

HARTLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING FINAL MINUTES  
November 17, 2020 – 7:00 PM

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Fountain at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci

Also present was Hartland Township Manager Robert West.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Treasurer Horning requested to amend Item 6.h. so as to approve the Hartland Consolidated Schools (HCS) Summer Tax Collection Agreement for 2021, rather than the LESA Summer Tax Collection Agreement.

**Move to approve the agenda for the November 17, 2020, Hartland Township Board meeting as amended.**

Motion made by Trustee Harper, Seconded by Treasurer Horning.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

**5. Call to the Public**

No one came forward.

**6. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**Move to approve the consent agenda for the November 17, 2020, Hartland Township Board meeting as amended.**

Motion made by Trustee Colaianne, Seconded by Trustee Petrucci.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

- a. Approve Payment of Bills
- b. Approve Post Audit of Disbursements Between Board Meetings
- c. Approve 10/6/20 Regular Meeting Minutes
- d. Approve 10/20/20 Regular Meeting Minutes
- e. Approve 11/4/20 Regular Meeting Minutes
- f. Approve 11/4/20 Closed Session Minutes
- g. Ratify Hiring of V. Mocerri as Code Enforcement Officer (\$20.00/hour), 11/18/2020 or After
- h. Approve ~~LESA~~ HCS Summer Tax Collection Agreement for 2021

**7. Pending & New Business**

- a. Representative Vaupel Presentation of Appreciation to Outgoing Board Members

Supervisor Fountain stated that this was the last meeting for Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper, and he then introduced State Representative Dr. Hank Vaupel. Representative Vaupel

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presented Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper with a special tribute on behalf of the State of Michigan, Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, himself, and State Senator Lana Theis thanking them for their service. Supervisor Fountain, on behalf of the Hartland Community thanked Representative Vaupel for all that he has done for Hartland Township.

- b. Resolution of Appreciation for Distinguished Service by Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper.

Treasurer Horning read the following Resolution of Appreciation for Distinguished Service by Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper:

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of Hartland Township, Livingston County held November 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Whereas, Trustee Joseph Colaianne has served faithfully and demonstrated great leadership on the Board of Trustees since 2004, also representing Board vision as a member of the Planning Commission; and whereas, Trustee Glenn Harper has served faithfully and demonstrated great leadership on the Board of Trustees since 2008, also serving on the Board of the Hartland-Deerfield Fire Authority; and whereas, that leadership was instrumental in outcomes such as promoting smart growth and development throughout the Township, including growing and expanding the Township's exceptional parks resources; and whereas, Board discussion and decisions were sometimes difficult, helping to navigate through difficult times such as the financial crisis of the late 2000s to years of financial stability; and whereas, said leadership has always put the health, safety and well-being of the Hartland community first. Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Hartland Township Board of Trustees extends its deep gratitude to Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper for their years of service to the community, wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

**Move to approve the resolution of distinguished service by Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper.**

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee Petrucci.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None Roll call vote taken. Motion passes 7-0-0

- c. Ratify Hiring of M. Luce as Director of Public Works (\$78,000/Annually)

Hartland Township Manager Robert West reported that the Township Administration accepted applications for Public Works Director and through many phone interviews the job was narrowed down to three in-person interviews. Mike Luce came out as the clear, most qualified individual in these interviews. He has over 17 years of progressive public works experience and is currently employed at the City of Howell. His experience will minimize the onboarding process as well as the any of the educational catchup. He is above the midpoint for the salary range but that is based on the qualifications that he is bringing to the position. Trustee Germane inquired as to a definite start date. Manager West stated that Mr. Luce will put in his resignation at the City of Howell the following day after the Township Board approval which if approved will be November 18, 2020. He will give the City of Howell a two week notice before starting at Hartland Township. December 8, 2020 would be Mike Luce's first day at Hartland Township if approved..

**Move to ratify the hiring of M. Luce as Director of Public Works, beginning 11/18/20 or after, at an annual salary of \$78,000.**

Motion made by Trustee Germane, Seconded by Trustee Harper.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

**8. Board Reports**

Trustee Germane - No report.

Trustee Harper – Stated he would like to thank the Hartland Township Board as almost 14 years ago he was asked to fill a vacant position on the Board and appreciated the trust the Board had in him. During his time on the Board, he felt we have all worked together well and he has made lifelong friends. He also wished the new board good luck and hoped that everyone works together as well as we have in the past. He hoped that there are good discussions and that the Board continues to work out agreements for the good of the public.

Trustee Petrucci - No report.

