

DECATUR TOWNSHIP

The regular meeting of the Decatur Township Board was called to order on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor Kevin Kusmack, Treasurer Katelin Makay and Clerk Katie Hartwell and Trustee Tom Stull. Absent was Trustee Matthew Kusmack. There were 10 guests present.

Minutes from the October, regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Stull, second by Makay. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

The Clerk received a letter of resignation from the Planning Commission chairperson Dick Overton effective today.

Senior Services will be hosting a Mobile Food Pantry Monday, November 14, 2022, at the Decatur Township Hall from 11:00am -12:00pm.

The County Road Commission Township Annual Meeting will be held on December 6, 2022 at 6:00pm and December 7, at 1:00pm at he 204 South Second Street, Lawrence.

Public Comment:

none

Reports:

The Clerk submitted a listing of current bills. Motion to approve by Makay, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Clerk reported that there were 1250 votes cast in Decatur Township, 372 absentee ballots were received. The election workers did a fantastic job in the midst of any obstacles and got an A+ in their review.

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

The Supervisor reported that he is working of filling the vacancy left on the Planning Commission.

The legal proceedings from an issue on 669 have been resolved, but the complainant can still refile.

The Fire Department will be hosting a chili cook-off on November 12. The grass rig's water pump will need to be replaced.

Attorney Scott Graham presented about the improper use of property and blight, specifically on 669. Blight is an issue across the state and he has been working with Zoning Administrator Tommy Simpson in Bangor and presented the Township Board with a Blight, Long Grass, Noxious Weeds, and Dangerous Buildings Policy and Program that would allow the Township to better handle issues of blight. He also explained the legal proceedings necessary to combat these issues.

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

The County Commissioner submitted his report about the Kelley Page building as a possibility for additional office space, new radio equipment for the Sheriff's department and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission submitted their reports and Van Buren County reported a 21.7% of the roads being in poor condition which was half as many poor roads as Cass County.

Van Buren Sheriff Department – There was no report available.

Cemetery Report – Fall Clean was completed thanks to the National Honor Society from Decatur High School.

Old Business:

New Business:

Deputy Clerk Appointment – Deputy Clerk Tina Leary won the election as a Van Buren County Commissioner and can no longer serve as Deputy Clerk. Julie McKee was appointed Deputy Clerk by Supervisor Kusmack, effective November 11, 2022. Julie was sworn in to her position.

Fire Board Appointment – Matthew Newton resigned from the Fire Board and the Supervisor appointed Zack Polomcak to take his place.

Burgess Road Project – the Township received a quote from the County Road Commission to add a 2inch top coat to Burgess Road in 2023 for \$348,362.50. A motion to approve the work on Burgess Road was made by Makay, support by Stull, roll call vote, all yes, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Tim Convoy from Savion Solar project presented at the Decatur Planning Commission meeting last night. Hamilton Township approve the land use permit application for the same project. A Public Hearing will be held Wednesday December 14, 2022 at 6:00pm. A FAQ sheet was left at the podium for all those who would like to see it. Additional information can be found at <https://www.southwestmichigansolarproject.com/>

Emily Hickmott from Van Buren County Conservation District said the additional recycling program offered in Lawrence doubled the participation from Decatur Township last year. She also reported on the improvements being made to the transfer station to improve Dump Day collections for the Village and Township of Decatur. VBCCD information will be included in the tax bills.

Jason West complimented the election workers on their hard work and would like to see an ORV ordinance in the Township that would allow golf carts.

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

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Katie Hartwell, Township Clerk