$2,500.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE INCREASING THE OVERALL CREDIT LIMIT TO \$5,000. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, DURFEE, SELINSKI AND MORRIS. ABSENT – NONE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

2024 Election Workers – Hickmott presented the board with the suggested list of election workers for the February 2024 election. The list had a lot of familiar faces on it that have worked in the past.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE ELECTION WORKER LIST. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, DURFEE, SELINSKI AND MORRIS. ABSENT – NONE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

West Branch Twp. Policing Options – The Township Board was presented information from City of West Branch Police Chief Ken Walters regarding potential contract services with the City of West Branch Police Department for Police Coverage for West Branch Township specifically. The information included

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costs, details of service provided, and it was also discussed that an actual agreement would further some of the details that were provided.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

PUBLIC COMMENT: One citizen had made a request that the township board consider not allowing the approved license for a second township marijuana retail establishment. The board did not act on this request and it was mentioned that the township cannot just revoke licenses once issued. There needs to be some violation whether with the State of Michigan or Local Ordinance to do that. Also it was mentioned once again that since the Marijuana Ordinance creation in 2021 that the township has always allowed for two (2) Marijuana retail facilities in the township and this was before the creation of a marijuana ordinance in the City of West Branch.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm