



**OVID TOWNSHIP**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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**APPROVED**

SUPERVISOR: Gregory C. Palen  
CLERK: Claudia Barrett Pluger  
TREASURER: Nancy J. Hughson

TRUSTEES: Arlene Pesik  
Jennings West

**PROPOSED MINUTES OF OVID TOWNSHIP MEETING - AUGUST 13, 2020**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Supervisor Gregory Palen, Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger, Treasurer Nancy Hughson, Trustees Arlene Pesik and Jennings West

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Deb Shaughnessy, Patricia Hibbard, Kam Washburn, Ed Buchmayer – Mole Assassin

**AGENDA:**

Agenda reviewed by Board. Moved by Nancy to approve the agenda as printed, Seconded by Arlene. All in favor, Motion carried.

**PROPOSED MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2020:**

Proposed July 9, 2020, minutes reviewed by the Board.

Moved by Arlene that we approve the minutes as presented, Seconded by Jennings. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Nancy presented the Board with the bank balances, along with the supporting bank statements and Michigan Class Statements as of July 31, 2020, as well as the corresponding bank reconciliations for each month's bank statement.

Huntington Bank Account Balances:

General Fund bank balance is \$260,495.56.

Tax account bank balance is \$0.00. This Huntington Account has been closed.

Delinquent Property Tax account balance is \$173.20.

Payroll account balance is \$22,911.41.  
Michigan Class investment account balances:  
General Fund is \$132,470.12.  
Tax Account is \$0.00.  
Emergency Services account is \$36,763.52.  
Mercantile Bank Emergency Services Account is \$47,023.38.  
Journey Federal Credit Union Balances:  
Cemetery Account - \$0.00.  
Tax Account - \$58,196.63.

Nancy included a copy of the tax collection data from July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020. The disbursement on July 29, 2020, to the County was \$69,795.14. Taxes are slowly coming in.

Moved by Arlene that we accept the report from the Treasurer for July, as presented, bank statements, and all reconciliations included for review, subject to audit, Seconded by Jennings. All in favor, Motion carried.

#### **CLERK/BILLS - FOR APPROVAL:**

Claudia presented the Check Disbursement Reports for Huntington Bank and Mercantile Bank Emergency Services for approval –  
Huntington Bank, EFTs and check numbers 10770-10787, payroll check Numbers 186-195, totaling \$90,523.64.

Claudia explained \$22,696.82 we had in the General Fund from the South Ovid Cemetery Fund when it was turned over to us, and that money will now go in the Cemetery Fund Account we have at Journey Federal Credit Union.

There was also a large check to Clinton County Road Commission for two chloride applications, and the Township parking lot.

Mercantile Bank Emergency Services, check number 1034 totaling \$44.05.

Moved by Nancy to approve the Clerk's reports, and payment of all bills with checks from Huntington Bank and Mercantile Bank, Seconded by Arlene.  
All in favor, Motion carried.

Nancy and Claudia met with Jon Johnson from Burnham & Flower Agency, Inc. He went over the insurance policy with them. Cyber insurance was discussed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Ed Buchmayer – Mole Assassin:**

Mr. Ed Buchmayer introduced himself as the “mole assassin.” He supplied the Board with a document about the different moles, what they eat and their habits. He commented chemicals, poisons do not really kill them. He explained the kind of traps he uses, Victor brand traps. He sets up several at a time and modifies them as need be. He puts a flag by each trap so it can be seen by the lawn care people.

His setup fee is \$150 for the calendar year, and \$50 per mole caught. The traps are around \$30 a piece. He walks the entire property before the traps are put in. After he places the traps where he thinks is best, he checks them daily in the beginning. Once activity dies down or it's dry, he then checks every two to three days. He commented spring is the best time to start trapping. Board discussion and questions answered by Mr. Buchmayer.

Supervisor Palen moved that we contract with Mr. Ed Buchmayer to trap and take care of the mole situation, Seconded by Jennings. All in favor, Motion carried.

Mr. Buchmayer will set the traps on Friday. He wondered who to contact. Claudia asked Arlene if she would want to be the contact person, and she was fine with that.

### **Ovid Township letter from Maner Costerisan:**

Supervisor Palen stated the Board received this letter from the auditors to start the audit process in August for the year ending March 31, 2020, and issue their report on or before October 31st, 2020. We have already contracted with them previously.

### **July 25th, 2020, Renter Refund:**

Claudia supplied the Board with a copy of the "Inspection of Hall, Violations and Charges," document. The document highlighted what was found upon inspection: 15 bags of trash left, cleaning had to be done before the next day renter, three doors left unlocked, watermelon left in parking lot with ants all over, kitchen sink clogged, two restroom toilets plugged that Claudia called Trustee Jennings to come help take care of the mess. Board discussion regarding the whole situation. Also discussed raising the deposit rate.

Moved by Supervisor Palen that we withhold the entire \$150 deposit from the Nierescher rental, based on the items noted, Seconded by Jennings. All in favor, Motion carried.

