

HARTLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING FINAL MINUTES
January 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Supervisor Fountain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Germane, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell

ABSENT: Trustee Petrucci

Also present was Township Manager Mike Luce.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Move to approve the agenda for the January 16, 2024 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.

Motion made by Trustee O'Connell, Seconded by Clerk Ciofu.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Germane, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee Petrucci

5. Call to the Public

Jeff Scott came forward to share some concerns taking place within the Hartland Consolidated School District. He stated that the District has made some drastic moves lately that has restricted the First Amendment freedom of speech protection of community and school Board members. He cited several instances that recently occurred at school board meetings, restrictions on District run social media, and concerns with a Department of Justice investigation. He thanked the Hartland Board and left his contact information with a Trustee should any Board member wish to discuss this further.

Supervisor Fountain stated that we have a lot of residents in attendance tonight and he believes it is regarding the paving of Pleasant Valley Road and he gave a brief overview of Township roads in general, stating that we do not own any of the roads and that they are owned and maintained by the State of Michigan or the Livingston County Road Commission (LCRC). He then stated that about ten years ago we brought together a large group of residents to put together a township roads plan and gave a brief overview of the road millage that was passed by the residents and our working relationship with the LCRC that allowed us get fifty percent more road projects done than the millage would have allowed us to do on our own. Supervisor Fountain stated we are envisioning going out to renew the road millage in November and we have anticipated some projects should the renewal millage pass. Two of the projects envisioned were the paving of Bergin Road, and the paving of Pleasant Valley Road. He stated we vetted these projects and used the County's expertise to do the engineering of these projects so that they are ready to go should the millage be renewed by our residents. Should we go forward with the road millage renewal at 1.5 mils we anticipate raising approximately ten million dollars and with our relationship with the County, and cost sharing of projects, we anticipate an additional seven million dollars of road projects to be completed with a millage renewal. He stated he wanted everyone to know that we are continuing to work on paving these roads, but that a minimal amount of road paving would be done without a road millage renewal. He stated all of the Township millage and County cost sharing would go into public roads within the Township.

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Scott Kulsavage came forward and stated that Bergin Road has always been in good shape but thinks the road should be crowned. He stated that at one time they put down limestone, crowned the road, and put in culverts. Now the culverts are gone, the road is much wider as the ditches are gone, and what was a crown is spread out. He stated that coming south from Flint with any traffic issues on US 23, GPS directs you to take Clyde Road to Pleasant Valley to Kensington Road. The same is true if you are coming from Detroit on I-96 and there are traffic issues at I-96 and US-23. He stated he is unsure if paving Pleasant Valley will ease that burden as traffic backs up from M-59 to Giegler's at times. He stated he felt this was not a priority and there are other roads that may need attention. He inquired as to whether there was federal or state funding available for these projects. Supervisor Fountain stated he thought we were 82nd, out of 82 counties, for state road funding. Mr. Kulsavage also stated he had a concern regarding the taking out of the curves in the roads that would add millions of dollars to the project.

Scott Garcia came forward and stated he lives on Sleigh Trail and that overall they are here tonight as a community that is in support of the Pleasant Valley paving project, and millage if it remains flat. He stated that this is an important project for their community as to the wear and tear on their vehicles. He stated he would appreciate the support of the Board for this project if the millage does pass.

Kyle Davis came forward stating he lives on Sleigh Trail and stated they are also looking for some road maintenance to be done on a more regular basis before we get to paving the road. He stated that potholes are showing up more often due to the diversion of traffic onto Pleasant Valley that can cause cars to lose control on the road. Trustee O'Connell stated that a call to the LCRC generally results in a prompt response with regards to maintenance. Mr. Davis stated that the lack of a crown on the road leads to flooded driveways when it rains and stated that they have removed many of the culverts in this area. He thought there used to be some form of water management but that we do not have it anymore.

Another resident came forward and stated that they all have kids coming off the school busses and that the traffic is crazy. He inquired as to additional signage, such as no passing, caution signs, or blind driveway signs as cars are passing on hills and in blind spots and he is afraid someone will get really hurt. Supervisor Fountain stated that the Board would pass this information on to the County, but that we have no control over road signage.

Nick Refalo came forward and stated he also has concerns with the traffic as his mailbox has been hit four times in the last two months. He stated it is this corner that has been an issue and anything we could do about the speed there would be huge for the community.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Move to approve the consent agenda for the January 16, 2024 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Germane, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee Petrucci

- a. Approve Payment of Bills
- b. Approve Post Audit of Disbursements Between Board Meetings
- c. 01-02-24 Hartland Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- d. Winterfest 2024 Fireworks Contract

7. Pending & New Business

a. Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority Budget Presentation FY2024-25

Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority (HDFA) Chief Adam Carroll came forward to present the HDFA FY2024-2025 Budget. Chief Carrol presented the calculations that explain the percentage share of the budget split between Hartland and Deerfield. He stated the measurement takes into account the hours spent in each Township and is averaged over three years. The projected year's three-year average calculation was 76.9% for Hartland and 23.1% for Deerfield. Chief Carroll highlighted the gradual increase in total hours spent on incidents which is a much better measurement of call volume increases than just the raw number of calls. Treasurer Horning pointed out that from 2021 to 2022 total hours increased by 240 hours and from 2022 to 2023 it was 780 hours, which is a significant increase. Supervisor Fountain inquired as to whether outside influences, such as road construction, would be a cause of the noticeable impact on total hours. Chief Carroll responded that this would have an impact, particularly if it was a large traffic incident.

