

**BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 12, 2024**

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Without objection or correction, the Regular Meeting minutes on February 15th, 2024 the Special Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024 and the Special Meeting of February 24, 2024 were all approved. Moved by M. VanSyckle, supported by C. VanSyckle. All approved. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Budget Development meeting set for March 15, 2024, at 9:00am  
Budget Approval meeting set for March 28, 2024, at 9:00am

General Fund:	\$563,492.58
Receipts:	\$149,942.66
Disbursement/Bills	\$ 24,286.84
Balance	\$689,148.40

Money Market – February 2024

	Interest	Total
10 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$391.39	\$108,608.53
6 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$178.34	\$ 52,817.06
Savings @ Lake Trust	\$ 2.56	\$ 64,578.08
9 month CD @ HCB		\$100,000.00

No discussion – Approve Treasurers Report – Moved by M. VanSyckle and seconded by C. VanSyckle. All Ayes

**CLERK’S REPORT:**

Petitions for upcoming elections are available on the counter in the office – Deadline to submit application and petition is April 23, 2024 at 4:00pm, Deadline to withdraw application is April 26, 2024 at 4:00pm

A family who owns 2 plots in Stryker wishes to sell them back to the township. They purchased in 1986 for \$10.00 but are asking for the “going rate” of \$30.00 be paid to them. After board discussion J. Ypma made a motion to pay them the \$10 rate C. VanSyckle supported. Discussion was so as to not set a precedence for the future. All Ayes

FOIA Lawsuit update – the attorney representing us has requested that we provide to him the report from Qualified Voter File which he will redact and provide to the plaintiff. We will them know soon the cost to the township.

J. Bishop is working on the FOIA policy as one was not located in the policy manual.

Election Updates:

Voting numbers:

Early Voting – 79 voters (combined with Assyria and Maple Grove)

Absentee Voting – 124 voters

Election Day Voting – 227

Early voting was quite expensive – over \$5K in wages alone. Will be discussing options at the next Clerks meeting on March 21, 2024

**APPROVE WARRANTS:** The report that Clerk Bishop provided included February bills by mistake. There was a motion to approve only the bills from 3/1 down to also include election worker payments. Moved C. VanSyckle and supported by A. VanSyckle, to approve payment for checks #13352 – 13379 in the amount of \$93,475.23. All approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Facebook Page for the Township is still under construction

FOIA – discussed above with Clerks report.

Fire Department Issues – BIRCH will not be turning fire coverage over to City of Hastings. BIRCH has voted in new leadership. Payment was made in March to BIRCH in the amount of \$78,897.00. At the meeting there was discussion of the township needing to develop ordinances to deal with hazardous materials emergency incidents as well as a cost recovery ordinance. A. VanSyckle brought Carlton's sample ordinances for review before the next meeting. Will also need to include Atty Kauffman on these issues.

Josh Smallwood – has purchased 40 acres adjacent to his existing property and approached the board with wanting to know if he would be able to purchase possibly 20+ licenses to grow medical marijuana. Discussion included the need to review and have attorney input on our existing ordinance. There was also discussion led by M. VanSyckle of reviewing the possibility of giving a break on additional licenses. This was tabled until budget meeting scheduled for March 15, 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Library Budget was presented by L. Kingma. The budget is actually less than last year. Andy Jerue reported on the use of the library and what it adds to the township. Motion made to by C. VanSyckle to approve the budget, J. Bishop supported. All Approved

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** – Bruce Campbell provided the following updates:

The Commission approved the appointment of David Hatfield, Michael Calton, David Jackson and Catherine Getty to serve on the Personnel and Human Services Committee.

Approval for the adoption of the Standard Form of agreement between Eckert Wordell LLC and Barry County Commission on Aging facility.

The Board gave approval to accept the role of County Approval Agency for Materials and Management.

The Board adopted the amended MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement and Contribution Addendum for the Barry County Charlton Park employees effective 3/1/24.

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Update on the County Workshop held at the Performing Arts Center at Hastings High School. The topic was alternative energy invasion we are experiencing in Barry County. Stressed the importance of the petition circulation to put on the ballot in November the control of such projects to the local municipalities. Kelly Case has been the go-to person for Barry County.

The 2A resolution has had some changes and now appears approval will be done at the county level in the near future. This amended agreement was past at the last Johnstown meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Terry McCain inquired of the board if the Hickory Hill funding was all set.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jana Bishop, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date