

**HATTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING****2/18/2025 – MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Hileman; Y; Guiette; Y, Humphrey; Y, McClain; Y; Trustee, Farrell was absent until the Public Comment portion of meeting. Guests: Bill Simpson, Jack Kleinhardt, Sandra Griffith, Rick Griffith, Brian Wheatley, Melissa Wheatley, Randy Gray, David Hutchinson; with unknown guests joining virtually.

**ACCEPT or AMEND AGENDA** 1 amendment to 2/18/25 agenda, Under New Business, Supervisor Hileman and Clerk, McClain were served with an appeal for August Hill Special Use Permit. Motion by Guiette; supported by Humphrey to approve the agenda with amendment; motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Minutes for the Regular Monthly Board meeting of 1/21/2025 provided to the Board in advance and made available to the Public. Motion by Guiette; supported by Humphrey to approve the 1/21/25 meeting minutes; motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Beginning Balance: \$48,182.39

Revenue: \$43,369.97

Expenditure: \$9,863.09

Ending Balance: \$81,689.27

- Motion by Guiette; supported by Hileman to accept the Treasurer's report as given; motion carried.
- One CD of \$10,000 has matured at Mercantile Bank they are offering rollover 4.24% for 1 year. Motion by Guiette, supported by Hileman to rollover the \$10,000 CD to the 4.24% for 1 year, motion carried.
- Treasurer, Molly Humphrey stated that Mercantile Bank matched the Members First Credit Union percentage of 4.25% for the \$10,000 CD that had matured in January 2025 and Humphrey was given permission by the board at January meeting to search for better rate than what Mercantile Bank had originally offered.

**REPORTS BY COUNTY OFFICIALS:**

- Clare County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson stated that due to storms prior to the February 18 meeting, that the Road Commission had worked 29 straight days. Simpson said that it could be a very muddy spring as frost is down about 40 inches. Simpson said that bids were going out for tree cutting and gravel in the next week. Information about the recent Clare County Road Commission audit will be presented and discussed at the March 4, 2025 meeting.
- Clare County Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt stated that not much had been happening at the Commissioners' meetings. Elon Musk's audits at the federal level could affect funding in the future for townships. Kleinhardt knew of 1 grant that was already lost. Kleinhardt spoke about the devastation that he witnessed when traveling through South Carolina and Tennessee from the hurricanes and flooding. Commissioner Kleinhardt stated that the County Commissioners would be meeting on February 19.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Randy Gray stated that the Clare County Republican Party is trying to get more residents of Clare County to engage local government and take an interest in their township by advertising meetings and other informative information through social media.
- Gray stated that he felt like some of the Hatton Township meeting minutes were not conveyed accurately.
- Gray stated that the FOIA request that he submitted to Hatton Township took longer than the 5 days to get his requested information. He said once he received the information, he received 2 different minimum square footage documents for zoning requirements for a residency. Supervisor Hileman commented that 1 was under the current zoning laws and the other was for the proposed future zoning laws.
- Gray asked about a “red tag” that was placed on a building on his property. Gray said that he was told by county officials that was a township matter. Gray also asked who could come on his property to put tags on without his permission. Hileman told Gray that was not a township matter, but a county matter. Hileman told Gray that county issued building permits must be placed in visible location on his property.
- Gray also stated that he felt that the investiture ceremony for Judge Michelle Ambrozatis held in January 2025, was a conflict of interest, since the venue that it was held at belonged to County Clerk, Lori Mott and her husband.
- Hileman then told Gray that he had gone over his 3-minute public comment time limit.

**REPORTS: TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS: Zoning Meeting Special Zoning meeting:**

- No zoning permits were issued
- Planning and Zoning is still working with Beckett & Raeder to complete the updated Zoning and Ordinances.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** paid January bills totaling \$9,860.62; emailed pdf of 1993 zoning and ordinances to Randy Gray; delivered a copy of Special Use permit for Rocks and Valleys to Lisa Jaco; emailed Andrew Morris pdf of 1993 zoning and ordinances, 12/17/24 Regular Board Meeting minutes and 12/16/24 Planning and Zoning minutes; Sent FOIA Request information to Andrew and Sarah Morris; n Sent requested information for 2-FOIA Requests from Michigan Open the Books.

**Received:** Sherriff’s report; Fire report; FOIA request from Andrew and Sarah Morris; Received, signed and returned 4-year Election Consolidation Plans for Clare-Gladwin RESD, Harrison Community Schools, Clare Public Schools, Mid-Michigan College; notification of a special school election on May 6, 2025

**TRAINING/OTHER MEETINGS:**

McClain attended the monthly County Clerks meeting on January 23, 2025

Hileman attended the MTA meeting and Clare County Road Commission meeting on February 4, 2025

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

- 101-223-807 Auditing fees budgeted \$4,200.00 (current balance -\$1,000.00)
- Motion by Farrell; supported by Guiette to approve the budget adjustments as stated above; motion carried.

**MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS:**

- Motion by Guiette supported by Farrell to pay the February bills totaling \$7,314.08 as presented; motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS AS NEEDED:**

- Supervisor, Hileman stated that there were no blight updates to report at this time.

- Hileman stated that the Welcome to Hatton Township zoned township signs that were discussed at the January meeting will be put up and paid for by the Clare County Road Commission on main, paved roads.
- Variance on 2 sheds/cabins that were given zoning permits in error due to the size of the cabins/sheds being smaller than zoning laws and not realizing they would be used for permanent domain were given a variance. No other variances of this type will be issued in the future.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Clerk McClain stated that she received an email from County Administrator, Lori Phelps about the cost to townships for the future cost of 9 days Early Voting and Programming cost. Phelps stated that each township, as well as the City of Harrison and Clare would pay \$758 per election and \$278 for ballot programming for each election. A contract for each township to sign will be forthcoming in the next couple of months. For the May 6, RESD election, the township will pay the \$278 for ballot programming, but since the RESD will be liable to pay for all election cost of a special election, the ultimate cost will be \$0 for the townships and City of Clare and Harrison. The board discussed that this was still much more cost efficient for County Clerk's office to handle the 9 days early voting than for the individual townships to try and pay for 9 days early voting if they were to do it on their own.
- The board discussed adopting a resolution for the Code of Civility at Township Meetings. This would not only protect the board but guests attending the meetings. It was discussed by the board and a motion was made by Farrell; supported by Guiette to adopt Resolution 25-1 Code of Civility at Hatton Township meetings. A roll call vote: Hileman; Y; Farrell; Y; Guiette; Humphrey; Y; McClain; Y; motion carried. A copy of the Code of Civility was signed by each board member and was placed on the Hatton Township website and a copy on the bulletin board in the foyer of the township hall.
- The township board discussed a new agenda format for future meetings. It will be modeled similarly to the agenda that Hayes Township currently uses. Motion by Farrell; supported by Guiette to change to the new agenda format effective March 2025 meeting.
- Prior to the start of the Regular Township Board meeting, Supervisor Hileman and Clerk McClain were served with an appeal from Andrew and Sarah Morris, Owners of August Hill. The Morris's are appealing the special use permit that was revoked in December 2024 by the board. Hileman will be meeting with the township attorney on February 19 concerning the appeal.
- Clerk McClain reminded the Election Committee that they would need to meet at 6:45 pm on March 18 to approve the election inspectors and receiving board for the May 6, 2025 RESD special election.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Guiette supported by Farrell to adjourn meeting at 8:42 pm; motion carried.

Prepared: 2/18/2025-~~Not Approved, prepared by Linda McClain, Clerk~~

**Approved: 3/18/2025, Clerk, McClain**