



# OID TOWNSHIP

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1015 Baese Court, P.O. Box 136  
Ovid, Michigan 48866  
Ph: (989) 834-2838

# APPROVED

SUPERVISOR: Jennings C. West  
CLERK: Claudia Barrett Pluger  
TREASURER: Nancy J. Hughson

TRUSTEES: Patricia Hibbard  
Arlene Pesik

### **PROPOSED MINUTES OF OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING – MARCH 14, 2024**

The regular Board Meeting of the Ovid Township Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Supervisor with the Pledge to the Flag.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Supervisor Jennings West, Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger, Treasurer Nancy J. Hughson, Trustee Patricia Hibbard, Trustee Arlene Pesik

#### **ABSENT:**

None

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Anthony Karhoff – Rescue me Pure Lawn Care, Maurice Woodworth, Keith Jones, John Daniel, Doug Steffen – Clinton County Road Commission, Gail Watkins – Clinton County Road Commission & Clinton County Transit, Linda Applebee – Greater Laingsburg Recyclers, Ken Keusch, Deb Price, Nichole Latimer – Citizens for Local Choice, Kirk Norton – G & W's Family Lawncare, Deputy Greg Spitler, Sue Leroy, Stacy Woodruff, Tom Hoff, Connie Kioski, Gary Kioski, Marshall Baker – Maximum Pride Lawn Care

#### **AGENDA:**

Moved by Trustee Pat to approve the Agenda, as submitted, Seconded by Trustee Arlene. All in favor, Motion carried.

**PROPOSED MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2024, BOARD MEETING:**

Moved by Trustee Arlene that we accept the February 8, 2024, minutes, as printed, Seconded by Trustee Pat. All in favor, Motion carried.

**PROPOSED MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2024, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:**

Moved by Trustee Pat that we approve the Special Board Meeting minutes of February 15, 2024, Seconded by Trustee Arlene. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Nancy provided the Board with the February 2024 financials, the February monthly income received report, bank balances, along with the supporting bank statements as of February 29, 2024, and the corresponding bank reconciliations for each month's bank statement.

Huntington Bank Account Balances:

General Fund bank balance is \$195,345.37

Payroll account balance is \$5,878.07

Delinquent Property bank balance is \$139.59

Michigan Class:

General Fund is \$245,194.18

Emergency Services is \$134,925.98

ARPA – \$125,148.05

Mercantile Bank Account Balances:

Emergency Services account is \$179,591.42

ARPA Account is \$40,306.75

Journey Federal Credit Union Balances:

Tax account balance is \$647,089.29

Cemetery account balance is \$17,437.85

The last page of the Treasurer's report is the Tax Recap report which shows what the disbursements were twice a month since July 1, and it shows the total disbursement.

Moved by Trustee Pat to accept the Treasurer's report, as submitted, subject to audit, Seconded by Trustee Arlene. All in favor, Motion carried.

**AMEND AND APPROVE BUDGET:**

Moved by Clerk Claudia that we amend and approve the budget for GL # 101-253-740, Other Expenses (Treasurer) – \$499.12 (BS&A Invoice + Envelopes); GL # 101-262-900, Printing & Publishing (Elections) – \$452 (Test Decks); GL # 101-253-741, Postage – Treasurer – \$1,516.20, from unallocated funds, and any other year-end budget amendments preparing for the year-end audit, Seconded by Treasurer Nancy. All in favor, Motion carried.

**CLERK/BILLS – FOR APPROVAL:**

Clerk Claudia supplied the Board with the Check Disbursement Report for this month's meeting. The following are the banks and check numbers for approval:

Huntington Bank – Payroll Check Numbers 570-582, Preauthorized by policy and approval, Check Numbers 11417-11423 and Check Numbers 11424-11435 and EFTs.

Mercantile Bank – EMS, Check Number 1089. The total for approval is \$45,424.28.

Moved by Trustee Pat to accept the Clerk's check disbursement report, as submitted, Seconded by Trustee Arlene.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**

Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**

Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**

Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

There was a check written to the Ovid Township Treasurer for \$17,166.43. The County automatically does an ACH to the Township's General Fund account. This money needed to go back to the Tax account to pay the DNR PILT.

**UNFINISHED/UPDATED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Linda Applebee – Greater Laingsburg Recyclers:**

Linda Applebee presented the Greater Laingsburg recyclers 2023 Annual Report to the Board members. This is an all-volunteer organization. The building and equipment is owned by the Laingsburg School System. They are on their property, and they help support their program. There's around 35 members. They are always looking for more volunteers. Linda spoke about their program, what they offer, and their commitment in working toward a more sustainable environment.

She will make copies of the Recycling Guide for us to have on our counter. This will answer questions regarding what all they take. They are open four times a month, the first and third Tuesday of every month from 4 to 6 p.m., and the second and fourth Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are a drive through facility. They take everything out for you. The important thing is diverting as much material away from the landfill as possible.

