

DECATUR TOWNSHIP

The Truth in Taxation Public Hearing were called to order at 6:45pm on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at the Decatur Township Hall. Present: Treasurer Katelin Makay and Clerk Katie Hartwell and Trustees Matt Kusmack and Tom Stull: Absent Supervisor Kevin Kusmack. There was one guest. Open discussion in regards to the passage of the Senior Services Millage and addition 2022 taxes; there were no public comments. Motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:55pm made by Makay, second, M. Kusmack,. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Special Assessment District Hearing was called to order at 7:00pm on Thursday August 11, 2022 at the Decatur Township Hall. Present: Treasurer Katelin Makay and Clerk Katie Hartwell and Trustees Matt Kusmack and Tom Stull: Absent Supervisor Kevin Kusmack. There were 3 guests. Open discussion was held, there were no public comments. A motion to approve the Special Assessment District by Makay, seconded by M. Kusmack. Roll Call vote, unanimous, motion carried. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm by M. Kusmack, seconded by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Decatur Township Board was called to order on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 7:06 p.m. Present: Treasurer Katelin Makay and Clerk Katie Hartwell and Trustees Matt Kusmack and Tom Stull, Absent Supervisor Kevin Kusmack. There were 12 guests present.

Minutes from the July, regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Makay, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Correspondence:

The Clerk addressed the Press Release from the Road Commission regarding encroachments within county highway right-of-ways.

Public Comment:

None

Reports:

The Clerk submitted a listing of current bills. In the August Primary Election there were 558 voters. Motion to approve by Stull, second by Makay. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted her monthly. Motion to accept as presented by M. Kusmack, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Supervisor's report was read by Makay because he had tested positive for COVID. The Correction Board of Review was held and there were 13 petitions approved and 1 Vet Exemption. Seal coating is complete and fog seal with follow. The Supervisor will not be at the October meeting.

County Commissioner Don Hanson reported on building projects and housing the Conservation District, MSU and Ag Specialists in one building. The Commission also discussed the Road Commission mowing and spoke to State Representative Beth Griffin about the complaints he had received.

There were no reports from Senior Activities or the Zoning Administrator.

Van Buren Sheriff Department – Dispatch report for the previous month was submitted.

Cemetery Report offered by K. Kusmack's notes that there will need to be 6 new hydrants in the Lakeside Annex 2 and is contacting boring experts.

Old Business:

New Business:

Swift Lake Estates requested and endorsement for them to continue offering water to its residents within the Township. A motion to approve Resolution 2022-8 made by Makay, seconded by M. Kusmack, unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Bob Kusmack spoke regarding the Road Commission cutting down corn and soybeans. He was speaking on behalf of other farmers as well. He believes they should not have mowed this close to harvest and wondered why they chose to mow this now. He also suggested that the Road Commission hire a new contractor. He did not receive the notice regarding the changes in mowing.

Greg Kinney currently sits on the Road Commission and said a notice was sent out May 20, 2021 updating the mowing policy.

John Fouth said that the county roads do need attention, but do not need their crops mowed down and would like reimbursement from the Road Commission for the crops destroyed.

Tim Hood who does not live within Decatur Township but his fields had been mowed down today in Paw Paw Township. He called State Senator Aric Nesbitt who claimed that the state has issued no changes to road management. Hood has been farming for 50+ years and has never seen crops mowed down like this. He was upset at the inconsistency of mowing practices and lack of communication from the Road Commission. The person who was mowing the fields was allegedly armed and threatened to take crops.

The Board advised that they this is Van Buren County issue and thanks them for making their voices heard. All those who were concerned were encouraged to go to the Road Commission Meeting September 14, 2022 at 6:00pm in Lawrence and the Road Commission's contact information was provided.

Motion to adjourn by Makay, second by M. Kusmack. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Katie Hartwell, Township Clerk