Chief Carroll then reviewed the overall revenues, personnel wages, professional services, insurance and benefits, equipment and supplies, and utilities budgets. He then reviewed the projected dues & subscriptions, physicals and vaccines, training, communications, and buildings. A brief discussion was held on transfers to capital improvements. Supervisor Fountain inquired about the recent discussions regarding communication equipment in the County. Chief Carroll stated there are three things that need to happen at the County level in the next one to five years. One being improving computer aided dispatch (CAD), which is basically the computers in the fire trucks to get dispatch information and routing. It is also the source for the data used in the incident reports. He stated that law enforcement is leading the charge regarding CAD, but it is a countywide solution. This project should get underway in 2024, and the only issue for HDFA is if we would need to upgrade several computers. The second issue, which is really the big item, is towers for the radio network. Livingston has had one tower since its inception, and it has been inadequate since its inception. The current Administration is addressing this situation, and the new tower system would incorporate four new towers in addition to the current tower. He stated that this is a much more reasonable coverage for a county of our size. Another issue is to piggyback our land mobile radios off the cellular towers over time. The towers will have no impact on the Township from a cost standpoint.

The last issue is the radios. The County got into the 800-megahertz programing around the year 2000 and kicked it off in 2002. He stated we used a lot of Homeland Security dollars to roll out the 800-radio program in 2001 purchasing radios and equipment. These radios are now over 20 years old, and they are past their useful life. They are functional, but if they were to break, we cannot get parts to fix them. About 56% of our radios are in this category. What the HDFA has been proposing is that since all of the entities stated that the Livingston County Central Dispatch will get all of their surcharge money from the phone bills, the cost to upgrade the radios is a surcharge eligible program and that this should be a County expense. The County may move to a Capital Improvement Plan to replace radios over time to take advantages of huge pricing advantages for bulk purchases of up to a 40% discount depending on the size of the purchase. Chief Carroll estimated we have around 650 radios, which would put us in the large discount category.

Move to approve the proposed Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority FY2024-2025 Budget as presented.

Motion made by Trustee O'Connell, Seconded by Treasurer Horning. Roll call vote taken.
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Germane,
Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Trustee Petrucci Motion passes: 6 - 0 - 1

8. Board Reports

Treasurer Horning - Stated she sent out the Treasurer's Report today and if the Board has any questions to please let her know.

Trustee Germane - No report

Trustee O'Connell - No report

Trustee McMullen - No report

Clerk Ciofu - Stated that we have sent out the Absent Voter Ballot Application forms in addition to the Ballot Selection forms that went to the Permanent Absent Voter Ballot list individuals a few weeks ago and we are currently processing the return of these forms. He stated we still have to contact the individuals on the Permanent Absent Voter Ballot list that have not returned their Ballot Selection form to ask them to return the form as required by the new election laws. He stated the Early Voting period will run for nine days prior to the February 27, 2024 Election ending on the Sunday prior to the Election date. He then provided a brief update on the Winterfest Event.

Supervisor Fountain - No report.

[BRIEF RECESS]

9. Information / Discussion

a. Manager's Report

Manager Luce gave a brief update on the Budget process and stated that in the review of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) last meeting some projects that were moved from last year to this year's budget. These projects are in the process of obtaining costs so that when they are brought to the Board for approval, they will be ready to go when construction season starts in 2024. A brief discussion was held on the potential road millage renewal, the Bergin Road and Pleasant Valley Road paving plans, and current maintenance of these roads. Manager Luce stated that the Spranger field building renovation and new building engineering cost estimates are coming in higher than the projected CIP amount and discussions are being held on options to reduce these costs. Manager Luce stated that he is working with Sue Grissim on the M-59 Landscape Plan and that they are trying to set up a meeting with MDOT regarding landscaping around the M-59/US-23 intersection. Manager Luce stated he met with Grumlaw Church as they reached out to the Township inquiring as to what they could do to assist and serve the community. They wanted to let the Township know that they were here to serve the community and they welcomed the opportunity to do so. Manager Luce stated we received a response from Livingston County on our counterclaim for the Septage Receiving Station issue. A brief discussion was held on the response and the next steps to be taken regarding the issue. Manager Luce also gave a brief overview of the Livingston County Board of Public Works (LCBPW) meetings stating that Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham is now the new Chair of the LCBPW Board.

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b. FY2024-2025 Employee Merit Pool Discussion

Manager Luce gave a brief overview of the FY2024-2025 Merit Pool explaining the calculation of the net inflationary adjustment, the eligible employee step increase amount, the net inflationary adjustment amount, and the additional Incentive/Bonus Pool being requested by the Manager. Manager Luce stated that the requested additional Incentive/Bonus Pool does not get us to the average wage for many of our staff positions within like communities. A brief discussion was held on market rates for various Township positions and staff replacement and training costs. Clerk Ciofu stated that we have been allocating a sizable amount of funds to our Capital Improvement Plan each year and he feels that we should allocate some of these funds to our most important asset, which is our staff, and bring these wages up to the average wage of competitive communities. After further discussion it was the consensus of the Board to have Manager Luce determine the Incentive/Bonus Pool amount that would bring our staff average wages up to the market rates for discussion at a future meeting. Trustee Germane stated that we also need to review the compensation of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees.

10. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Motion made by Trustee Germane, Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Germane, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee Petrucci

Submitted by



Larry N. Ciofu, Clerk