**Doug Steffen – Manager, Clinton County Road Commission:**

Doug Steffen reported every year they work closely with the Township Boards and rate the roads and offer improvement suggestions. He presented the Board with a sheet he prepared with the “Local Road Priority List” and the “Bridges in Poor Condition,” which there are two listed. He reported Ovid Township is doing extremely well. The majority of our roads are rated 5 and above, which is excellent. The gravel is in good shape. Every year the Township continues to push to keep the roads in good shape. On the Township document prepared by Mr. Steffen it shows estimates of paving and chip seal on the roads listed. There are two bridges, the Taft Road bridge and the Walker Road bridge are listed in poor condition. Hollister Road is a primary road, and that bridge is posted. The Road Commission will be submitting those bridges for Federal funding. They submit them every year. They are responsible for those. The bridges are inspected every year.

**Gail Watkins – Clinton County Road Commission and Clinton County Transit:**

Gail Watkins is Chair of the Road Commission and Clinton Transit. The millage is up for renewal this year. Clinton Transit has grown tremendously in the last five or six years. Ridership is up annually around 20 percent. The staff is increasing from 40 to 54 people soon. The buses travel a million miles a year. This is a renewal, so the taxes won't change. Gail commented Ovid Township has been fantastic to work with from the Road Commission perspective. “We are very pleased with them. They are proactive. They do a great job.”

**Maner Costerisan – Audit Contract for 2024, 2025, 2026:**

Moved by Treasurer Nancy that we approve the Audit Contract with Maner Costerisan for three years, 2024 through 2026, Seconded by Clerk Claudia.

Roll call vote was as follows:

- Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**
- Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**
- Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**
- Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**
- Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

**Resolution Number 2024-07, Res. to Establish Ovid Township Officers Salary-Clerk:**

Moved by Trustee Pat that we approve Resolution Number 2024-07, Seconded by Treasurer Nancy.

Roll call vote was as follows:

- Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**
- Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**  
Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**  
Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.  
Resolution adopted.

**Resolution Number 2024-08, Resolution to Establish Ovid Township Officers Salary-Treasurer:**

Moved by Trustee Pat that we approve Resolution Number 2024-08, Seconded by Clerk Claudia. Board discussion.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**  
Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**  
Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**  
Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **No**  
Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.  
Resolution adopted.

**Board Meeting Dates and Time:**

Board discussion on date changes.

Moved by Clerk Claudia that the Ovid Township Board meetings be on the fourth Thursday of the month, except for April, November and December, 2024, at 7 p.m., Seconded by Trustee Pat.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**  
Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**  
Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**  
Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**  
Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

**2024-2025 Proposed Budget:**

Moved by Clerk Claudia that we adopt the 2024-2025 proposed Budgets for the General Fund, the Public Safety Fund, the Cemetery Fund and the ARPA Funds, Seconded by Trustee Arlene.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**  
Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**  
Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**

Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

Budget Adopted.

**Road Commission Contract – Brush Spray:**

Moved by Clerk Claudia that we approve the Road Commission contract for brush spray,

Seconded by Trustee Arlene.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**

Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**

Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

**Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) Annual Conference – June 17-21, 2024 – Clerk and Deputy Clerk:**

Board discussion.

Moved by Trustee Pat that we approve the MAMC Conference for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend, Seconded by Trustee Arlene.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**

Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**

Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **Yes**

Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

**Lawn Care Contracts – Township and Cemetery:**

Board discussion regarding each contract, and each owner spoke regarding their bid.

Moved by Trustee Pat that we keep Rescue Me Pure Lawn Care, as they've done an excellent job, Seconded by Clerk Claudia.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Patricia Hibbard – **Yes**

Treasurer Nancy Hughson – **Yes**

Supervisor Jennings West – **Yes**

Trustee Arlene Pesik – **No**

Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – **Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

**Reports and Updates Presented:**

- Deputy Greg Spitler – Sheriff’s Office
- Library – Trustee Patricia Hibbard
- OMESA – Treasurer Nancy Hughson
- CAASA – Supervisor Jennings West

**Public Comments:**

Public comments opened at 8:03 p.m.

Nicole Latimer, Citizens for Local Choice

Sue Chunko Leroy

Public comments closed at 8:09 p.m.

**Board Comments:**

Clerk Claudia reported she contacted the MTA Attorneys with the questions we had from last month’s meeting.

Regarding Motions being made during Board Comments, theoretically, a motion can be made, discussed and voted on. If the Township follows Roberts Rules of Order or something similar, it really shouldn’t happen, because it is out of procedure and shouldn’t be allowed by the Supervisor or the rest of the Board.

Regarding the Township’s taxable value and the Trustee willing to forego their salary to put a synopsis of the meeting in the newspaper, the Township should follow the law. The Township could publish the minutes if they chose to. Someone on the Board could put them in the paper with their name, however, before going in a newspaper, the Supervisor would have to approve the wording. The Trustee cannot give up their salary. What they can do is, once they receive their salary, they can choose to donate the money back to the Township.

Board discussion.

Deb Price commented that the motion needed to be rescinded from last month.  
Discussion.

Moved by Trustee Arlene to rescind her motion from last month regarding putting a synopsis in the newspaper, Seconded by Treasurer Nancy.

Roll call vote was as follows:

**Trustee Patricia Hibbard – Yes**  
**Supervisor Jennings West – Yes**  
**Trustee Arlene Pesik – Yes**  
**Treasurer Nancy Hughson – Yes**  
**Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger – Yes**

All in favor, Motion carried.

Moved by Trustee Arlene to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Trustee Pat.  
All in favor, Motion carried.

Supervisor Jennings adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk