

**Williamstown Township
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016**

Call to Order

The Williamstown Township Board of Trustees convened at 7:03 p.m. at the Williamstown Township Hall located at 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, Michigan. Supervisor Bloomquist called the meeting to order and reviewed the Agenda. Supervisor Bloomquist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Supervisor Bloomquist, Trustee Eyster, Trustee Hayes, Trustee Imhoff, Treasurer Cutshaw, Trustee Williams, Clerk Steinberg

Also present: Carla Clos, Deputy Drain Commissioner Ingham County; Howard Dahlstrom, 4075 Vanetter; Jonathan Brandt, 4725 N. Branch; Dennis Schornack, 4232 Redbud; Garry Rowe, Registered Sanitarian

Absent: None

Public Comment

None

Closed at 7:10 p.m.

Presentation

Gary Rowe presented his findings of a water test study conducted of the groundwater quality in Williamstown Township. It was a follow up study to the 1986 county grant project. The current study compares results from 1986 with 2017. Mr. Rowe states tests done this year show an overall rise in some elements (such as Boron) and a decrease in others (such as Arsenic). At this time, the State of Michigan does not have a Boron water safety standard. There is a Boron brochure available with recommendations for the residents regarding this health advisory. Testing is continuing in other Ingham County townships. The report was presented to the Board. A copy of the report is available from the Township.

Consent Agenda

Supervisor Bloomquist pulled the Accounts Payable for Approval to be addressed at the end of the meeting.
Trustee Eyster moved the consent agenda consisting of:

**Approve the Minutes of 08-10-16 Township board meeting
Payroll Checks paid 43703 through 43742 and EFT 389 through EFT 396 for a total of \$32,881.08
Revenue and expenditure report 09-14-2016
Treasurer's Report, August 2016
Building Inspector's Report
Police Report**

Seconded by Trustee Hayes

Motion approved.

Meridian Police Contract

Trustee Williams moved the Township Board approve the continuation of police services provided by the Meridian Township Police with a new two year contract from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 with terms to be the same as the past two years except for the dollar amounts which will be \$216,723.00 per year and \$56.17 per hour for all 911 calls outside of the normal patrol hours with a cap of \$22,500 per quarter.

Seconded by Trustee Hayes

Discussion:

- 4.2% increase over 2 year period.
- There have been few complaints received by the Township regarding services provided by Meridian police.
- Chief Hall and Assistant Chief Plaga have been responsive to Township.
- Services include Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Academy, home checks, etc.
- Officers have a visible presence in the community.
- Suggestion for Competitive Bidding
- Competitive Bidding should begin early in the year.

Motion approved.

Restricted Funds Donation

Trustee Hayes moved the Township Board accept the donation of \$3,000 from Prime Housing Group for preservation and maintenance of the township's parks with the funds from 2015 and 2016 dedicated to the walkway for the pavilion and restrooms.

Seconded by Trustee Eyster.

Discussion:

- Walkways were part of the pavilion project.
- Donors would be able to see where their money goes and receive recognition for their contribution.
- The walkways are essential to the project, approved project funds are not able to cover the walkways.

Motion approved.

Planning Commission Appointments

Trustee Hayes moved the Township Board approve the Supervisor's recommendation appointing Rex LaMore and Joscelyn Brown-Timm to the Williamston Planning Commission for a three year term commencing November 2016.

Seconded by Trustee Eyster

Discussion. Vice Chair LaMore has had a historical presence on the Commission and brings expertise to the Commission. Commissioner Brown-Timm brings insight to the Commission.

Motion approved.

Budget

Recommendations for departments, committees, and Board members to submit items for consideration in the budget for 2017-18. A draft budget will be provided in October.

Trustee Eyster moved to approve the General Fund Account Payable checks to approve 21655 through 21667 for a total of \$3,042.89.

Seconded by Trustee Williams.

Discussion: none

Motion approved.

Reports/Committees

Historical: The upcoming historical tour will be on October 9 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The tour will visit the Depot, Branch School, St. Katherine's Church, the Township Community Park, and Foote and Summit cemeteries. There will also be a Civil War reenactment at McCormick park.

NIESA: Millage renewal will be on the ballot.

Recycling: Trustee Imhoff met with estimators for cost of site preparation for the possibility of a permanent recycling center. Different options were considered. Further review and discussion will take place.

Public Comment:

Jonathan Brandt, 4745 N Branch: commented on services provided by Meridian Police.
Howard Dahlstrom, 4075 Vanetter: asked for the reason for the scheduled closed session of the Board meeting, and stated his belief that the 3 day posting of closed session notice is not in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Public Comment Closed at 8:55

Discussion ensued between the Board members regarding the ability to go into closed session. The Board concluded that it was appropriate to go into closed session.

Closed Session

**Trustee Hayes moved the Board go into closed session to discuss a property purchase.
Seconded by trustee Eyster.**

Roll Call: Yes – Trustee Williams, Treasurer Cutshaw, Trustee Hayes, Clerk Steinberg, Trustee Eyster, Supervisor Bloomquist
No – Trustee Imhoff

Supervisor Bloomquist asked Mr. Dahlstrom to leave. He stated he would not leave. Supervisor Bloomquist left the meeting to confer with the Township attorney. Upon her return, the Board discussed options and determined to delay closed session to confirm posting requirements.

**Trustee Hayes moved the Board rescind the motion to go into closed session.
Seconded by Eyster
Motion approved.**

Adjournment

**Trustee Hayes moved the Board adjourn.
Seconded by Trustee Eyster.**

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

Minutes approved by:

Wanda Bloomquist, Township Supervisor Date

Mark Steinberg, Township Clerk Date