Jennings commented he would like to discuss raising the Hall deposit. He thinks it should be raised to \$300.

Moved by Jennings that we increase the Hall Rental deposit to \$300, Seconded by Arlene.

Motion was discussed by Board. It was suggested we raise it to \$250 instead of \$300. Supervisor Palen asked about restating the Motion.

Supervisor Palen restated the Motion that we increase the Hall Rental deposit to \$250 for any new scheduled rentals, Seconded by Arlene. All in favor, Motion carried.

### **FOIA Request:**

Claudia explained she received a FOIA Request for documents from the 2020 Primary Election from True the Vote out of Houston, Texas. There is quite a list of documents they would like, and they would like the fees waived. The Board was given a copy of

the extensive list. Supervisor Palen said we should respond and not waive the fees since they were requesting so many things that would take time and costly.

The Election was discussed and how many absentee ballots we had. The Bureau of Elections suggest using two laptops or getting another tabulator. Downloading the e-Pollbook took 4 hours, 40 minutes. Claudia, Nancy and Pat Hibbard ended up meeting Deb Sutherland at the Courthouse for help on Monday night before the Election. We were later told the problem was on the Bureau of Elections end.

### **Cyber Insurance:**

Board discussion regarding cyber insurance information we received from Jon Johnson of Burnham and Flower Agency, Inc. It was decided at this time we would not purchase this insurance since we have I.T. Right backing up our documents.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **2020 Census – Deb Shaughnessy:**

Deb said Harold Plattenberg is employed by the Census Bureau. He is a supervisor in Gratiot County. He wasn't able to get Clinton County. They are going door-to-door now. There is not a local office anywhere. Harold goes through someone in Traverse City. He says it's very unorganized, very little communication. Linda Clark, who we originally dealt with, is now out of the Detroit area. She's been very helpful. Deb said she would get in touch with Linda.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **County Commissioner – Kam Washburn:**

Kam said Clinton County is still meeting virtually. There are seven commissioners. They have been meeting audio only. At the next Ways and Means Committee Meeting, they are going to try to do the video also, if it works.

There are 380 cases of COVID, and one more death, making it 13. Kam stated in a couple weeks the Health Department is going to have a one day drive through testing area probably at the fairgrounds. The Health Department has also been working very closely with the schools.

The Election results came in quickly, which the County is very pleased with the local clerks for getting those in so quickly. The only problem is the East Lansing area that is in our County. Kam hopes to get that corrected.

The Parks and Green Space Commission has a new director, Kyle Thornton.

**Library** – Nancy supplied us with the Library Board Meeting minutes from July 7, 2020, the Librarian’s Report of August 12, 2020, and the financial documents. They are going to stay curbside at this time. They will discuss it again at their September 9th meeting. Laingsburg has had problems with COVID. Owosso has had problems. Capitol Area hasn’t opened either. MeL opened up, which is Michigan Electronic Library, where you can borrow books. They had 8000 requests the first day. The system rejected about 4000, so people had to put their requests back in. The DayStarr telephone system is hooked up and running. The Library is sending a letter to the Historical Society because the room they use at the Library is a mess. It’s a fire hazard. The Library checked into the millage that was requested years ago to see if they were mentioned, and they were not mentioned, so they don’t have to have them there, if there is someplace else they could find. Greg wondered about Mary Meyer’s house. Nancy stated they can’t go in there because apparently she stipulated they cannot bring other items into her house. Sharry talked to Roger Matthies. He’s going to do some cleaning in that room.

**OMESA** - Trustee Jennings reported he brought up the lawn at their meeting. The cost of bringing in dirt was \$17,000. Arlene commented having it mowed makes it look a lot better. Jennings stated they reported in the meeting that the Jaws of Life are no good anymore. They will have to decide whether to purchase a new Jaws of Life. Greg commented the crew is stable, things are good, and Clinton County RESA is stable. Arlene inquired if the generator was fixed yet. Jennings said it had been taken care of. Greg commented maybe the future Township Board may want to consider getting a generator for our Hall. Discussion regarding generator and shelters. Nancy asked if they applied for any CARES money. Greg said CAASA did. OMESA did not. They didn’t have anything that qualified in the fire department.

**CAASA** – Supervisor Palen commented there was not a CAASA Meeting in July. He will print the financial information and get it to the Board.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Board Comments:**

Nancy commented she would like to see the Motion made by Arlene at the July 9, 2020, Board Meeting rescinded regarding the situation with the taxpayer owing \$78.10 in interest and penalties because of the money being paid using ACI. Nancy paid the \$78.10 herself. We don’t want any misunderstanding with our taxpayers regarding funds. Discussion regarding this situation.

Arlene rescinded her Motion of July 9, 2020, to pay the \$78.10 out of admin fees or interest, Seconded by Supervisor Palen. All in favor, Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Palen adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk