

HARTLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING FINAL MINUTES  
October 01, 2024 – 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 Germane, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci

Also present were Township Manager Mike Luce and Public Works Director Scott Hable.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**Move to approve the agenda for the October 1, 2024 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.**

Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Trustee McMullen.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

**5. Call to the Public**

Sarah Neidert, the Cromaine District Library Director came forward and provided a brief update of events at the Cromaine Library. She stated over the last year the Library Board of Trustees has drafted a new Strategic Plan, they installed a new drive-up book return drop off, and they just published a new ADA compliant website. She stated this year they are working on improving the exterior spaces of the Library specifically the south lawn area where they hold their Summer Concerts. This was one of the items that came out of the Strategic Plan discussions, that the community wanted to see this area as more of a gathering space. They have requested quotes and will be selecting a firm to design a plan for this space shortly. She stated they are in the planning stages, but they want to make this corner a space that will meet the needs of the community and she hopes to invite the Board to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in the future.

**6. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**Move to approve the consent agenda for the October 1, 2024 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.**

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee Germane.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

- a. Approve Payment of Bills
- b. Approve Post Audit of Disbursements Between Board Meetings
- c. 09-17-2024 Hartland Township Board Special Meeting Minutes
- d. 09-17-2024 Hartland Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**7. Pending & New Business**

- a. Proclamation Recognizing October as Michigan Library Appreciation Month.

Supervisor Fountain stated that we have a Proclamation to present, recognizing October as Michigan's Library Appreciation Month. Clerk Ciofu read the Proclamation into the minutes. The Board then presented a framed Proclamation to Cromaine Library Director Sarah Neidert and Cromaine Library Board of Trustee President Holly Naylor.

- b. Resolution of Determination of wages and benefits of the Township Clerk

Supervisor Fountain gave a brief overview of the process for evaluating elected official salaries that was discussed at a previous Board work session. Manager Luce stated that what is before the Board tonight is to set the wages for the Clerk for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to the factors that went into the decision regarding the determined amount in the Resolution for the Clerk as he was excused from the discussion at the previous meeting. Supervisor Fountain stated there was discussion regarding the additional work put on the Clerk during election years. Manager Luce stated that the discussion also related to the state mandated extra work and Supervisor Fountain stated the mandated additional nine days of early voting was part of the decision.

**Move to adopt the Resolution of Determination of wages and benefits of the Township Clerk for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

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, Trustee Petrucci  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion passes: 7 - 0 - 0.

- c. Resolution of Determination of wages and benefits of the Township Treasurer

Manager Luce reiterated that what is before the Board tonight is to set the wages for the Treasurer for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. He also stated that these Resolutions were not retroactive. Trustee Germane commented that he supported these increases, but he felt the Board was somewhat late in making these adjustments as he has been advocating for increased wages for some time now for all the hard work and dedication of these individuals. He stated that even though he will not be on the Board in the future it was his request that we honor our obligation to evaluate the wages of the entire Board, staff, and those that are appointed to serve our community. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to the factors that went into the decision regarding the determined amount in the Resolution for the Treasurer as he was excused from the discussion at the previous meeting. Supervisor Fountain stated that information was provided by the Treasurer and that setting the wages for elected officials is always a difficult decision for the Board. He stated it has historically been that the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer all make the same salary. He stated the Clerk and Treasurer are full-time and he as Supervisor is part-time so his salary is set at half of the Clerk and Treasurer. Trustee Petrucci stated he felt the Clerk and Treasurer have been underpaid for years and that they have not been adequately compensated for their work and dedication.

**Move to adopt the Resolution of Determination of wages and benefits of the Township Treasurer for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Trustee O'Connell. Roll call vote taken.

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Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion passes: 7 - 0 - 0.

**8. Board Reports**

Clerk Ciofu - Stated that ballots were received from the County last week and we are preparing Absentee Ballots to be mailed out this Thursday. He reminded the residents that the nine days of Early Voting will start on the second Saturday before the Election and run through the Sunday before the Election. Early Voting hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and voting is held here at the Township Hall.

