

DECATUR TOWNSHIP  
April 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Roll Call/Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Decatur Township Board was called to order on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor Kevin Kusmack, Deputy Clerk Tina Leary, Treasurer Katelin Makay, and Trustees Matt Kusmack and Tom Stull. Clerk Katie Hartwell was absent. There were 10 guests present.

Minutes of March Regular Meeting:

Motion by Makay, second by Stull, to approve the March 11, 2022 minutes of the regular meeting as presented. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- A lawsuit from Joe Gray has been forwarded on to the township attorney
- Copies of the Conservation District 2021 Annual Report and recycling collection flyers are available

Public Comment:

- Riley Goss expressed his concerns about solar farms moving into the township.
- MSU Extension Government & Community Vitality Educator Tyler Augst introduced himself and provided information on upcoming training and outreach events for local elected officials.
- Jason West stated that there is strong opposition throughout the township concerning industrial solar farms moving into the township.

Minutes of March Regular Meeting:

Motion by Makay, second by Stull, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk - Current Bills:

A listing of current bills was reviewed. Treasurer Makay noted that the monthly voucher statement was substantially higher this month due to the payment of millage monies to the Decatur Hamilton Fire Department. Motion by Makay, second by M. Kusmack, to approve the bills as presented. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report was given.

Supervisor's Report:

- Bids are out for upcoming road repairs. Burgess Road work will be first on the list. Frost laws have been lifted. The loan from the State for road projects previously discussed will not be pursued as the monthly payments exceed the total currently being collected through millage.
- Dump day for the township is April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For those that will be bringing tires, RSVP to the Conservation District at 269/657-4030.
- The Van Buren County Museum is seeking donations for building repairs.
- The wording for the Decatur-Hamilton Quick Response millage is being reworked. A special meeting will be required to approve the language by the May 10 deadline if it is to be placed on the August 2, 2022 Primary Election ballot.
- A report on Fire Department membership, training, and new truck was given. The fire rating will take place in June.
- A local painter has been found to paint the Township Hall eaves, however the paint is not available at this time.
- Thirty two citizens attended the solar information meeting held on April 13.
- The blight issue on 39<sup>th</sup> Street is being turned over to the Court. The Zoning Administrator has made contact with the renter on CR 669 and the necessary permit is being obtained.
- The Township was unsuccessful with their bid to purchase 2.7 acres for Lakeview Cemetery expansion at a recent land auction.
- The ORV ordinance will be tabled for next month; more information will be collected.
- The flagpole at Harrison Cemetery will be repaired by Memorial Day.
- A request for trimming the right of way on Rogers Street has been submitted to the Road Commission.

#### Reports:

##### Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer:

- This report was included in the Supervisor's report.

##### County Commissioner Don Hanson:

- County Ambulance and Public Safety millage renewals will be on the August 2 ballot.
- The application process for requests for County ARPA funds is being placed on hold and the ARPA Committee has been dissolved.
- The County has contracted with DCS Technology to perform a countywide survey of internet accessibility. Field work has begun and the final report will be submitted by July. Seven million dollars of the County ARPA funds are dedicated to providing countywide broadband and improved internet services.

##### Van Buren Sheriff Department:

- The Dispatch report for March was submitted.

##### Cemetery Report:

- JC & Sons will be doing necessary tree trimming and removal at Lakeview Cemetery for a cost of \$2,700.
- Residents are reminded that cemetery cleanup of decorations they wish to save must be completed by April 20.
- Sexton Makay will be contacting the school to see if the National Honor Society would be available to donate time to help with cleanup.

Old Business:

ARPA Funds

-All funds will be used for road projects. The first report is due to the Federal Government on April 30.

New Business:

Fireworks for 4<sup>th</sup> of July

-The Village of Decatur is soliciting donations for the annual fireworks display that will be held on Sunday, July 3. Motion by K. Kusmack, second by Stull, to appropriate \$500 to the Village of Decatur for the annual fireworks display. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Appointment of Salary Commission

-M. Kusmack and Makay will serve on the Salary Commission.

Public Comment:

A citizen suggested that the Boy Scouts be contacted to assist with the cemetery cleanup. It was noted that Decatur no longer has a Boy Scout group.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by M. Kusmack, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.  
With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Tina Leary, Deputy Township Clerk