

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
January 10th, 2024 MINUTES**

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

Board Members Present: James Morris, Jeremy Hickmott, Diane Philbrick, Mike Durfee.
Selinski - Absent

Public Present: Three Citizens in Attendance

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, ABSENT
- SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 13TH 2023
MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT,
AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Mayhew provided the board with some information from the most recent county Commissioner meeting. This information included updates about the Ogemaw Hills Recreation facility and also regarding updating the Ogemaw Transit's fees for riders. Trustee Durfee also elaborated a bit on the structure of the fees for the transit.

Clerk Hickmott - provided the board with information regarding the upcoming election that is February 27th 2024 and things have been getting moving regarding that. Overall though things for the month of January have been pretty quiet.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING
\$33,171.55 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, AND DURFEE. NAY –
NONE, ABSENT – SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Morris –He also gave the board an update regarding potential road projects that may need to be completed in the upcoming 2024 year. He also mentioned that the transfer station road will need repairs in the future.

Treasurer Philbrick – Gave the board information that property taxes had started coming in and that overall things have been quiet. It was also mentioned that things have been moving along well getting things planned for the new BS & A Programs.

Trustee Durfee – Gave the board information about the county commissioner meeting he attended regarding the Ogemaw Hills Recreation facility. He has also been talking with Ogemaw County EMS about the impact of the M-55 road work this summer and how that may impact services and response times in the area.

Correspondence – Ogemaw County EDC – Outlook

OLD BUSINESS:

MTA Conference – The board was provided information regarding the upcoming 2024 MTA conference. It was expressed by the board that there is no interest in attending this year as there will be a lot going on with township activities / projects and the election season.

Q3 Budget Adjustments – The Township was presented with the third quarter budget adjustments. Details were provided on the adjustments and the reasons that they needed to be adjusted. The total budget adjustments for the third quarter of the fiscal year were \$41,900.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS TOTALING \$41,900. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

Yvonne DeRoso – Housing Info. – The township board was presented information from Yvonne DeRoso regarding the status of housing issues in the county and also gave the board information on what Ogemaw County is doing in regards to housing. She also gave the board a copy of the resolution the county approved establishing a special housing committee. It was also mentioned that they will be looking for representatives from West Branch Township to be seated on this committee. The board did have some questions about the township responsibility in all of this also if any secured funding for housing project could be for mixed use development projects.

Budget Hearing Dates – The board decided on the dates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget meeting. The dates that were generally agreed to was to have the Budget Workshop on Tuesday March 12th at 11:00 AM at the West Branch Township Hall and the Budget Public Hearing and Special Meeting on March 26th 2024 at 5:00 PM at the West Branch Township Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #01-10-24 A Alternate board of Review Days – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-10-24 A which is the alternate dates for the board of review and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-10-24A ALTERNATE BOARD OF REVIEW. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE, AND MORRIS. ABSENT – SELINSKI NAY – NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #01-10-24 B Asset Test – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-10-24 B which is the asset test regulations and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-10-24 B ASSEST TEST. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND MORRIS. ABSENT – SELINSKI. NAY – NONE . MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1-10-24 C Allowing Residents to protest in Writing – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-10-24 C which allows protests in writing to the board of review and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 1-10-24 C PROTEST IN WRITING RESOLUTION. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, DURFEE, AND MORRIS. ABSENT – SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

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Resolution #1-11-24 D Poverty Exemption Resolution – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-10-24 D which sets the Poverty Exemption guidelines for 2024.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 1-10-24 D POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, DURFEE, AND MORRIS. ABSENT – SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

West Branch Twp. Policing Options – The Township Board was presented information from Sherriff Gilbert regarding potential contract services with the Ogemaw County Sherriff’s department for Police Coverage for West Branch Township specifically. The information included costs, details of service provided, and sample agreements as well. The board had questions regarding costs, impacts if the Feb. ballot measure fails, and also taking vehicle(s) home.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO PROVIDE POLICE COVERAGE TO WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP AND EXPLORE ALL OPTIONS FOR SERVICE WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: One citizen had comments regarding the quantity of marijuana facilities in the overall West Branch Community. The board tried to explain that the township can only have the ability to have two facilities as the townships ordinance allows. It was also mentioned while the two current facilities are close to each other one is in the city of West Branch and the other is in the township and we can control what the city does or has done on the placement of their facilities.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm