

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
October 10, 2023

PRESENT: Supervisor Chad VanSyckle, Treasurer Melissa VanSyckle, Clerk Penelope Ypma, Trustee Aaron VanSyckle, Trustee Jake Ypma.

Catherine Kauffman, attorney. Hickory Hill Subdivision residents. Scott Anderson, Assessor.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Hickory Hills Subdivision Discussion – Catherine Kauffman, attorney, addressed how to properly assess for road improvements to subdivision. Catherine Kauffman addressed an answer and question session regarding renewable energy (solar within the County).

MINUTES: Without objection or correction, the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes were approved. Moved by J. Ypma, supported by A. VanSyckle. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Report provided. No discussion. Approved as read.

CLERK’S REPORT: In preparation of retirement, Clerk Ypma presented the amount of her personal annuity in the amount of approximately \$24,000, and the paperwork to submit to Municipal Retirement Systems. Clerk Ypma presented to the board that a check will come to the township from Gleaner Life Insurance Society, made out to both Penelope Ypma and Baltimore Township. The check will be deposited into the general fund and a separate check from the township will be written to Penelope Ypma. Moved by C. VanSyckle, supported by M. VanSyckle, to approve the payment of full annuity and to amend the liability line item in the budget in the amount of \$24,000. Roll call vote: All Yes. Motion carried.

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION: Clerk Ypma explained that for this election only, the electors of Eaton County in the township of Baltimore, will vote at the Assyria Township Hall, 8094 Tasker Rd., Bellevue, MI 49021. I have consolidated with Assyria Township due to the small number of registered voters within Eaton County, and saving cost to the taxpayers. Polls will be open 7 am until 8 pm.

APPROVE WARRANTS: Moved by C. VanSyckle, supported by J. Ypma, to approve payment for checks #13214-13234 in the amount of \$11,820.41. No discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Hickory Hills Subdivision Road Improvement – Moved by C. VanSyckle, supported by P. Ypma, to approve for a redo of Hearing 1 and to include Hearing 2 on November 6, 2023, @ 6 pm. Catherine Kauffman, attorney will prepare documents. Clerk Ypma will mail to all property owners notices prior to the next hearing. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

BIRCH Fire Department – Supervisor VanSyckle reported that the fire department is asking for an additional 1.5 mills to pay for some new equipment. With discussion the board decided that this should be discussed at our next budget meeting in March 2024. Additional funds were not planned into the current budget year. Supervisor VanSyckle will report the decision to wait until our next budget year to decide if the township can afford the additional 1.5 mills from the general fund to the next BIRCH meeting December 7, 2023.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT – Bruce Campbell presented a report.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kelly Case reported that she will hold a meeting regarding renewable energy solar farms at her home on October 24, 2023, if anyone is interested. Kelly is forming a committee if interested.

Jim Dull asked Supervisor VanSyckle what the 1.5 mill for the BIRCH Fire Department would amount to for the township? Supervisor VanSyckle will research and let everyone know next month. Jim Dull expressed his non-approval of the increase in the clerk’s salary.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

Date

Penelope J. Ypma, Clerk

Date