

## DECATUR TOWNSHIP

The regular meeting of the Decatur Township Board was called to order on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor Kevin Kusmack, Treasurer Katelin Makay, Clerk Katie Hartwell, and Trustees Matt Kusmack and Tom Stull. There were 8 guests present.

A moment of silence was offered for those service members who died in Afghanistan. Another moment of silence was offered in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaches.

Minutes from the August 12, 2021, regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Makay, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

### Correspondence:

The Clerk received notices from Consumer's Energy and Indiana Michigan Power about public hearings, many of which had already passed. The Clerk has also received the tax levy documents from the Van Buren District Library, Decatur Schools, and Heritage Southwest School District (formerly Lewis Cass). The Clerk also received confirmation from the Road Commission that cross pipe on CR 669 north of CR352 has been complete.

The Clerk reported that a Freedom of Information Act request was received from True North in regards to communications with outside entities during the elections of 2016, 2018 and 2020. The Clerk submitted a listing of current bills. Motion to approve by Stull, second by M. Kusmack. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted her July report, 68% of the Summer tax bills have been paid. The Treasurer will be available to receive tax payments in person Monday, September 13 and Tuesday, September 14, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Motion to accept as presented by K. Kusmack, second by Hartwell. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

### Reports:

Supervisor – the supervisor pulled the Road Commission order to trim trees when J.C. Sons quoted a lower price; that work has been completed. Seal coating will not be done this year, the second dust control has been completed along with mowing alongside the roadway. The Road Commission has put CR 668 out for bids to mill and fill. The Fire Board voted to purchase Freddy the Firetruck; a remote-controlled firetruck used in the education of fire safety for \$11,681. They also have purchased a new pumper truck for \$815,000. The Supervisor also reported that he cleaned up branches on the road after recent storms.

County Commissioner Don Hanson was excused from the meeting due to medical issues.

Van Buren Sheriff Department – Dispatch report for August was submitted.

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

The Cemetery Co-Sexton Makay reported that a bid was received to clear the trees from the empty lot in Harrison by J.C. and Sons for \$11,600 and they would work with Kusmack Lawn Care to complete the project. Motion to accept that bid by Makay, second by Stull. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Co-Sexton Makay has been looking into software to maintain and map cemetery records, making it available to the public. The quote received from Potem software would be a set up cost of \$12,000 with a \$3,000 annual maintenance fee; adding GIS mapping would make set up costs \$29,000. Research will continue on software options.

Co-Sexton Hartwell reported that the Sexton position duties are being reviewed by both Co-Sextons and they will be looking for a replacement.

Old Business:

Office Renovations – Fleetwood will be installing air conditioning in the Township Hall September 27. Esper Electric will be here as well to add additional wiring to support the unit. Once the unit is in, it will need to be protected with concrete pillars and a fence.

ORV Ordinance – Sherriff’s Department said the Township is not liable for any ORV accidents. The Lawrence Township Ordinance was given to the Board to review, and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Website – Our website is complete, decaturtownshipmi.org is live.

New Business:

Solar Moratorium Ordinance was put into effect 6 months ago and needs to be extended to allow time to work with Hamilton Township on a Zoning Ordinance. Motion to extend the moratorium another 6 months was made by K. Kusmack, second by Hartwell. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Quick Response – the QR responded to 58 calls in August, which is about two calls a day. In order to continue adequate call response, they will need to raise funds to pay for one person to be at the station and another on call. Currently there are 10 QR members. This funding will need to come from a 1 millage increase, put up for vote during the midterm election. This would bring in approximately \$125,000 annually from Hamilton and Decatur Townships and Village of Decatur.

Public Comments:

Riley Goss spoke about issues at Leisure Valley Campground in regards to speeding, racing on property, noise, litter and all year round tenets.

Mark Visel, a disabled veteran from Leisure Valley, seconded Goss’ complaints and is frustrated that he is still responsible for drainage taxes even though he has a tax exemption.

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 7:47pm.

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Katie Hartwell, Township Clerk