Clerk Ciofu – Stated that he would first of all like to apologize for keeping his remarks rather brief as it will not do justice to the many accomplishments of Trustee Harper and Trustee Colaianne over the years of their service on this Board. He stated he has always had a list of attributes that he worked by to be a successful Board member, including things like the willingness to work, being objective and impartial, having special skills and practical wisdom, demonstrating the capacity for teamwork and possessing a commitment and concern for the community. While it was his opinion that Trustee Harper and Trustee Colaianne embodied all of these traits, it was his admiration for the commitment and concern that they have for the Hartland community that impressed him the most. Trustee Harper's law enforcement background and environmental concerns have always been at the forefront of the many discussions that we have had over the years. He has always added the resident's perspective with regards to short-term and long-term effects of decisions we have discussed regarding the safety, health, and welfare of the Hartland Community. He stated Trustee Harper has a unique ability to present his current concerns in a manner that has always made him think twice about things as we worked through a decision. He hoped to bring this same perspective with him in future years to the Board. Trustee Colaianne's legal background lends a perspective to our many discussions that he has benefitted from many times. He stated that Trustee Colaianne's passion and fire that he brought to issues, if he may add sometimes bordering on the extreme, were always an inspiration and a motivator for him. Whereas he may not be as vocal on issues as Trustee Colaianne has been, he hoped to bring this passion for the Hartland Community with him as he continues on the Board. To both of them, he stated he admired, respected, and appreciated their commitment to the Hartland Community over the years and he would expect to get an admonishing call from both of them if he did not demonstrate the commitment to the community that they have both brought forth. It has been his pleasure, his privilege and his honor to have worked with both of them for the past 6 years. He thanked both of them for all of their contributions to the Hartland Community. In closing, he stated that it is his opinion that this Board has done a remarkable job over the years, both prior to his being a Board member and while he has been a Board member. Clerk Ciofu stated that there is much more to be done in Hartland Township and with that he would like to welcome the newly elected Board Members Summer McMullen and Denise O'Connell. He looked forward to working with both of them in the next 4 years and hopefully beyond that. He welcomed to both of them to the Board.

Treasurer Horning - The Advisory Council met today, November 17, at the Senior Center and they have had reduced participation of things. Their fall show did not go this year because of COVID and that is a huge fundraiser, \$10,000 or \$11,000. Their Pickleball tournament has also been cancelled, and that is another \$10,000 or \$11,000, so they are running a little bit of a deficit right

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now. They do have money in the bank to cover them, but it has just been real tight over there. They are still running their programs that are very necessary, like transportation for those that cannot drive, and the Gleaners Food Bank that is there with food for the Seniors. Right now, it is open enrollment for Medicare and Carol Ringle has been there helping those people looking at open enrollment options. So they are functioning and helping the residents that need help, but they are struggling just like everyone else right now.

Trustee Colaianne – Stated it has been a pleasure working with everyone here and especially the Board members that he originally came on the Board with, which includes Joe Petrucci and Bill Fountain and subsequently Larry Hopkins. The rule we demonstrated with was "Do no harm" and the idea was that we move the Township forward and that we do everything in the best interests of everyone in the community, even though we did not always agree. He stated that over the last 16 years, and that he served on the Planning Commission and the Board of Review before that, he thought that he would like to call upon every citizen to take an opportunity, if they want to understand how the local government works, to get involved. He stated the Board members are the frontline people and while there is a certain amount of distance between us and higher levels of government, it is the local government that is close to the people that we serve. He stated that he thought that at the end of the day we did what was necessary for the public, health, safety, and welfare of this community. He believed that we have come a long way in terms of where we were 16 years ago where Hartland was on the front page of the newspaper it seemed like every day, where the meetings would go for 4 or 5 hours, and where the referee of all of the Township meetings was the Township attorney. That was a huge legal expense that most of the public probably did not understand. He stated that we have not had a Township attorney present at our meetings full time for probably for ten or twelve years now. He stated he was very humble that he got to serve for as long as he did. He truly believed that this is where you get to make decisions that effect the people that we are the closest to. He stated that he enjoyed the residents, that he did not even know, that would come up to him and know him from the Board and would express their concerns or ask for clarification of issues. He stated it is a humbling experience when you are helping people. He thanked everyone here and said it has been a pleasure serving on this Board.

Supervisor Fountain – Stated that on behalf of our community he wished to thank Trustee Colaianne and Trustee Harper for so much of their time and effort. He also shared some good news with the Board and the community. Every five years the Assessing Department for the State of Michigan does an audit of Assessing Departments throughout the State. He believed that five years ago there were only a handful of Townships in the State that got zero wrong on their tests of which Hartland was one of them. He stated that we just received a note from the Department of Treasury that for the second time we received another perfect score on the minimum standards audit. The state has agreed that Hartland has done an outstanding job for the second time in five years. He congratulated Hartland Township Assessor Jim Heaslip and all of his team.

[BRIEF RECESS]

## **10. Information / Discussion**

### **a. Manager's Report**

Hartland Township Manger Robert West reported that the Board Workshop that was scheduled for December has been rescheduled by Dr. Lew Bender to January 8, 2021. That date is tentative contingent upon the ever-changing business climate in the State of Michigan. He also briefed the Board that one of the topics he will be bringing up with the Admin Committee is discussing the feasibility request for a compensation review of our Boards, Committees, and Commission members. The last time a compensation study was done for this group was in 2014. In past years the Township has canceled one of the December meetings due to the lack of the agenda items. We are entering into the budget season, so staff is primarily working on

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the budget right now and we are considering cancelling one of our December meetings. The Admin Committee will take this under advisement and if warranted the December 1 meeting would be cancelled. We would not meet again until December 15. Trustee Germane inquired as to the water main extension project. Manager West stated that we presented our proposal to Mayberry Homes for the extension and they stated that they were agreeable to the proposal.

**11. Adjournment**

The elected Township Officers and Trustees will be sworn into their respected roles immediately following the regularly scheduled Board meeting

**Move to adjourn the meeting for November 17, 2020.**

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee Harper.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Colaianne, Trustee Germane, Trustee Harper, Trustee Petrucci.

Voting Nay: None

Submitted by:



Larry N. Ciofu  
Clerk