Treasurer Horning - No report

Trustee Germane - No report

Trustee O'Connell - No report

Trustee McMullen - No report

Trustee Petrucci - Stated that Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority (HDFA) Chief Adam Carroll has been deployed to the Michigan Task Force One that he is a member of and that in Hartland Township, Chief Carroll is the only one qualified in the required aspects of rescue service. He stated that Chief Carroll is deployed in North Carolina, and they have already rescued several residents. Trustee Petrucci stated he felt this is an honor for Hartland Township that we are involved in this rescue effort, and he offered his prayers for the safety of the task force and the residents of the affected areas.

Supervisor Fountain - No report

[BRIEF RECESS]

**9. Information / Discussion**

**a. Manager's Report**

Manager Luce stated that we have been meeting with companies on surveillance systems and we are looking for a package quote for the HERO Center, the Township Hall, and the Parks, but we also requested separate quotes for each of these units. We have learned that our LPR cameras are not bad cameras, but they are just not adjusted very well. He stated that part of this project will be coming in at night to adjust the cameras. Manager Luce stated he will bring final quotes to the Board when they are available. Manager Luce stated that the Chick-Fil-A location has been in the media and he stated he let people know that this is a concept plan that is coming to the Planning Commission (PC) and that as long as they comply with ordinances this would be allowed in this zoning area. Manager Luce also gave a brief overview of the Shaquille O'Neal visit at his Big Chicken location in Hartland and gave a brief update on the altercation that occurred at this event. He stated we have been monitoring social media regarding this altercation and we are not seeing much negative response to the situation. A brief discussion was held on how this situation occurred and what we as a Township could do to prevent these types of situations in the future. Manager Luce gave a brief update on the DVM lawsuit regarding the water main line installed along M-59. We reached a settlement on this issue and are basically paying for work completed, far short of what DVM was originally requesting. Manager Luce stated we received a quote for the Settler's Park vandalism repairs from Allied Asphalt. We have identified the individuals that did the damage to the parking lot and they have been contacted and it is now with the Prosecutor's Office. We will file an claim with MMRMA for reimbursement and MMRMA will seek restitution from the individuals. Manager Luce stated our Attorney has received an e-mail stating the County approved the Septage Receiving Station Consent Agreement at their last meeting, but we are still awaiting a

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formal response. Supervisor Fountain gave a brief overview of the County meeting and stated we still do not have the document that they approved. A brief discussion was held on the County meeting. Manager Luce stated we received a second quote for landscaping for the Veterans Memorial significantly lower than the first quote we received. We will be discussing these quotes at this Thursday's Veterans Committee meeting. Trustee Germane inquired as to the reason for the large variance in the quotes and asked if the scope of the project had changed. Manager Luce stated that each landscaper was given the same parameters and there were some differences in the quote that will be discussed at the Veteran Committee meeting.

b. Water System Informational Work Session

Manager Luce wanted to provide information on the status of our water system and to brief the Board on future challenges that we may face going forward. He provided a summary of the Water System Fund and the Water Replacement Fund balances, projected expenses to complete the filter project and the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) project, and the Restricted Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency balance. A brief discussion was held on our current water rates and water rates that may be required to maintain our expanding system. Manager Luce gave a brief overview of the water system as a whole. He provided a brief overview of water supply volume, which will be helped by the second PRV in progress, and water quality, which will be helped by the filter media project. He gave a brief overview of the process and timing of changing out the filter media and the potential benefits to adding a third filter vessel. He distributed a list of Water System needed improvements including the Filter Media Replacement, the Air Scour System Repairs, the Backwash Pneumatic Actuators and Valve Replacement and Repairs, and the Installation of the second and third PRVs. Discussion was then held on funding alternatives and timing of the necessary improvements to our water system. Issues discussed were total cost, bonding for the total amount, using funds we have to complete what we can at this time, the sale of water REUs over time, potential water rate increases, and potential timing of projects. Manager Luce will put together a water rate study and update project cost estimates for a future Board discussion.

**10. Adjournment**

**Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.**


Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Trustee McMullen.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Submitted by



Larry N. Ciofu, Clerk